



Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council

GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting

May 5, 2023 @ 1pm

Live Option – 438 Main St, Buffalo NY 14202 (Sunburst Room)

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](https://www.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@qbnrtc.org.

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

Proposed Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comment on Action Items
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
5. Action Items (Approve)
 - A. Resolution 2023-11: Transportation Conformity Determination (Approve)
 - B. Resolution 2023-12: 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update (Approve)
 - C. Resolution 2023-14: TIP Change Control Guidelines (Approve)
6. Other Business
7. Next Meeting/ Adjournment of Policy Meeting

**Minutes of the September 7, 2022 meeting of the
Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) Policy Committee**

A meeting of the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council Policy Committee was held on September 7, 2022 at 10:30 am.

The following GBNRTC Policy Committee members/representatives were present:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. NFTA | Robert Jones (Alternate) |
| 2. NYSTA | Matt Latko |
| 3. NYSDOT | Frank Cirillo |
| 4. Buffalo | Nolan Skipper (Alternate) |
| 5. Niagara Falls | Kevin Forma (Alternate) |
| 6. Erie County | Darlene Svilkos (Alternate) |
| 7. Niagara County | Garret Meal (Alternate) |

Others present were:

- Athena Hutchins NITTEC
- Jeff Amplement NFTA
- Bryan Roth NFTA
- Dave Hill NYSDOT
- Mike Lydecker Wendel
- Justin Booth GoBike Buffalo
- Ben Anderson SNI
- 6 Members of the public viewing through Facebook Live link.

Chairman Cirillo called the meeting to order.

1. Roll Call

- | | |
|-------------------|---------|
| 1. NFTA | Present |
| 2. NYSTA | Present |
| 3. NYSDOT | Present |
| 4. Buffalo | Present |
| 5. Niagara Falls | Present |
| 6. Erie County | Present |
| 7. Niagara County | Present |

2. Public Comments on Action Items

- There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda

- *Motion to Approve (TWA/EC). Approved.*

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- *Motion to Approve (EC/TWA). Approved.*

5. ACTION ITEMS

A) Resolution 2022-8 Transportation Conformity Determination - Guarino

- As part of its transportation planning process, the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) completed a new transportation conformity determination for the GBNRTC 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- 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).
 - EPA’s transportation conformity rules establish the criteria and procedures for determining whether the TIP conforms to the SIP.
 - Conformity to 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.
- Interagency consultation was conducted with the NYSDEC, NYSDOT, FHWA, FTA and USEPA for air quality conformity in New York State.
- The vast majority of TIP projects have been classified as “exempt” from air quality conformity determination.
- Six (6) projects have been classified as “non-exempt” from air quality conformity determination but are not required to be modeled for air quality impacts at this time.
- The Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) concurred with the proposed conformity classification for all TIP projects on 8/25.
- Public review of the draft conformity document completed on 9/1.
- This action was recommended by GBNRTC Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) on 9/7/22.
- *Motion to approve the Draft Transportation/Air Quality Conformity Determination (TWA/NFTA). Approved.*

B) Resolution 2022-9 FFY 23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Guarino

- Title 23, United States Code, Section 134, and Title 49, United States Code, Section 5303, require each MPO to develop and approve a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- GBNRTC in cooperation with NYSDOT, has reviewed and documented compliance of the GBNRTC planning process with all existing federal rules and regulations, including Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) requirements.
- Extended consultation efforts have been made with appropriate state and local agencies to increase involvement in the planning process and development of the TIP.
- The TIP continues to be fiscally constrained in accordance with federal regulations.
- On 8/25, the ICG concurred that transportation plans and programs within the Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY Non-Attainment Area, including the GBNRTC 2023-2027 TIP, are in conformity with the State Implementation Plan.
- Two public meetings were held on 8/22.
- Public review completed on 9/1.
- This action was recommended by GBNRTC Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) on 9/7/22.
- *Motion to approve the FFY 23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (DOT/EC). Approved.*

