

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 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 September 5, 2007 at City Hall, 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. Melissa Golen | NFTA |
| 3. Paul Gareis | City of Buffalo |
| 4. Kevin O'Brien | County of Niagara |
| 5. Matthew Latko | 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. Barb Courtney | GBNRTC |
| 5. Amy Weymouth-Michaux | GBNRTC |
| 6. Ron Hayes | NYSDOT |
| 7. Joe Buffamonte | NYSDOT |
| 8. Gary Witulski | Buffalo OSP |
| 9. John Bidell | City of Buffalo |
| 10. Brian Moore | Bergmann Associates |
| 11. Kevin Miller | Bergmann Associates |
| 12. Jim Seymour | ESDC/USA Niagara |
| 13. Jody Clark | Seneca Nation |
| 14. Jonathan McNulty | Senator Mary Lou Rath |
| 15. Thomas Frank | BiNational Niagara Bicycle Coalition |
| 16. Mike Leydecker | BNP |
| 17. Gladys Gifford | CRTC |
| 18. Seth Triggs | CRTC |
| 19. Heidi Bugenhagen | BND |
| 20. Cristen Manning | The Knoer Group |
| 21. Wally Smith | AAA |
| 22. Sheila Ransbottom | Fisher Assoc. |
| 23. Gregg Merlihan | Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. |
| 24. Chris Fahey | Congressman Higgins |
| 25. Bonnie Kane Lockwood | Congressman Higgins |

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, four members or their representatives were present. The County of Erie, City of Niagara Falls and NFTA representatives arrived shortly thereafter.

B. Public Participation

Mr. Frank spoke on several transportation-related issues. The Niagara Region has a seasonal construction period and Mr. Frank feels there is a need to consolidate contractors to complete the work in a timely manner. He emphasized that transportation issues and planning efforts need to be functionally integrated. Also noted was the 2nd Annual Pan-Am Bicycle ride will be held this Sunday.

C. Approval of Meeting Agenda (9/5/07)

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

D. Approval of GBNRTC-PCC Meeting Minutes (8/1/07)

Mr. Gottlieb moved to approve the meeting minutes of 8/1/07, seconded by Mr. Latko, and all were in favor.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. TIP Amendments

TIP Minor Amendment #19: 2006-2010 TIP - City of Niagara Falls: Tenth Street to Cedar Ave. Mr. Trabold stated that at the last TPS meeting the City of Niagara Falls requested a scope change to the 10th Street project that runs between Niagara Street and Cedar Ave. The request was to extend the project down Cedar Ave., about 1225 linear feet, as part of the existing 10th Street project. To maintain the fiscal constraint, the City has agreed to postpone the 2012 construction phase of the second stage of Buffalo Avenue (I-190 to Cayuga Drive). The change would require \$1.037M in new funds. He noted the TPS voted to recommend approval of the request.

Mr. Curtis moved to approve TIP Minor Amendment #19, seconded by Mr. Gottlieb, and all were in favor.

Technical Corrections Action #1: 2008-2012 TIP – Mr. Trabold stated that one of the final tasks of TIP development was for the MPO to ensure the newly approved TIP was successfully incorporated into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). During program validation of the STIP a few minor discrepancies were noted and corrected (project schedule and funding allocation changes are detailed on the attached table to the resolution). No new funds are at issue. A letter to NYSDOT confirming the consistency of the two documents would be issued following approval of the technical changes.

Mr. Latko moved to approve Technical Corrections Action #1 to the 2008-2012 TIP, seconded by Mr. Gottlieb, and all were in favor.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Reports

Transportation Projects Subcommittee – Mr. Trabold reported that the TPS met on August 15th. Much of the discussion concerned the 10th Street project amendment and the TIP review for STIP consistency, which have just been approved. Now that the TIP will be effective on October 1st, new ways of monitoring the TIP, including the delivery of projects and maintaining fiscal constraint, would be pursued in the coming months. Also discussed were the Minneapolis Bridge Collapse implications. A press release from the governor's office was also discussed which directed a new 5-year capital plan for bridges and highways be submitted by 3/31/08. The need for, and extent of, additional funding was to be a key finding of that plan.

The next TPS meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, September 19, 2007, 9 a.m. in the GBNRTC offices.

B. Long Range Plan: Project Definition and Breakout

Ms. Weymouth-Michaux distributed copies of the LRP document. Now that the Plan has been completed, Ms. Michaux reviewed initial project development approaches and information availability to begin breaking out longer term initiatives in the Plan into manageable projects. The process links concepts and projects in the LRP to the projects funded in the TIP. The first step is strategy scripting, breaking it down by identifying project owners and the action needed to move the projects forward. The identified tasks will most likely evolve into work items in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). A copy of an example of a projects data entry form was distributed. In the future, agencies' assistance will be required for clearer definition of the projects.

