

**GREATER BUFFALO-NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 21, 2008 1:00-3:00PM
Niagara Falls Conference Center - Porter/DeVeaux Room
Niagara Falls, New York**

Draft Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comment on Action Items *
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
5. Secretary's Report
6. GBNRTC – Role of the MPO and Status of the Planning Process
7. Action Items (Resolutions)
 - A) Approval of GBNRTC 2008 Memorandum of Understanding: Resolution 2008-1
 - B) Approval of 2008-2010 Unified Planning Work Program: Resolution 2008-2
 - C) Endorsement of Buffalo Niagara Partnership Regional Agenda
Transportation Projects: Resolution 2008-3
 - D) Major TIP Amendment
- Inclusion of three new projects in TIP Major Amendment #1
 - E) Election of Policy Committee Officers for 2008
8. Policy Discussion Items
 - Policy:**
 - A) National Revenue and Policy Commission recommendations
 - Projects:**
 - A) Regional Priority Transportation Projects Status Report and
Upcoming Construction Season
 - B) Regional Agencies Initiatives Report
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
New York State Thruway Authority
New York State Department of Transportation
 - Plans:**
 - A) Regional Freight Study-Initial Findings
 - B) UB Master Plan 2020 Regional Transportation and Development Implications
9. Other Business
10. Next Meeting
11. Adjournment of Policy Meeting

* Up to 3 minutes per speaker please on agenda items

A Public Forum will be conducted after the meeting for general discussion of transportation issues

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2008 MEETING OF THE
GREATER BUFFALO-NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) Policy Committee was held on February 21, 2008 at Conference Center at Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls, New York. Alan E. Taylor, Director for Region 5 of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

The following GBNRTC Policy Members or their representatives were present:

Alan E. Taylor,	NYSDOT
Thomas Pericak,	NYS Thruway Authority
Charlie Sickler,	Erie County
Kevin O'Brien,	Niagara County
Mayor Paul Dyster,	City of Niagara Falls
Seyed Ghasemi,	City of Buffalo
Walt Zmuda,	Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA)

Others present were:

Hal Morse	GBNRTC
Timothy Trabold	GBNRTC
Robert Wagner	GBNRTC
Amy Weymouth	GBNRTC
James Manuel	GBNRTC
Gary Gottlieb	NYSDOT
Joe Buffamonte	NYSDOT
Peter Nixon	NYSDOT
Christopher Church	NYSDOT
Paul Gavin	NYSDOT
Doug Tokarczyk	NYSTA
Robert Gower	NFTA
Thomas DeSantis	City of Niagara Falls
Mike DeSantis	City of Niagara Falls
Ken Swanekamp	Erie County
Jim Seymour	Empire State Development
Michael Leydecker	Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Wally Smith	Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Heidi Bugenhagen	Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Linda Walker	Senator Antoine Thompson
Joe Swantz	Senator Antoine Thompson
Kathleen Lenihan	Congresswoman Louise Slaughter
Carol Sampson	Erie Canal Harbor Development
Thomas Frank	Williamsville Resident

POLICY BOARD MEETING

1. Roll Call

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm with a quorum present. He stated that Commissioner Glynn sends her regrets but could not attend due to a schedule conflict.

2. Public Comment on Action Items

Mr. Thomas Frank Williamsville resident, mentioned the Niagara County Bi-Centennial is upcoming, also spoke about the possibility consolidating Erie/Niagara counties.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (2/21/08)

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

4. Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (6/22/07)

Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of June 22, 2007, seconded by Mr. Pericak, and all were in favor.

5. Secretary's Report

Mr. Morse reviewed several articles of official correspondence received by GBNRTC and actions taken in response to each.

6. GBNRTC - Role of the MPO and Status of the Planning Process

Mr. Morse presented an overview of the Metropolitan Planning Process, current status of GBNRTC and all major work products.

7. Action Items (Resolutions)

A. Approval of GBNRTC 2008 Memorandum of Understanding: Resolution 2008-1

Annually, members of the GBNRTC formally agree to cooperate in transportation planning and in doing so function as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for this region. No changes appear necessary at this time as it was previously revised to reflect SAFETEA-LU language. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

Mr. Gower moved to approve Resolution 2008-1, seconded by Mr. Ghasemi, and all were in favor.

B. Approval of 2008 – 2010 Unified Planning Work Program: Resolution 2008-2

Every two years GBNRTC develops a work program to guide staff activities in support of the Council's initiatives. The UPWP document has been prepared over a several month period to reflect desired member activities, build out of our Long Range Plan and TIP. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the UPWP for approval.