C) Resolution 2022-10 2023 Safety Performance Measure Targets - Guarino

- The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) final rule (23 CFR Part 490) requires States to set targets for five safety performance measures and update annually.
- NYSDOT has established targets for five performance measures based on five year rolling averages for:
 - A) Number of fatalities – 988.2
 - B) Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) – 0.836
 - C) Number of serious injuries – 11,086.2
 - D) Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT – 9.337
 - E) Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries – 2,633.4
- Federal regulations state that MPOs have the option to support defined state safety targets or set their own.
- The GBNRTC supports the NYSDOT 2023 safety targets and agrees to plan and program projects that contribute toward the accomplishment of the aforementioned targets.
- This action was recommended by GBNRTC Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) on 9/7/22.
- *Motion to approve the 2023 NYSDOT Safety Performance Measure Targets (TWA/EC). Approved*

D) Resolution 2022-11 GBNRTC Host Agency Renewal - Guarino

- All MPOs within New York State are required to have a Host Agency in order to provide administrative, legal and contractual support.
- The Host Agency for GBNRTC since 1973 has been the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA).
- The agreement that enables NFTA to act as GBNRTC's Host Agency expired on March 31, 2022.
- A new Host Agency Project Agreement was executed between NFTA and NYSDOT on July 11, 2022 for the period April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2032.
- This action was recommended by GBNRTC Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) on 9/7/22.
- *Motion to approve the Host Agency Project Agreement (NFTA/TWA). Approved.*

E) Resolution 2022-12 Safe Streets for All Action Plan – Guarino

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program to fund regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.
- A comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan) is required before an implementation grant is requested from the USDOT.
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations are eligible to apply for a planning grant that can be used to develop an Action Plan.
- The GBNRTC will submit a regional SS4A Action Plan planning grant application by September 15 to fund the development of an SS4A Action Plan.
- The GBNRTC SS4A Action Plan will conduct a safety analysis of all roads in Erie and Niagara Counties to identify safety improvements, programs and strategies that will eliminate fatal crashes and reduce serious injury crashes fifty percent (50%) by 2050.
- This regional Safety Plan will eliminate the need/duplication of local municipalities within the GBNRTC planning to develop additional Action Plans.
- This action was recommended by GBNRTC Planning and Coordinating Committee (PCC) on 9/7/22.
- *Motion to approve a commitment to the stated GBNRTC SS4A goals and assistance in developing projects to achieve these stated goals (BUF/TWA). Approved.*

F) Res. 2022-13 Memorandum of Understanding – Guarino

- The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formally affirm the transportation planning process and to set forth the MPO responsibilities of the Council and its members, in accordance with the most current federal and state regulations.
- The MOU is subject to amendment and/or reaffirmation by the Council on an annual basis
- This was most recently affirmed and set forth in the MOU adopted by the Council on November 12, 2021 via Resolution 2021–27.
- The Counties of Erie and Niagara; the Cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls; the New York State Thruway Authority; the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority; and the New York State Department of Transportation will continue the cooperative transportation planning and programming process in Erie and Niagara Counties that is required for Federal and State funding.
- Projects will be developed based on the continuing, comprehensive and coordinated transportation planning process.
- Transportation systems embracing various transportation modes will be developed, so as to efficiently maximize mobility of people and goods.
- Plans and programs will be developed that are vital to the economic, social and civic well-being of the metropolitan area.
- Air quality conformity determination analysis will be performed by the MPO for transportation plans and programs.
- An open planning and programming process will be conducted to reach out to stakeholders, interest groups, and the general public, especially under-represented and under-served populations, as well as to the media.
- This action was recommended by GBNRTC Planning and Coordinating Committee on 9/7/22.
- *Motion to approve the reaffirmation of the current MOU (NC/DOT). Approved.*

