

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2007 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 November 7, 2007 at the Erie County Public Works Dept., Buffalo, NY. The meeting began at approximately 9:35a.m.

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

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| 1. Gary Gottlieb | NYSDOT |
| 2. Robert Gower | NFTA |
| 3. Paul Gareis | City of Buffalo |
| 4. Kevin O'Brien | County of Niagara |
| 5. Paul Zakrzewski | NYSTA |
| 6. John Loffredo | County of Erie |
| 7. Robert Curtis | City of Niagara Falls |

Others present were:

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| 1. Hal Morse | GBNRTC |
| 2. Robert Wagner | GBNRTC |
| 3. Timothy Trabold | GBNRTC |
| 4. Richard Guarino | GBNRTC |
| 5. Amy Weymouth-Michaux | GBNRTC |
| 6. Christopher Church | NYSDOT |
| 7. Peter Nixon | NYSDOT |
| 8. Greg Szewczyk | NYSDOT |
| 9. Charles Sickler | County of Erie |
| 10. Jim Seymour | Empire State Dev./USA Niagara |
| 11. Michael Leydecker | Buffalo Niagara Partnership |
| 12. Heidi Bugenhagen | Buffalo Niagara Partnership |
| 13. Joel Guy | Town of Amherst |
| 14. Brian Moore | Bergmann Associates |
| 15. Maria Lehman | Bergmann Associates |
| 16. Thomas Frank | Bi-National Niagara Bicycle Coalition |
| 17. Cristen Manning | The Knoer Group |
| 18. Edward Stachura | FAIR Executive Committee |
| 19. John Mecca | Milligan & Co. LLL |
| 20. Gregg Merlihan | Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. |
| 21. Robert Labenski | Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. |
| 22. Michel Gent | Advisory Group |
| 23. Gladys Gifford | Advisory Group |
| 24. Ned Cuddy | Advisory Group |

I. PROCEEDINGS

A. Roll Call

Mr. O'Brien called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m. At the time of roll call, six members or their representatives were present. The City of Niagara Falls representative arrived shortly thereafter.

B. Public Participation

Ms. Gifford introduced the Advisory Group and stated that some of the members are in attendance. She encouraged the Policy Committee members to attend the next Policy meeting so they may be personally involved in the distribution of \$6 billion in the course of the current LRP.

Mr. Cuddy spoke about his concern on urban sprawl. He noted the loss rate of population in the Town of Tonawanda, Kenmore Village, and Erie County; all at a higher rate than the City of Buffalo. He asked the group to use their influence to see more investment in the City and not to undeveloped areas; and to promote mass transit and consolidation of the City Water Authority with the County.

Mr. Frank referenced the Pedestrian-Bicycle subcommittee, the Greenways, and the distribution of SAFETEA-LU funds to various projects. Specific high priority items to be included in the Plan are information technology consolidation, and water-sewer system oversight creating a regional watershed and infrastructure coalition. Also mentioned were the traffic on Main St. in Williamsville, the relocation of the thruway toll barrier, the Transit Rd. expansion project, the creation of a New York Park and Greenride, and the NYS Power Project re-licensing. He again reiterated that transportation should be functionally integrated.

C. Approval of Meeting Agenda (11/8/07)

Mr. Curtis moved to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Mr. Loffredo, and all were in favor.

D. Approval of GBNRTC-PCC Meeting Minutes (10/3/07)

Mr. Gower moved to approve the meeting minutes of 10/3/07, seconded by Mr. Gottlieb, and all were in favor.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. TIP 2008-2012 Amendments

TIP Major Amendment #1 (Resolution 2007-14): Mr. Trabold reviewed the amendment details noting it would add three new NYSDOT projects totaling approximately \$2.02 million of federal funds to the approved 2008-2012 TIP: Rt 198, I-190 to Delaware Ave., Ramps at Rt. 198 and NY Rt 33; E. Tupper St. Main St. to Elm St.; and Robert Moses Pkwy 957A, N of Main St. to Niagara Falls NCL. Fiscal constraint could be maintained since the new projects would be primarily financed with de-obligated NHS funds realized from the low bid on the Route 5, Main St., Phase 2 project. Mr. Trabold reminded members that authorization was granted at last month's PCC meeting to begin a 30-day public review period and place a public notice in the local newspapers. That public participation phase ended on November 5th and no public comments were received. The action was to recommend Resolution 2007-14 to the Policy Committee for their approval, which would then allow these three new projects to be added to the current TIP. Supporting information was attached to the resolution.

Mr. Gottlieb moved to recommend approval of Resolution 2007-14 to the Policy Committee, seconded by Mr. Gareis, and all were in favor.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

Transportation Projects Subcommittee – Mr. Sickler reported the TPS met on October 17th. The subcommittee discussed and acted upon Major Amendment #1 brought before and approved by the PCC today. It was agreed that local project meetings review would be held on a quarterly basis and focused on problem projects. Staff distributed a draft handout showing all project lettings that occurred in FFY 2007 (10/1/06 to 9/30/07) (~\$172M), and another handout showing anticipated project lettings for the first two quarters of FFY 2008 to provide a preliminary outlook into potential funding demand over the next six months. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 21st, 9 a.m. in the GBNRTC offices.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Subcommittee – Mr. Szewczyk reported that the last subcommittee meeting was held on October 17th at GBNRTC. Some of the items under discussion included:

- Shoreline Trail/Greenway - Missing Links Update: H. Maietta reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the subject.
- Public Involvement Strategies: Use of email tree, more outreach, invite bike groups, announce meeting at town board meetings, and getting campuses involved were some of the suggestions to draw people to the evening meetings.
- Sidewalk Standards and Guidance: Accessibility issues to bring the sidewalks in the state system up to ADA standards.
- Previous Issue Follow-ups: (Emergency Walkout Plan Proposal, Bike Route 20 Signage Proposal, Parkside Ave. & Rt. 198 Intersection Upgrade, Program Updates)

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2008.