Mr. O'Brien moved to approve Resolution 2008-2, seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor

C. Endorsement of Buffalo Niagara Partnership Regional Agenda Transportation Projects: Resolution 2008-3

Buffalo Niagara Partnership is an active Regional Significant Stakeholder in the GBNRTC process and concurrence between the organizations in transportation projects focus is important. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the agenda for approval.

Mr. DeSantis moved to approve Resolution 2008-3, seconded by Mr. Ghasemi, and all were in favor.

D. Approval of TIP 2008-2012 Major Amendment #1 (Resolution 2007-14)

TIP Major Amendment #1 would amend the current TIP to add three new New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) projects and a full public notification process has been completed. Mayor

Dyster expressed concern with the Robert Moses Pkwy project noting the recommendation was made in 2007; Mayor took office January 1, 2008.

Mayor Dyster moved to amend the resolution by removing item three, Robert Moses Parkway, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all were in favor.

Mayor Dyster moved to approve the Resolution as amended to include the first two items and was seconded by Mr. Ghasemi, all were in favor.

Mayor Dyster proposed to table item three (Robert Moses Parkway), Mr. O'Brien seconded tabling Robert Moses Parkway for the next PCC meeting, all were in favor.

E. Election of Policy Committee Officers for 2008

Motions were made to elect Astrid Glynn, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation as Policy Committee Chair; and Thomas Pericak, New York State Thruway Authority Division Director, as Vice Chair for 2008; and all were in favor.

8. Policy Discussion Items

Policy:

A) National Revenue and Policy Commission recommendations

Mr. Morse conducted a presentation on the Commissions findings, focused on the urgency for determining stable funding sources for transportation infrastructure programs in the coming decades. Other important Commission findings also included issues such as improvements to project delivery mechanisms, focus on freight and goods movement, and energy/environmental concerns. These items will be important considerations in the next reauthorization legislation.

Projects:

A) **Regional Priority Transportation Projects Status Report and Upcoming Construction Season**

Mr. Morse reviewed status of the major transportation projects in the region including schedule and cost status, noting any important policy actions that may be needed.

B) **Regional Agencies Initiatives Report**

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority:

Mr. Gower reported the 2008 focuses are to continue providing improved, safe and convenient transit service, also the NFTA has experienced ridership increases over the last five years. They began the 2008-year with an opening of a new Transit Center in Niagara Falls and restructured the bus service in Niagara County including the City of Niagara Falls. Beginning in June of 08 the NFTA will be introducing a direct bus service from BNIA to Niagara Falls. In the upcoming months NFTA will be initiating a transit study with the focus on Erie County. The study is expected to offer recommendations for maintaining an effective sustainable transit service now and into the future. NFTA will continue to upgrade vehicle fleet and is in the process of refurbishing the Rail Cars as well.

Other initiatives include:

Increased marketing and public outreach

Expanding on current University Pass Program

New Terminal Building for Niagara Falls Airport – to begin this spring

New York State Thruway Authority:

Mr. Pericak reported the Thruway Authority Board is beginning the process to consider tolling adjustments.

Thruway will be rolling out a program that provides weather information on a monitor inside the service stations along the thruway. Also noted cameras have been installed at most interchanges and can be viewed via the website.

New York State Department of Transportation:

Mr. Taylor read from a statement regarding DOT's initiative

The NYSDOT will undertake a series of nine public round-tables to be held across the state to prepare for federal authorization of legislation that provides essential funds for highway, bridges and transit for key infrastructure projects and to discuss the framework of DOT's 20 year needs assessment and the departments goals for the next capital program. DOT is reaching out to its stakeholders both consumers and providers to help us explain to Washington why it is important

New York receive a significant increase in federal funding. "We have a unique opportunity to have a voice in the next authorization of federal transportation programs that fund almost half of NY transportation investments in highways and mass transit," Glynn said. "That new authorization will set the terms under which states receive funding for the multi-year period after the current authorization expires in 2009. It is crucial that we secure adequate support from both the state and federal government to provide and maintain a 21st century transportation network across New York State." The round-table discussion will also focus on the departments twenty year needs and five-year capital program.

Plans:

A) **Regional Freight Study – Initial Findings**

An extensive regional freight study is underway in the Buffalo Niagara region. The study has completed initial portions and a presentation highlighted details of the regional economy, current conditions and major sectors relating to freight transportation. Subsequent work will include forecasts and detail of opportunities for system improvements to facilitate economic growth in the region.

