



Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
438 Main St, Suite 503 | Buffalo, NY 14202 | 716-856-2026 | www.gbnrtc.org

Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) Meeting

Wednesday June 7, 2023 @ 9:30am

Public Participation Live 438 Main St. Buffalo (Sunburst Room on First Floor) and Virtual on Facebook Live

Please note that the GBNRTC PCC meeting will be broadcast live for public viewing on GBNRTC's Facebook Page facebook.com/GBNRTC. You may watch the live stream at this link, whether or not you have a Facebook account. However, in order to leave a comment on Facebook Live, you will need a Facebook account. You can also send any questions or comments to staff@gbnrtc.org.

A glossary of transportation terms is available at <https://www.gbnrtc.org/glossary-of-terms>

DRAFT AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance

I. PROCEEDINGS

- A) Roll Call
- B) Public Participation
- C) Approval of Meeting Agenda
- D) Approval of Previous (5-5-23) Meeting Minutes

II. ACTION ITEMS

- A) AdMod # 24: PIN 5111.77 US 20/Cazenovia Creek – Increase Funding (NYSDOT)
- B) AdMod # 26: PIN 5011.37 NY 93; NY 18F to Niagara Scenic Parkway – Increase Funding (NYSDOT)
- C) AdMod # 27: PIN 5814.66 Goodell St, Tupper St & Pearl St; NY 33 (Kensington Expwy) to NY 5 (Main St) – Increase Funding (NYSDOT)
- D) AdMod # 28: PIN 5825.77 Rail Capital Project – Realignment & Name Change (NFTA)
- E) AdMod # 29: FTA 5307 and 5337 – Project Realignments & Name Change (NFTA)
 - PIN 5825.76 Bus Capital Project (5307)
 - PIN 5900.28 Rail Preventative Maintenance (5307)
 - PIN 5900.34 Rail Preventative Maintenance (5337)

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A) April TPS Action Item Approvals
- B) Public Review Status
- C) Public Participation Plan Update

IV. STATUS REPORTS/INFORMATION

- A) Member Agency Reports
- B) Director's Report

V. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: July 5, 2023



Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
438 Main St, Suite 503 | Buffalo, NY 14202 | 716-856-2026 | www.gbnrtc.org

Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) Meeting Minutes Friday May 5, 2023

A meeting of the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council Planning and Coordinating Committee was held on May 5, 2023.

The following GBNRTC-PCC representatives were present:

- NFTA Tom George
- NYSTA John Boser
- NYSDOT Dave Hill
- Buffalo Nate Morton
- Niagara Falls Kevin Forma
- Erie County Darlene Sviolokos
- Niagara County Garret Meal

Others present:

- Frank Cirillo NYSDOT
- Athena Hutchins NITTEC
- Karen Hoak Erie County
- James Cuozzo NYSDOT
- Nolan Skipper Buffalo
- Gautam Mani FHWA
- Steve Burget STI
- Jim Gordon Citizens for Regional Transit
- Thomas Frank
- GBNRTC Staff (10)

Public Attendees:

- 8 members of the public viewed through Facebook Live link.

I. PROCEEDINGS

The Chairperson (Mr. George from NFTA) called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

A) Roll Call

- All members were present.

B) Public Participation

- The following comments were presented:
 - i. *Jim Gordon* stated that Citizens for Regional Transit has submitted comments on the MTP Update. The MTP Update is a beautiful document and very informative.
 - ii. *Thomas Frank* stated that he is working on the Erie Canal Nation Heritage Corridor project in the village of Williamsville/town of Amherst. This project will connect the Niagara River Greenway to Ellicott Creek and Tonawanda Creek through 2050.