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update – Weymouth

- Overview of what the MTP is
- MTP Update goals
 - i. Update of financial resources available to the region to implement MTP projects based on new federal transportation legislation and anticipated funding resources.
 - ii. Meets federal planning requirements as specified in the latest federal transportation.
 - iii. Inclusive participation process to ensure transparency and variety of opportunities for engagement.
- Schedule
 - i. Phase 1 – Spring/Summer 22
 - 1. Existing conditions/Emerging trends
 - 2. Reaffirm Goals and objectives
 - 3. Performance measure updates
 - ii. Phase 2 – Fall/Winter 22
 - 1. Financial Plan update
 - 2. Planning studies, projects and strategies
 - iii. Phase 3 - Winter/Spring 23
 - 1. Draft plan development
 - 2. Public presentation and review of draft plan
 - 3. Policy Committee approval

- B. Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion Project – Amplement (NFTA)
- Transit expansion project to continue high-frequency and reliable service into Tonawanda and Amherst
 - The purpose of the Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion project (Proposed Action) is to link established and emerging activity centers along the existing Metro Rail line in Buffalo with existing and emerging activity centers in Amherst and Tonawanda and provide a fast, reliable, safe, and convenient transit ride. Additionally, the Project would improve livability by increasing mobility and accessibility in communities throughout the region.
 - The need for improved transit service has three main components:
 - i. Serve existing and future travel demand
 - ii. Provide high quality regional transit service
 - iii. Improve service for transit-dependent populations
 - METRO Rail history since 1960
 - Project changes include:
 - i. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is Lead Agency with NFTA as Co-Lead Agency
 - ii. Utilizing the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) EIS is being prepared
 - iii. An additional Build Alternative will be considered in the EIS per FTA:
 1. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), along with
 2. Light Rail Transit (LRT)
 - Notice of Intent (NOI) published 8/30/21 to initiate 45-day scoping period through 10/14/21
 - Two virtual scoping meetings held on 9/15/21
 - Comments could be submitted via email, the project website and/or mail, and verbal testimony during the virtual scoping meetings
 - 82 comments received from agencies, advocacy organizations, residents, and other associations
 - i. Comment themes included project support, project opposition, design considerations, operations, environmental impacts, transportation, and funding.
 - ii. Summary of comments received and responses to those comments available on the project website: www.NFTAMetroTransitExpansion.com.
- C. Regional Bicycle Master Plan Implementation – Booth (GoBike Buffalo)
- Project scope
 - i. Support GBNRTC Regional Bicycle Master Plan implementation
 - ii. Public outreach and stakeholder coordination
 - iii. Technical assistance, design guidance, modeling, temporary installations
 - iv. Funding package development and grant assistance
 - Regional Trails Coalition
 - i. The WNY Regional Trails Coalition is a collaboration of non-profit organizations, foundations, and agencies working to advance completion of a connected network of trails throughout WNY.
 - ii. The goal is to raise the profile of regionally significant bicycle and pedestrian trails and their public benefits, so that building these becomes a priority.
 - Priority Trail Projects
 - i. Scajaquada and Clarence trail extensions
 - ii. Lancaster Heritage Trail
 - iii. Ellicott/William/Broadway
- D. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Update – Guarino
- \$350 billion for Federal highway programs over a five-year period (fiscal years 2022 through 2026)
 - New formula programs
 - i. Bridge Investment Program
 - ii. National EV Charing Program (NEVI)
 - iii. Carbon Reduction Program
 - iv. PROTECT (Resiliency)