B) **UB Master Plan 2020 Regional Transportation and Development Implications**

Magnitude of the UB expansion project was presented and a scope discussed where GBNRTC would perform transportation analyses based on future scenarios identified in the Plan. Possible transportation needs of the region based on these scenarios will be developed to assure that a comprehensive response to the university expansion is in place to assure success.

9. Other Business

No other business.

10. Next Meeting

To be announced.

11. Adjournment of Policy Meeting

Mr. Taylor thanked the members for attending and the audience for their participation.

Mr. Pericak moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Ghasemi, and all were in favor.

**GREATER BUFFALO - NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

July 17, 2008 1:00-3:00PM

**Adams Mark Hotel - Wright Room
120 Church Street - Buffalo, New York**

Agenda

Special Presentation: Transportation for Tomorrow

Frank McArdle is a member of the National Surface and Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission who endorsed the Transportation for Tomorrow report earlier this year. This report unveiled a comprehensive plan to increase investment, expand services, repair infrastructure, demand accountability and refocus Federal transportation programs. Mr. McArdle will discuss the state of our transportation system and how it relates to the Greater Buffalo-Niagara region, as well as look to the future and see what we can do to create positive change

Business Items:

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comment on Action Items *
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
5. Secretary's Report
6. Action Items (Resolutions)
 - A) Approval of Long Range Plan Amendment #1: Resolution 2008-6 Amending Financial Plan to include Federal Participation in Peace Bridge Capacity Expansion Project
7. MPO Planning Certification: brief summary of recent federal review process

Discussion Items:

8. **Policy:**
 - A) Regional Advisory Group-report by new coalition of community groups with transportation interests
 - B) Toward Next Federal Legislation-Some Common Issues

Projects:

- A) JARC-New Freedom Human Services Transportation Coordination progress
- B) Regional Priority Transportation Projects Status
- C) Regional Agencies Initiatives Report
 - Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
 - New York State Thruway Authority
 - New York State Department of Transportation
 - Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition

Plans:

- A) Regional Freight Study-Some Potential Initiatives for Implementation
9. Other Business
 10. Next Meeting
 11. Adjournment of Policy Meeting

* Up to 3 minutes per speaker please on agenda items

A Public Forum will be conducted after the meeting for general discussion of transportation issues

MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2008 MEETING OF THE
GREATER BUFFALO-NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) Policy Committee was held on July 17, 2008 at Adams Mark Hotel, Buffalo, New York. Alan E. Taylor, Director for Region 5 of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

The following GBNRTC Policy Members or their representatives were present:

Alan E. Taylor	NYSDOT
Doug Tokarczyk	NYS Thruway Authority
Jerry Sentz	Erie County
Kevin O'Brien	Niagara County
Mayor Paul Dyster	City of Niagara Falls
Peter Merlo	City of Buffalo
Robert Gower	Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA)

Others present were:

Hal Morse	GBNRTC
Timothy Trabold	GBNRTC
Robert Wagner	GBNRTC
Rich Guarino	GBNRTC
James Manuel	GBNRTC
Gary Gottlieb	NYSDOT
Joe Buffamonte	NYSDOT
Christopher Church	NYSDOT
Paul Gavin	NYSDOT
Thomas DeSantis	City of Niagara Falls
Charles Sickler	Erie County
Alfred Coppola	Resident
Alvin Schuster	CRTC
Gladys Gifford	CRTC
Andy Graham	Voice-Buffalo
Kristin Allen	LWV Buffalo/Niagara
George Grasser	Partners for A Livable WNY
Jack Killian	Resident
Michael Leydecker	Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Wally Smith	AAA & BNP
Justin Booth	Go Buffalo
Rachel Chrostowski	Erie County Planning
Margot Shoemaker	Voice of Buffalo
Joann Shafer	Voice Buffalo
Kathy Mecca	Niagara Gateway Association
Michelle Mecca	Niagara Gateway Association
Joelle Guy	Town of Amherst
Sheila Ransbottom	Fisher Assoc.
Michael Kroll	Fisher Assoc.
James Kane	ANSBG
Kathy Lenihan	Cng. Slaughter
Nancy Freeland	Voice Buffalo
Deanna Stachowski	TKG

GBNRTC POLICY MINUTES

July 17, 2008

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Bonnie K Lockwood	Rep. Higgins
Carol Perla	Niagara Gateway
Catherine Schweitzer	Baird Foundation
Chuck Banas	NMG/RAG
Nick Melson	Assemblyman DelMonte
Seth Triggs	CRTC
Steve Thomas	Voice Buffalo
Nate Newman	NMG
Martin Nachadlo	Columbus Park Neighborhood
Maria Lehman	Bergmann Assoc.
Elizabeth Martina	Columbus Pkwy Resident
Rev. Dr. R. Snyder	Voice Buffalo

POLICY BOARD MEETING

1. Roll Call

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm with a quorum present. He stated that Commissioner Glynn sends her regrets, as she was not able to attend.