C) Approval of Meeting Agenda

- *Motion to approve the revised agenda as proposed (NC/DOT). Approved 7-0*

D) Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- *Motion to approve the 4-5-23 meeting minutes (CNF/TWA). Approved 7-0.*

II. ACTION ITEMS

- A) **PIN 576189 RT 265 (Military Rd) Reconstruction & Cayuga Dr Resurfacing - Guarino**
- This is a request to modify an existing Niagara Falls project
 - This project needs additional funds due to inflation
 - \$0.479M (matched STBGP) will be transferred from PIN 576329 (77th ST Preservation Project) to the Construction phase
 - Current let date for project is 7/20/23 and will not be changed
 - CNF will add 100% Local funds to PIN 576329 (77th ST Preservation Project) to replace transferred federal funds and keep the project total unchanged
 - Fiscal constraint is maintained
 - *Motion to approve as Administrative Modification #23 (DOT/CNF). Approved 7-0.*
- B) **Resolution 2023-II Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination for 2050 MTP Update – Grabau**
- GBNRTC completed a new transportation conformity determination for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update.
 - At the time of our last MTP, Erie and Niagara counties were designated as “attainment” for 2008 ozone NAAQS.
 - As a result of South Coast vs USEPA II ruling (Feb 2018), Erie and Niagara counties are now designated as “orphan non-attainment areas.”
 - Must demonstrate conformity but not required to perform an emissions analysis.
 - Conformity determination also includes GBNRTC’s 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
 - The Clean Air Act requires that federally funded or approved highway and transit activities are consistent with (“conform to”) the purpose of the State Implementation Plan (SIP).
 - Conformity for the purpose of the SIP means that transportation activities will not cause or contribute to new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the relevant NAAQS or any interim milestones.
 - EPA’s transportation conformity rules establish the criteria and procedures for determining whether metropolitan transportation plans, transportation improvement programs (TIPs), and federally supported highway and transit projects conform to the SIP.
 - MTP and TIP projects are identified as either exempt or non-exempt from conformity analysis.
 - Non-exempt projects are those deemed to have an impact on travel patterns / more likely to have an impact on regional emissions.
 - Six (6) projects in the new MTP constrained project list are identified as “non-exempt”.
 1. Metro Transit Expansion
 2. Bailey Avenue High-Capacity Transit Enhancements
 3. NFTA Bus System-wide High-Capacity Transit Enhancements
 4. NY Route 33, Kensington Expressway Project
 5. Regional Traffic Signal Enhancement
 6. Region Central Infrastructure Re-Envisioning
 - The Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) has reviewed and concurred with all project air quality classifications.

- Public Review of conformity document completed on April 5th, 2023 – May 4th, 2023 with no comments received
- *Motion to recommend the Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination to Policy Committee (TWA/COB). Approved 7-0.*

C) **Resolution 2023-12 Draft 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update - Weymouth**

- MTP requirements and process
 - Seven Key elements of this plan update
 - Updates to demographics, economic forecasts, land use and transportation conditions
 - Population growth areas
 - Social Equity areas of concentration
 - Unemployment
 - The region as an international gateway for goods movement
 - Greenhouse gas reduction initiatives
 - Road and highway pavement conditions, congestion and travel patterns
 - Location of greatest regional freight supply and demand
 - Bridge conditions
 - Public Transportation ridership
 - Bike/Ped infrastructure
 - Safety
 - Innovation
 - Reaffirmed the MTPS vision and goals
 - System Performance Report
 - Updated financial plan
 - Inclusive participation process
 - Adherence to latest federal planning requirements as stated in IJJA/BIL
 - Updated Air Quality/Transportation Conformity
 - Outreach related to this update included:
 - Transportation Project Subcommittee and Planning and Coordinating Committee (six (6) meetings)
 - Policy Committee meeting (Sept 2022)
 - Public notices and meetings (In person and virtual options)
 - Formal review period of Draft Plan – April 5th to May 4th
 - Website, social media posts
 - Facebook and Instagram ads
 - Consultations with stakeholder agencies
 - FHWA and FTA review
 - Financial Outlook and estimate funding
 - Project Identification and delivery
- All comments received by member agencies reviewed and incorporated into the final document.
- Public comments received distributed to members for review and documented in final document.
- *Motion to recommend Draft 2050 MTP Update to Policy Committee for approval (DOT/COB). Approved 7-0.*