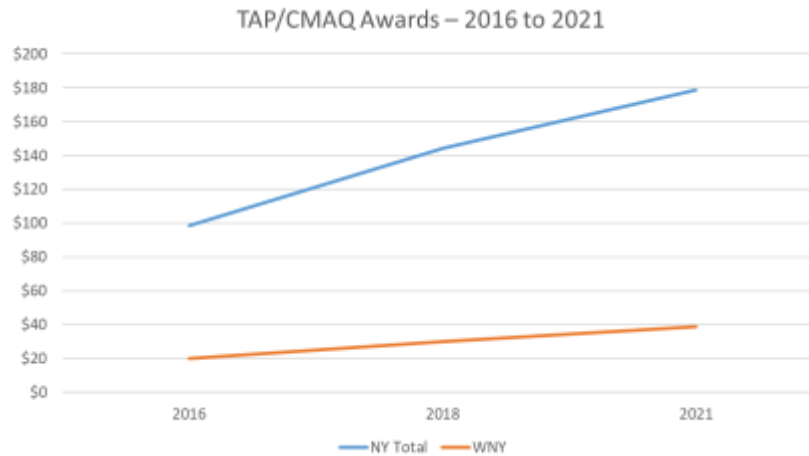
- 40+ Discretionary Programs
 - i. Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)
 - ii. INFRA - multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance
 - iii. MEGA - major projects over \$500M
 - iv. Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program
 - v. RAISE - make transportation more affordable, increase safety and strengthen supply chains
 - vi. Safe Streets & Roads for All - Vision Zero planning and implementation
 - vii. Reconnecting Communities - Removing or Retrofitting Highways to Restore Community Connectivity
 - viii. SMART Grants -Utilizing Innovative Technology to Improve Transportation Efficiency and Safety
 - ix. Healthy Streets Program - Reduce the Urban Heat Island and/or increase air quality
- NOFO release schedule for remainder of 2022.

August	Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Project Program	Federal Highway Administration
August	Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements Grant Program	Federal Railroad Administration
September	Rail Vehicle Replacement Program	Federal Transit Administration
September	Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program	Office of the Secretary
October	Fiscal year 2022 Federal-state Partnership (National)	Federal Railroad Administration
December	Fiscal year 2022 Federal-state Partnership (Northeast Corridor)	Federal Railroad Administration

E. 2021 TAP/CMAQ Award Announcement/WNY Summary – Guarino

- Projects that promote environmentally friendly modes of travel and make it easier and safer to walk, bike or hike.
- The funding provides up to 80 percent of total project costs, is made available through the Federal Highway Administration and administered by the New York State Department of Transportation.
- Projects were selected through a competitive solicitation process that required awardees to demonstrate how proposed activities would contribute to increasing the use of non-vehicular transportation alternatives, reduce vehicle emissions and/or mitigate traffic congestion.
- Combined with project sponsor contributions, these awards will leverage nearly \$550 million in additional community investments.
- \$178.8 million has been awarded to 75 communities across New York State
 - i. Capital Region - \$27.2M
 - ii. Central NY - \$14.1M
 - iii. Finger Lakes - \$23.7M
 - iv. Long Island - \$6.8M
 - v. Mid Hudson - \$38.8M
 - vi. Mohawk Valley - \$8.6M
 - vii. NYC - \$7.7M
 - viii. North Country - \$5.1M
 - ix. Southern Tier - \$8.0M

- x. Western NY - \$38.8M
- TAP/CMAQ program has grown in size significantly since 2016.
 - i. WNY awards have consistently increased with each round, but not at the same rate as the overall program.



- GBNRTC Member Agency Awards:
 - i. \$2,985,600 to the City of Buffalo for rehabilitation to the Scajaquada Trail from Main Street to Fillmore Avenue.
 - ii. \$791,680 to the City of Buffalo for the continuation of the Forest Avenue Multi-Use Pathway.
 - iii. \$3,861,362 to Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority to construct bus stop canopies and pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure improvements along North Division Street in the City of Buffalo.
 - iv. \$5,000,000 to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority for the purchase of Battery Electric Buses (BEB) to serve populations across Western New York.
 - v. \$5,000,000 to the Western New York Region to construct a diverging diamond interchange at the I-190 and Niagara Falls Boulevard intersections in Niagara Falls.
 - vi. \$2,368,000 to the Western New York Region to construct a new through lane, approaches, traffic signal and pedestrian crossing at Route 33-Genesee Street at Harris Hill Intersection in the Town of Lancaster, Erie County.
- Awards for Locals in GBNRTC Planning Area (MISC)
 - i. \$1,490,400 to the Town of Amherst to construct sidewalk and bicycle lane improvements to Carey Road from Paradise Park to Transit Road.
 - ii. \$2,354,887 to the Town of Evans for the construction of a segment of the Shoreline Trail along Lake Shore Road.
 - iii. \$1,600,000 to the Town of Orchard Park to construct sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks to improve safe routes to schools.
 - iv. \$1,696,000 to the Town of Tonawanda to construct a Riverwalk multi-use pedestrian trail connecting River Road to Two Mile Creek Road.
 - v. \$1,050,000 to the City of North Tonawanda to construct an extension to the Erie Canal Bike Path between Mayor's Park and North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens.
 - vi. \$3,448,028 to the Town of Clarence to construct sidewalk and pedestrian improvements from Main Street to Transit Road.
 - vii. \$802,707 to the Village of Williamsville to construct sidewalk and curb ramps along Main Street.