2. Public Comment on Action Items

Ms. Perla read from a letter written by Michael Herbold. Mr. Herbold's letter expressed several concerns relating to the many health issues that have not only impacted him but also other residents in Peace Bridge area. Mr. Coppola spoke out against the proposed expansion of the Peace Bridge. He mentioned the number of homes that would be lost, the added noise related to the increased traffic, the nearby schools and the number of children that would possibly be impacted or that already have asthma. He also talked about the financial part of the project and how the Transportation Fund is running out of money, and the possibility of using private funds opposed to public dollars.

Mr. Kane representing Ambassador Niagara Signature Bridge Group spoke the current plan to expand the Peace Bridge. He feels this expansion is not in the right location. He is urging the council to look down river near the rail corridor and how important that corridor is and has been over the last 130 years to look at the ample space and the connections to both QEW and NYSTA. He noted his group has spent millions of dollars on an environmental assessment and a Presidential application and have found the location down by the rail corridor has no fundamental flaws from an environmental and transportation standpoint.

Ms. Mecca talked about the possible destruction of her historical community. She also shared several concerns regarding health issues not only for her but all area residents. She listed the numerous schools that would be impacted by this expansion most importantly according to the EPA a detour over the multiphase construction would send 40,000 vehicles a day past Public School # 3.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (7/17/08)

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

4. Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (2/21/08)

Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2008, seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.

5. Secretary's Report

Mr. Morse reviewed some items of formal correspondence received since the last meeting.

6. Action Items (Resolutions)

A. Approval of Long Range Plan Amendment #1: Resolution 2008-6

Mr. Morse explained that the Peace Bridge project was currently in the Long Range Plan (LRP) as a regionally significant non-federal project and the action would amend the financial profile to include potential federal, as well as state participation in funding. He said the amendment did not select design, location or configuration of the project.

Mayor Dyster moved to amend Resolution 2008-6 by removing the terminology "Peace Bridge" and replacing with "Border Crossing", seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.

Mr. Taylor moved to approve Resolution 2008-6 as amended, seconded by Mr Tokarczyk, all were in favor

7. MPO Planning Certification:

Mr. Morse reviewed the recent Federally required MPO Planning Process Certification. Noting certification is required to receive full funding for the region's capital projects. GBNRTC has been in place and functioning over 30 years. Representatives from FHWA and FTA were on site June 23, 24 and 25. Interviews with participants were conducted.

Discussion Items:

Policy:

A) Regional Advisory Group

Mr. Morse introduced a new coalition of community groups that has both recently formed and requested to participate in the GBNRTC process. Gladys Gifford and Michael Gent of the group gave a brief overview of the group principles:

- Will remain a strong coalition of citizen groups that represent diverse and extensive memberships
- Will represent effective, coherent public input into decisions of the GBNRTC, on a par with that of Buffalo-Niagara Partnership and the Seneca Nation of Indians
- Will work to bring about positive steps to meet the transportation needs and concerns of member group constituents

B) Toward Next Federal Legislation – Some Common Issues

Mr. Morse reported on some potential issues common to our region for the next transportation reauthorization:

- Need for stability in the Highway Trust Fund – predictable revenues in a period of financial constraint and rapid escalation
- Intermodal flexibility - more localized opportunity to use funds as needed to solve identified problems, less mode specific
- Nationwide and statewide consistency in objectives – need to focus scarce resources on a few key objectives with collateral benefits

Projects:

A) JARC – New Freedom Human Services Transportation Coordination progress

Mr. Morse reported on the progress of the HSTP plan that was approved last year.

B) Regional Priority Transportation Projects Status

A baseline status of projects was presented showing current plans for implementation, projected costs, and project responsibility.