C. Cross Border Issues: NITTEC Operational Committee, O/D Surveys at Bridges

Mr. Trabold stated that he attended the first meeting of the Border Crossing Committee, created by NITTEC, on August 21st at the Peace Bridge, Fort Erie. The objective of the committee was to support relations among their member agencies and affiliates; and provide a forum on transportation issues for efficient movement of people and goods to the regional bi-national border crossing. This is an operational technical group of bridge operators, customs, and border protection; chaired by Brent Gallagher, Manager of the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission. The group is focused on technical issues, i.e. standardization of message signs for the two border crossings, calculating wait delays and various ITS issues. Meetings are being scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month, the next being September 18th in Niagara Falls Ontario. Mr. Trabold noted the proposed Bi-National Transportation Coordinating Group was supposed to include a technical committee of the same agencies now organized in this NITTEC Operational Subcommittee. The status of that Coordinating Group was on hold as the Canadian government debates how they wish to proceed.

Origin/Destination Surveys at Bridges – Mr. Trabold reported that the origin/destination surveys of passenger vehicle drivers crossing all four international borders were completed in July. The trip information collected was now being geocoded before analyses. The Canadians were proceeding first with trip-end geocoding of Canadian origins and destinations; then GBNRTC staff would do the same for the U.S. side. He noted 31,000 surveys were collected, 16,000 more than anticipated, and efforts were underway to identify additional funding to cover the extra coding work.

D. Human Services Transportation Plan: JARC/New Freedom/5310 Projects

Attached to the memo Ms. Courtney distributed was a listing of Erie and Niagara Counties Section 5310 applicants whose projects have been recommended for funding. Nine applicants will be receiving funding for 21 vehicles (estimated cost: \$789,965). These recipients will be added to the 2008-2012 TIP. Another round of project solicitation, selection and funding is expected this fall.

JARC grantees have been selected through the HSTP Review Team and TPS subcommittee. A formal letter from the Governor is expected appointing NFTA as the designated recipient of the JARC funds, making them the administrator of funds to the sub-recipients who will have to sign an MOU prior to receiving grant funds.

Also expected is the appointment of NFTA, by the Governor, as the designated recipient of New Freedom funds. Grant applications previously submitted were reviewed by the HSTP Review Team who offered suggestions to improve the submittals consistent with the New Freedom guidelines.

E. New Studies Startup: I-290, Regional Signal Systems

Mr. Morse reported that the two new major planning initiatives would be commencing soon. He then reviewed the overall intent of each and determined the interest of PCC members in participation.

F. Integrated Planning and Community Design: Statewide Case Studies

Mr. Morse reported that the statewide association of MPOs recently completed a best practices and case studies review of several projects around the state. Copies of "Building Quality Communities Through Thriving Partnerships" were distributed to the membership and highlights reviewed. Mr. Morse added that additional copies were available upon request.

G. UPWP Development: Schedule and Initial Issues

Mr. Morse stated that there are six or seven months left in the current two-year Work Program. The next UPWP is in the early stages of development. Some major initiatives included:

- LRP concepts breakout and studies initiation for project development
- Integration of UB Master Planning Effort, Transit Strategic Studies
- Development of next TIP
- Enhanced TIP project tracking implementation
- Project funding development
- Data Collection and analysis

Timeframe: From Sept. 2007 (financial review, staffing, issues) to Feb. 2008 (PCC and Policy Committee approval).

IV. STATUS REPORTS/INFORMATION

A. Member Agency Reports

NFTA reported that 13 hybrid buses are on site and integrated into the system.

Niagara County reported that the local branch of the American Public Works will hold a meeting on September 27th at the Holiday Inn, Niagara Falls Blvd. The subject "20 years after the bridge collapse."

B. Director's Report

Mr. Morse reported on the following:

- Scajaquada Study – meeting held to interface with design team regarding traffic projects.
- A UB kickoff meeting was held regarding the 2020 Master Plan and also with NFTA regarding transit initiative.
- Logistic Proposal – opportunity to add information to freight study and progress project.
- East Aurora Ice Rink – meetings with community regarding impacts.
- Lancaster Traffic and Land Use Study – base model in place, developments being analyzed.
- Shoreline Trail – update of segments and conditions for possible future action.
- FTA on-site meetings at NFTA seemed to go well.

Mr. O'Brien noted that the next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2007 at NYS Thruway Authority.

Mr. Latko made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m., seconded by Mr. Loffredo, and all were in favor.