D) Resolution 2023-13 Goodell Street Corridor Planning Study Schedule and Budget Modification - Davis

- GBNRTC included scope, schedule, and budget for the Goodell Street Corridor Planning Study services in the current Unified Planning Work Program, funded by both State Planning and Research funds and MPO planning funds, which was previously approved.
- GBNRTC wishes to modify the current consultant schedule and cost baseline based on the consultant conducting requested tasks beyond original budgeted scope of services to aid the transition into the design process.
 - Supplement the current C&S contract at a cost of \$40,548
 - Amend the contract end date to June 17, 2023
- The provided schedule and cost modification will provide support necessary for timely and successful completion of the project; and sufficient budget is available in the current year program
- *Motion to authorize execution of a Supplement to the current C&S contract at a cost of \$40,548 and amend the contract end date to June 17, 2023 (DOT/NFTA). Approved 7-0.*

E) Updated TIP Change Controls – Guarino

- TIP/STIP projects may need to be modified for one or more of the following reasons:
 - Addition of new projects
 - Deletion of existing projects
 - Cost change
 - Scope/work element change
 - Location changes
 - Funding source changes
 - Scheduling changes
 - Phase additions or deletions
- Change controls govern the procedures and governing body approvals required to make any of these changes to the TIP.
- Change controls are reviewed every 2 years.
- Need to carefully balance efficiency with transparency.
 - Amendments require public review and a resolution
 - Policy Committee meets twice per year
 - Smallest changes do not require paperwork or MPO board approvals but are reported out at PCC.
- Proposed change federal to non-federal fund source changes (II.c. and II.d.)
 - Currently
 - Under \$150K requires AdMod (PCC Approve)
 - Over \$150K requires Amendment (PCC Approve after public comment period)
 - Proposed
 - Under \$150K requires RPPM approval (reported at TPS)
 - Over \$150K requires AdMod (approved by TPS and reported at PCC)
- *Motion to recommend these changes to Policy Committee for approval (TWA/NC). Approved 7-0.*

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. April TPS Action Item Approvals - Guarino

- No Action Items were approved at the 4/19 TPS meeting

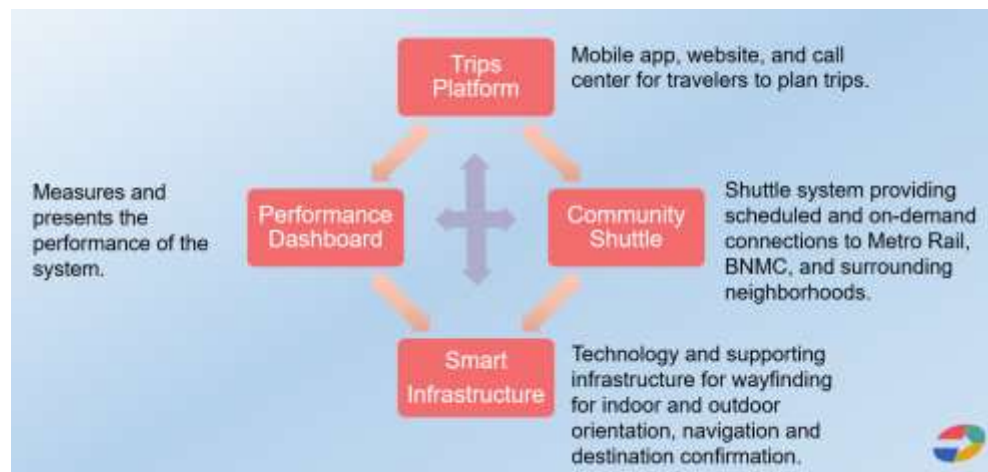
B. PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program – Guarino

- Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT)
- Program to help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.
- Program will deliver \$8.7 billion over the next four years
- The PROTECT Program includes both formula funding distributed to States and competitive grants.
- Eligible applicants
 - States (or a political subdivision of a state)
 - Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
 - Local governments
 - Special purpose districts or public authorities with a transportation function
 - Tribal governments
- Eligible Activities and Allocations
 - Planning Grants - \$25 M/year for FFY23
 - Resilience planning, predesign, design, or the development of data tools to simulate transportation disruption scenarios to facilitate the ability of the eligible entity to assess the vulnerabilities of its surface transportation assets and community response strategies under current conditions and a range of potential future conditions
 - Resilience Improvement Grants - \$175 M/year for FFY23
 - Improve the ability of an existing surface transportation asset to withstand one or more elements of a weather event or natural disaster, or to increase the resilience of surface transportation infrastructure from the impacts of changing conditions, such as sea level rise, flooding, wildfires, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters.
 - Community Resilience & Evacuation Route Grants - \$25 M/year for FFY23
 - Strengthen and protect evacuation routes that are essential for providing and supporting evacuations caused by emergency events
 - At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants - \$25 M/year for FFY23
 - Strengthen, stabilize, harden, elevate, relocate or otherwise enhance the resilience of highway and non-rail infrastructure to protect highways that are subject to, or face increased long-term future risks of, a weather event, a natural disaster, or changing conditions, including coastal flooding, coastal erosion, wave action, storm surge, or sea level rise.
- Applications must be submitted electronically through grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on Friday, August 18, 2023
- NOFO and application checklist will be sent to members with meeting slides
- For more info, go to: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/protect/discretionary/>

C. IS4US Buffalo All Access Update - Dixon

- A USDOT Multimodal Deployment effort, led by ITS JPO and supported by OST, FHWA and FTA

- Supports multiple large-scale replicable deployments to address the challenges of planning and executing all segments of a complete trip
- Vision: Innovative and integrated complete trip deployments to support seamless travel for all users across all modes, regardless of location, income, or disability
- About the Project
 - Purpose: Ensure that transportation options in and around the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC) are accessible for all travelers, especially those with disabilities, older adults, and low-income individuals.
 - Solution: The project deploys new and advanced technologies to address existing mobility and accessibility challenges
 - Project Area: BNMC and surrounding neighborhoods: Fruit Belt, Masten Park, and Allentown.
- System Overview



- Project Objectives
 - Support consistent, continuous trips to, from, and within the BNMC area.
 - Provide online and offline ways to receive real time information on services, and infrastructure usability and accessibility.
 - Create trip paths that are safe, accessible, and compatible with user-defined preferences and capabilities.
 - Provide integrated, flexible, demand-responsive, end-to-end transit options for the community.
- Target users
 - Persons with Disability (PWD)
 - Mobility
 - Vision
 - Cognitive
 - Hearing
 - Low Income
 - Older Adults
 - Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- Project aims to improve transportation for 60% of the 1.1 million residents in the Buffalo Niagara Region fall into at least one category of people with special needs.
- Connect all users of all ages and abilities to key destinations, services and opportunities
- Performance measures were developed based on 10 use cases. Each measure has a set of metrics and targets.

- Next Steps (through Summer 2023):
 - Develop minimum viable product for testing
 - Recruit preliminary users and testers
 - Conduct training
- There will be an upcoming webinar on Low-Speed Self-Driving Shuttles on May 16 @ 2 pm EDT at <https://bnmc.org/allaccess/buffalo-all-access-webinar>

IV. STATUS REPORTS/INFORMATION

- Member Agency Reports
 - NFTA reported that construction will soon begin on the Cars on Main Street Rail Reconstruction project (Mohawk to Church)
 - All other members and present regional stakeholders stated that they did not have anything to report at this time.

- Director's Report - Finn
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Professional Development Program (PDP)
 - FHWA PDP associate (Will Kennan) has been with us since early February
 - Recognition of all the good work Will has accomplished in his short time here as his assignment will end this week
 - New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Associations (NYSAMPO) Conference
 - Mike F, Rich and Kelly will attend
 - Many interesting transportation initiatives will be presented from around the state.

V. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

- Next PCC Meeting
 - The next PCC meeting will resume the normal schedule and be held on Wednesday June 7 at 9:30 am
- *Motion to Adjourn (CNE/TWA). Approved 7-0.*
- The GBNRTC Policy Committee meeting will immediately follow PCC after a 10-minute break.
- The meeting concluded at 2:10 pm.

The meeting will begin shortly.
Thank you for your patience



Planning and Coordinating Committee

June 7, 2023





Agenda

I. Proceedings

II. Action Items

III. Discussion Items

IV. Status Reports / Information

Proceedings

- Roll Call
- Public Participation
- Approval of Meeting Agenda
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Action Items



 GBNRTC

A. PIN 5111.77 US 20/Cazenovia Creek

- This is a NYSDOT request to modify an existing project
- Request for a \$7.504M cost increase due to Erie County Water Authority water line relocation and increased material prices
 - Construction phase will be increased by \$6.700M
 - Construction Inspection phase will be increased by \$0.804M
- Fiscal constraint is maintained as all offset (\$7.504M) is 100% Statewide funded
- Recommended by TPS on 5/17/23
- Today's action will be to approve this change as AdMod #24

B. PIN 5011.37 - NY 93; NY 18F to Niagara Scenic Parkway

- This is a NYSDOT request to modify an existing project
- \$0.262M of additional design funds are necessary as the project has changed from mill/resurface to reconstruction (minor scope change)
 - Preliminary Design (PDES) phase will increase by \$0.262M
- \$0.262M will be transferred from PIN 5044.01 NY 61; B St to Lockport Rd
- Fiscal constraint is maintained
- Recommended by TPS on 5/17/23
- **Today's action will be to approve this change as AdMod #26**

C. PIN 5814.66 Goodell St, Tupper St & Pearl St; NY 33 (Kens Exp) to NY 5 (Main St)

- This is a NYSDOT request to modify an existing project
- This request increases Preliminary Design by \$0.580M to fund outside consultant design
- \$0.580M will be transferred to project from statewide HSIP allocations
- \$0.298M of Detailed Design funding will also be changed from statewide HSIP to 100% State Discretionary Funding (SDF)
- Fiscal constraint is maintained
- Recommended by TPS on 5/17/23
- **Today's action will be to approve this change as AdMod #27**

D. PIN 5825.77 Rail Capital Project (5337)

- This is a NFTA request to modify an existing project
- This change will align the estimated FTA Section 5337 funds for this project to match the full published federal (FTA) apportionments for FFY23
- Total project cost will increase by \$0.832M (matched FTA 5337)
- New project total will be \$1.889M
- In addition, the project name will change from “Rail Capital Project (5337)” to “Rail: Catenary & Insulator Replacement Project”.
- Recommended by TPS on 5/17/23
- Today's action will be to approve this change as AdMod #28

E. FTA 5307 and 5337 – Project Realignment & Name Change

- This is a NFTA request to modify three (3) existing projects
- All three (3) projects will be realigned to match the full published federal apportionments
 - 1. PIN 5900.28 Rail Preventive Maintenance (FTA 5307)**
 - Decrease of \$3.552M (new total is \$0.619M)
 - 2. PIN 5900.34 Rail Preventive Maintenance (FTA 5337)**
 - Decrease of \$0.005M (new total is \$3.018M)
 - 3. PIN 5825.76 Bus Capital Project (FTA 5307)**
 - Increase of \$0.035M (new total is \$8.785M)
- The title of PIN 5825.76 will be changed from “Bus Capital Project (FTA 5307)” "Purchase Revenue BEB Vehicles"
- Recommended by TPS on 5/17/23
- Today's action will be to approve this change as AdMod #29