Administration Subcommittee – The subcommittee met prior to this PCC meeting to discuss a pending personnel action and recommended a brief executive session following the PCC meeting on this subject.

B. University at Buffalo Master Plan Initiative and Advisory Group Development

Copies of the “University at Buffalo Land Use and Transportation Study in Support of the 2020 Master Plan” were distributed to the members. Ms. Weymouth-Michaux explained that this came about from meetings with UB to discuss how we could support their Master Plan. UB anticipates it will experience a 40% growth in students and faculty, which could have a significant impact in the region in terms of transportation, land use and infrastructure needs. In response, the MPO agreed to form an Advisory Committee to participate in the planning activities of the UB Master Plan and support the study of the overall regional context. A description of the group and study process being developed is noted in the handout.

C. UPWP Development: Projected work completion, base scopes and request for new

Mr. Morse distributed copies of “GBNRTC Work Program Status and Development,” which denotes work items for the next UPWP with carryover items and new requests. The items were listed under the categories of Long Range and Short Range Planning, Project Level Studies, Transportation Improvement Program, Comprehensive Planning and Other Activities. They were presented for discussion prior to drafting a program for the next two years of staff work.

D. Studies Update: Scajaquada Corridor, Buffalo Corridor, Mohawk-Erie

Mr. Morse stated that the three subject studies have regional impact and continue to progress. A brief status of each was presented as denoted in the "Studies Update" handout.

Mr. Gottlieb added that there would be a formal public scoping meeting on the Scajaquada Corridor on November 28th at Medaille College.

E. Regional Freight Study: Initial Tasks Delivered

Mr. Guarino stated that a great deal of work is being done by Wilbur Smith Associates and all is progressing well. He then gave an overview presentation and briefing on the status of the study.

- A bar chart depicted percentage of completion as of 9/27/07 for the various tasks involved in the study.
- A chart depicted study completion as of 9/27/07 for the tasks, along with deliverables and invoice amounts.
- A brief description of each of the nine work tasks.
- Ongoing Activities (i.e. pursuing local match funds, obtaining & analyzing origin/destination data, creation of a Freight Advisory Group)

Mr. Guarino added that this is a 15-month study, which began in January, and according to the consultants is on schedule. As of September 29th the study is approximately 35% complete, the overall cost is approximately \$280,000; the first two deliverables are scheduled within the next two days and should be available for distribution the week of November 12th.

F. TIP Projects: Previous Year Summary, Look Ahead

Mr. Morse gave an overview presentation and summary of lettings from the recently completed fiscal year, as well as a six-month look ahead. Bar charts depicted the following:

- Combined Project Lettings 10/06 thru 9/07 – Federal Aid Only (Total, NYSDOT, Local Projects, Rt. 219)
- Current Projection: Local & NYSDOT Federal Air Project Lettings 10/07 thru 3/08 (let date, matched cost)

G. Long Range Plan: Projects of Regional Significance

Mr. Morse distributed a list of Regional Priority Transportation Projects, which noted sponsors, description, schedule, and estimated cost. Among the projects discussed were: I-90/290 Interchange, Buffalo/Fort Erie International Crossing, Waterfront Harbor Access, Transit Infrastructure Improvements, Niagara Falls Infrastructure Support, Shoreline Trail, Scajaquada Corridor Redevelopment, Advanced Tolling Strategies, Amherst Corridor Transit Improvements and Robert Moses Parkway Enhancements.

H. Policy Meeting Date and Agenda

A draft agenda for the subject meeting was distributed to the members. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2008 in Niagara Falls (location to be determined). Mr. Morse then briefly went over some of the agenda items and asked that he be contacted with any inputs.

IV. STATUS REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Member Agency Reports

Mr. Gottlieb reported that bids would be opened on November 15th on the Southtowns Connector Phase I (Fuhrmann Blvd. and Route 5). A public information meeting will be held on the I290 and 190 bridge replacement ramps on November 15th.

Mr. Curtis reported that a public meeting would be held on December 11th on the 10th Street reconstruction.

Mr. Leydecker reported that the Transportation Council is meeting on November 12th at the Niagara Partnership office.

Mr. Seymour reported on new plans for the city of Niagara Falls.

B. Director's Report

Mr. Morse reported on the following:

- House is in the process of authorizing \$2 billion bridge money as part of the National Highway System's 2007-08 general fund. He also summarized various meetings and issues during the month.

Mr. O'Brien noted that the next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2007 at NYSDOT.

Mr. Gottlieb made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m., seconded by Mr. Gareis, and all were in favor.