

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2008 MEETING OF THE
GREATER BUFFALO-NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE (PCC)**

A meeting of the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council Planning and Coordinating Committee was held on May 7, 2008 at the Carnegie Building, Niagara Falls, NY. The meeting began at approximately 9:35am.

The following GBNRTC-PCC Members or their representatives were present:

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| 1. Thomas DeSantis | City Niagara Falls |
| 2. Gary Gottlieb | NYSDOT |
| 3. Robert Gower | NFTA |
| 4. Peter Merlo | City of Buffalo |
| 5. Kevin O'Brien | Niagara County |
| 6. Doug Tokarczyk | NYSTA |
| 7. Charles Sickler | Erie County |

Others present were:

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|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Hal Morse | GBNRTC |
| 2. Timothy Trabold | GBNRTC |
| 3. Deborah Vizine | GBNRTC |
| 4. Richard Beers | FHWA |
| 5. Peter Nixon | NYSDOT |
| 6. Mike Leydecker | BNP |
| 7. Heidi Bugenhagen | BNP |
| 8. Cristen Nagle | The Knoer Group |
| 9. Andrew Graham | Voice Buffalo |
| 10. Brian Moore | Bergman Assoc. |
| 11. Sheila Ransbottom | Fisher Assoc. |
| 12. Chris Fahey | Congressman Higgins Office |
| 13. Joelle Guy | Town of Amherst Planning |
| 14. Thomas Frank | Resident Amherst |

I. PROCEEDINGS

A. Roll Call

Mr. DeSantis called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m. At the time of roll call all members or their representatives were present.

B. Public Participation

Thomas Frank discussed Williamsville Toll Barrier, Niagara County Bi-Centennial, Greenway Project and the area surrounding BNIA.

C. Approval of Meeting Agenda (5/7/08)

Mr. Gottlieb, moved to approve the meeting agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Gower, and all were in favor.

D. Approval of GBNRTC-PCC Meeting Minutes (4/2/08)

Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the meeting minutes of 4/2/08, seconded by Mr. Sickler, all were in favor.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. TIP Amendment – Major Amendment #2 FTA Section 5307: Rehab/Renovate Communications Systems

Mr. Trabold reported the 30-day public comment period had ended and no feedback had been received for either of the two major amendments under consideration. He reminded members that this first amendment would allow the NFTA to upgrade its bus radio equipment from analog to digital by adding a new project to the Section 5307 Transit Program. Policy Committee approval was the last step before adding this project to the 2008-2012 TIP.

The action was to recommend Major Amendment #2 to the Policy Committee for their approval. *Mr. Gower moved to recommend approval, seconded by Mr. Sickler, all were in favor.*

B. TIP Amendment – Major Amendment #3 South Park Avenue [Elk St. to City Line] (City of Buffalo)

Mr. Trabold described how the City of Buffalo intended to resurface and implement streetscape improvements on South Park Ave. between Elk St. and the city line, using STP Urban funds in FFY 2009. The action was to recommend this new project for Policy Committee approval so it could be added to the 2008-2012 TIP.

Mr. Gottlieb noted that the City and NYSDOT had worked out a compromise to address objections raised at the last meeting regarding associated scope and schedule changes to the Elmwood and Delavan projects. Those agreed to changes would be detailed for discussion at the next Transportation Projects Subcommittee meeting, along with defining any additional approvals or actions needed to keep the program fiscally constrained.

The action was to recommend Major Amendment #3 to the Policy Committee for their approval. *Mr. Sickler moved to recommend approval, seconded by Mr. DeSantis, all were in favor.*

C. 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment: Peace Bridge Capacity Expansion Project

Mr. Trabold explained the purpose of this action was to amend the approved GBNRTC 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan to include the Peace Bridge Capacity Expansion Project among those regional project priorities to be funded with *federal revenue sources* in addition to previously identified non-federal sources. The action would also allow the project to be advanced under the regional Transportation Improvement Program as a new project at such time new federal demonstration transportation funds materialize. He emphasized that new funding was anticipated and was appropriately identified in the fiscal constraint table. Commencement of a 30-day public comment period would be the first step in the amendment process.

Mr. O'Brien moved to authorize initiation of the public notification process, seconded by Mr. Sickler, all were in favor.

D. Regional Model Report Concurrence

Mr. Morse mentioned last months presentation of the Regional Model. A request was made to review the final reports. A detailed model report and subsequent update were sent to members for their review. The action is to concur with the updated report.