Discussion Items



A) May TPS Action Item Approvals

- PIN 5814.20 Large Culvert Preservation at Various Federal-Aid Eligible Locations
 - A NYSDOT request to modify an existing project
 - This request decreases the construction phase by \$0.491M (matched NHPP) as project estimates were lower than anticipated
 - \$0.491M (matched NHPP) will be transferred to PIN 5B1555 Pavement Maintenance Block
 - Fiscal constraint was maintained
 - **Approved as Administrative Modification # 25**

B) Public Review Status

- TIP Amendment # 4 (in 30-day review until 6/16/23)

1. PIN 5900.45 Purchase Revenue Vehicles

- All FTA 5339 funds from PIN 5900.46 Purchase Paratransit Vehicles and PIN 5900.47 Purchase Bus Shelters will be transferred to PIN 5900.45 Purchase Revenue Vehicles.
- FFY23 FTA 5339 funds in this project will be realigned to published federal apportionments
- The project total will now be \$1.917 (matched FTA 5339)

2. PIN 5900.46 Purchase Paratransit Vehicles

- All FTA 5339 funds will be transferred to PIN 5900.45 Purchase Revenue Vehicles
- This project will now be funded with FFY23 FTA Section 5337 funds which became available from the FTA 5337 realignment to published federal apportionments.
- This project title will be changed to “Rail Fastener and Pad Project”

3. PIN 5900.47 Purchase Bus Shelters

- The NFTA has decided to use local funds for the purchase of bus shelters
- All current funding (\$0.633M matched FTA 5339 funds) will be transferred to PIN 5900.45
- This project will no longer contain any federal funds and will be need to be removed from the TIP.



Public Participation Plan Update

June 7, 2023



What is a Public Participation Plan

- Public Participation Plan (PPP) was last updated in 2017.
- The Plan provides a framework for GBNRTC participation processes and activities in developing transportation planning projects and programs.
- The Plan describes the MPO's strategies and adopted policies to inform and engage the public in transportation planning issues with the purpose of maximizing participation and effectiveness.
- Is an opportunity to provide guidance to ensure that all residents benefit from transportation investments, especially those who have been traditionally underserved by the transportation system.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Planning Emphasis Areas

Public Participation

- The BIL allows MPOs to use social media and other web-based tools to encourage public participation in the transportation planning process.
- Encourages MPOs to increase meaningful public involvement in transportation planning by integrating Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) tools into the overall public involvement approach while ensuring continued public participation by individuals without access to computers and mobile devices.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Planning Emphasis Areas

Public Participation

- Adding affordable housing organizations to a list of stakeholders MPOs are required to provide a reasonable opportunity to comment on the metropolitan transportation plan.
- Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination: MPOs are encouraged to coordinate with FLMAs in the transportation planning and project programming process on infrastructure and connectivity needs related to access routes and other public roads and transportation services that connect to Federal lands.



PPP Update Process

- Review of new federal requirements and planning emphasis areas.
- Conduct a MPO peer review and review of best practices, with particular attention to innovative engagement methods, as well as ways to effectively engage minority, low-income and limited English proficiency residents.
- Gather input from stakeholders about barriers to participation, preferred methods of participation and engagement, and about the goals of participation through an online survey.