7. Member Agency Reports

- NFTA

- Upcoming service changes will begin this Sunday. Info is available on the NFTA website. Significant system changes will be in place to accommodate the opening of schools and the Amazon Service Center in Lancaster
- Buffalo Bills game service will resume
- An open house for recruiting new mechanics will take place on September 17
- Erie County
 - Process BIP Grants
- Niagara County
 - No report
- Buffalo
 - No report
- Thruway
 - No report
- NYSDOT
 - DOT attempting to leverage as much of the newly available BIL funding to assist the WNY economy.
- Niagara Falls
 - No report
- NITTEC
 - ATCMTD Demo will be in October at the NITTEC annual meeting.
- SNI
 - No report.

8. Other Business - None

9. Next Meeting/Adjournment

- Guarino noted that the next Policy Committee meeting will take place in the spring. Time, location and date will be defined at a later time, but MTP Update will need to be approved before May 23, 2023..
- *Motion was made to adjourn (TWA/NC). Approved.*

Meeting will begin shortly, thank you for your patience



Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council



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Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, May 5, 2023



Today's Agenda

1. Roll Call
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5. Action Items
 - A. Resolution 2023-11: Transportation Conformity Determination
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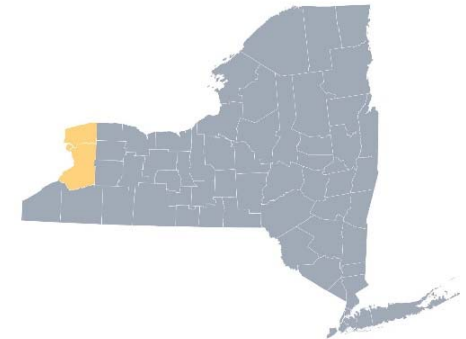
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A. Resolution 2023-11: Transportation Conformity Determination

- On April 4, 2023, ICG concurred with all project air quality classifications in draft document.
- 30 day public comment period from April 5-May 4, 2023.
- No comments received.
- Transportation Conformity Determination was recommended by PCC on 5/5/23
- Today's Policy Committee action would be to approve the Transportation Conformity Determination.

1997 8-Hour Ozone Non-Attainment Area Transportation / Air Quality Conformity Determination

Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program
and 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update



Prepared by GBNRTC Staff
May 2023





Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council

B. Resolution 2023-12: 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

- 30-day public comment period from April 5-May 4, 2023. Two public meetings held on April 25, 2023.
- All comments received from public were reviewed, summarized and provided to members for consideration.
- Comments received will be documented in the final document.
- MTP Update was recommended by PCC on 5/5/23
- **Today's Policy Committee action would be to approve the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update.**



C. Resolution 2023-14: TIP Change Control Guidelines

- Change controls govern the procedures and governing body approvals required to make any changes to the TIP
- Change controls are reviewed every 2 years
- Need to carefully balance efficiency with transparency
- Proposed change federal to non-federal fund source changes
 - Currently
 - Under \$150K requires AdMod (PCC Approve)
 - Over \$150K requires Amendment (PCC Approve)
 - Proposed
 - Under \$150K requires RPPM (reported at TPS)
 - Over \$150K requires AdMod (approved by TPS and reported at PCC)
- Proposed changes were recommended by PCC on 5/5/23
- **Today's action would be to approve these changes via Resolution 2023-14**



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Policy Committee Meeting