Mr. Gottlieb moved to table this action, seconded by Mr. Sickler, all were in favor of tabling this item.

E. UPWP FTA Budget Revisions

Ms. Vizine reported on budget revisions. In closing the previous State Fiscal Year budget, Ms. Vizine has prepared two revisions to the FTA budget consistent with spending patterns. This is an annual adjustment to reconcile the budget.

Mr. Gower moved to approve the revisions, seconded by Mr. Gottlieb, all were in favor

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports: Transportation Projects Subcommittee, Bicycle-Pedestrian Subcommittee

Mr. O'Brien reported the TPS met on April 16th and spent most of their time discussing the NFTA and City of Buffalo project additions. Project tracking was also discussed along with the impact ROW delays have been having on project delivery. The next TPS meeting would be on May 21st.

Mr. Trabold stated the Bicycle-Pedestrian Subcommittee met the evening of April 17th in the Buffalo Erie County Central Library. Most of the meeting was centered on reviewing and marking up the draft bicycle route maps prepared for the B-P Master Plan update. The next subcommittee meeting was anticipated for late June or early July.

B. Freight Study and Stakeholders Event

Mr. Morse reported a Freight Forum was held April 11, 2008. Participants from all modes of surface transportation were in attendance

Findings from highway were:

- Bottlenecks do not currently exist
- AM/PM peak hours are avoided

Findings from Rail were:

- Norfolk Southern looking actively to increase business in Buffalo

- Buffalo & Pittsburgh looking to attract new customers by using Buffalo/Niagara as a bridge to other areas

Finds from Port were:

- Continued need for good highway and rail connections to Port of Buffalo
- Competitive rail access is poor

Finds from Distribution/Logistics were:

- Sonwill is building new 300,000 sq. ft. distribution center at Buffalo Lakeside Commerce Park

Also technical memo # 4 due May 16th, steering committee meeting scheduled for early June, technical memo # 5 due June 23rd and the final report due July 1st

C. Earth Day Results

Mr. Morse reported to date 314 companies, organizations, schools & colleges/universities signed up on the Good Going website. More than 100 companies had employees sign the pledge form to use alternate transportation for the Earth Day. Mr. Gower of the NFTA noted ridership was up 2% on Earth Day. Overall the Earth Day initiative was successful.

D. UB 2020 Master Plan and Scenario Presentations

About 650 UB Faculty, staff, students, planning professionals and members of the local community participated in the event on April 22, 2008. UB administration is in the process of developing growth scenarios that reflect how the expanded academic program of UB2020 might be distributed on the three campuses. Scenarios have been illustrated during the Campus Concepts phase to explore the range of options for the quantity and shape of physical growth on the North, South and Downtown Campus.

E. Capital Projects Update from Quarterly Reviews

Mr. Trabold presented a current summary of local projects to be let within the year. Mentioning the schedule is quite robust.

F. Distribution of 2007 Highway Condition Assessment Report

The report was presented last month to the members and no feedback had been received. The report is current with no changes. Mr. Morse offered more copies to anyone who needs them.

IV. STATUS REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Member Agency Reports

Mr. O'Brien reported Orangeport Rd. project and the Bridge washing program have both been awarded and work is expected to begin soon.

Mr. Gottlieb noted the DOT is expecting instruction sometime this summer for both the DOT's program update and TIP update. He also noted the STIP is over programmed, and the challenges will continue to rise without increasing revenues.

Mr. Tokarczyk noted ITS Phase III project will not be let in June and also the South Grand Island Bridge project will be rebid and is currently being advertised.

Mr. Sickler reported internal approvals are under way for Wehrle Drive, Freeman Rd. Bridge and Como Park projects.

Mr. Gower noted the challenges of limited resources and continued rising costs of fuel. Also reported that construction of the new terminal at Niagara Falls Airport has begun.

B. Director's Report

- Have been preparing for the recertification process with FHWA
- Scajaquada Project is moving along stakeholders met last month. Meetings this month with GBNRTC staff, NYSDOT, Bergman and Cambridge to include some of our micro-simulation capabilities
- SPR initiative to build out our micro-simulation capabilities called Model Framework
- Lancaster and Cheektowaga are working together on a joint Access Management Ordinance

Mr. DeSantis noted that the next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2008 at NYS Thruway Authority in Cheektowaga.

Mr. Gottlieb made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m., seconded by Mr. Tokarczyk, and all were in favor.