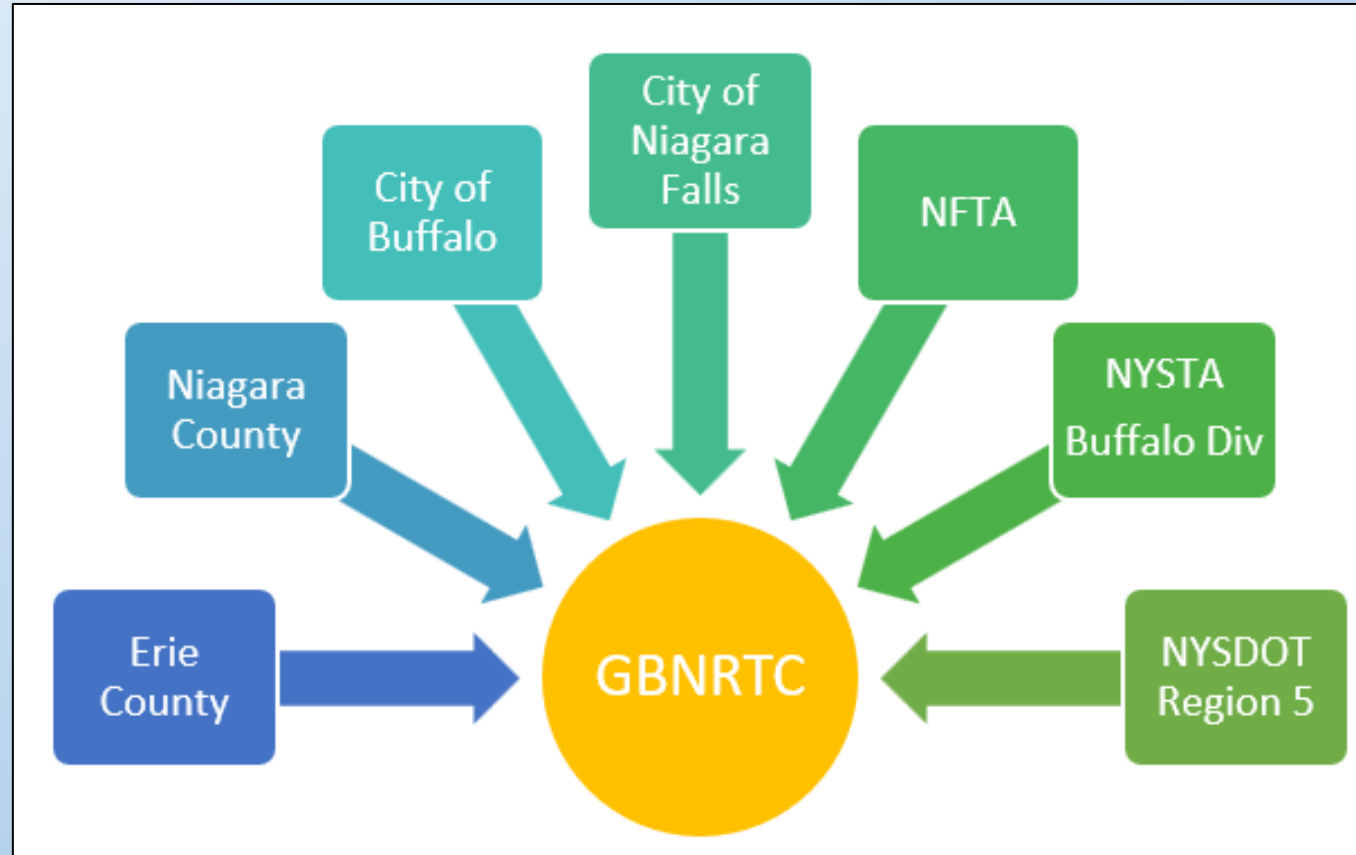


PPP Update Schedule

- **June 7, 2023:** Present PCC the approach and schedule
- **June 8, 2023:** Release survey for second round of comments
- **July 19, 2023:** Present TPS an overview of draft PPP update
- **July 20-August 18, 2023:** Member agency review of draft PPP update
- **September 6, 2023:** Request to initiate 45-day public review and comment period
- **September 7-October 21, 2023:** 45-day public review and comment period
- **November 1, 2023:** PCC to recommend to Policy for approval
- **November (TBD):** Policy approval

Status Reports/Information

Member Agency Reports



Executive Director's Report

- NYS CFA Grant Applications Open – Close July 28
- Replica Data Webinar – June 15
- Car Share Insurance Legislation Update
- Member Agency Representatives Update

Meeting Wrap Up

- Next PCC Meeting will be July 13, 2023
- Adjournment