C) Regional Agencies Initiatives Report

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority:

Mr. Gower reported the Aviation side of the NFTA continues to see growth at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport and a new terminal building is currently under construction at the Niagara Falls International Airport. On the Surface Transportation side will be focusing on meeting the increased demand for public transportation and maintaining transit infrastructure. Beginning the fall of 2008 the NFTA will begin a service and fare study.

New York State Thruway Authority:

Mr. Tokarczyk reported on the decrease in traffic this July as compared to July 2007. Currently the Thruway Authority is in cost cutting mode. A major focus is maintaining the infrastructure of the New York State Thruway. They have just installed thirty new cameras to help with traffic management in the region.

New York State Department of Transportation:

Mr. Taylor reported the department is in the midst of a very robust construction season.

- Outer Harbor Parkway – beginning year one of a three year project
- Transit Road – in second year of a three year project
- Harlem Road – second year notably three roundabouts included in this project
- Village of Hamburg – second year notably four roundabouts

Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition:

Mr. George gave a presentation on the operations of NITTEC, including significant coordination initiatives underway.

Plans:

- A) Regional Freight Study – Some Potential Initiatives for Implementation

An extensive regional freight study is underway in the Buffalo Niagara region. The study has completed initial portions and a presentation highlighted details of the regional economy, current conditions and major sectors relating to freight transportation. Subsequent work will include forecasts and detail of opportunities for system improvements to facilitate economic growth in the region.

9. Other Business

No other business.

10. Next Meeting

To be announced.

11. Adjournment of Policy Meeting

Mr. Taylor thanked the members for attending and the audience for their participation.

Mr. Sentz moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. O'Brien, and all were in favor.

**GREATER BUFFALO - NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 20, 2008 9:00-11:00AM
Quality Inn – 7708 Niagara Falls Boulevard
Niagara Falls, New York**

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comment on Action Items *
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
5. Secretary's Report
6. Action Items
 - A) TIP Major Amendment: Addition of Safe Routes To School projects (Major Amendment #4, Resolution 2008-6; and NFTA New Funding/Bus Acquisition Major Amendment #5, Resolution 2008-7)
 - B) Approval of 2008 GBNRTC Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Resolution 2008-8
7. Discussion Items:
 - Process:**
 - A) Presentation by Division Administrator, FHWA, regarding findings on the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process in the Buffalo-Niagara Region
 - Plans:**
 - A) New York State Thruway Mobility and Modernization Report – presentation by NYSTA on the report, including a variety of alternate toll system approaches
 - B) Niagara Frontier Freight Study – comprehensive presentation by Wilbur Smith Associates regarding freight transportation needs for our region
 - Projects:**
 - A) Capital Program Update-Impacts of revised funding and next TIP implications
 - B) Regional Priority Transportation Projects Status
 - C) Regional Agencies Initiatives Report
 - Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
 - New York State Thruway Authority
 - New York State Department of Transportation
 - Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition
8. Other Business
9. Next Meeting
10. Adjournment of Policy Meeting

* Up to 3 minutes per speaker please on agenda items

A Public Forum will be conducted after the meeting for general discussion of transportation issues and concerns and all are welcome to participate

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2008 MEETING OF THE
GREATER BUFFALO-NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) Policy Committee was held on November 20, 2008 at Quality Inn, Niagara Falls, New York. Alan E. Taylor, Director for Region 5 of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), opened the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

The following GBNRTC Policy Members or their representatives were present:

Alan E. Taylor	NYSDOT
Thomas Pericak	NYS Thruway Authority
Gerard Sentz	Erie County
Thomas DeSantis	City of Niagara Falls
Peter Merlo	City of Buffalo
Robert Gower	NFTA – via telephone conferencing

Others present were:

Jeff Kolb	FHWA
Rob Griffith	FHWA
Hal Morse	GBNRTC
Timothy Trabold	GBNRTC
Robert Wagner	GBNRTC
Rich Guarino	GBNRTC
James Manuel	GBNRTC
Holly Maietta	GBNRTC
Gary Gottlieb	NYSDOT
Joe Buffamonte	NYSDOT
Christopher Church	NYSDOT
Pete Nixon	NYSDOT
Ron Hayes	NYSDOT
Charles Sickler	Erie County
Doug Tokarczyk	NYSTA
Christine Orsi	ESD
Phillip Galbo	Watts Engineering
Thomas Frank	Resident
Sheila Ransbottom	Fisher Assoc.
Adam Locher	Assemblymen Dennis Gabryszal
Lisa Yeager	Sen. Thompson
Pete McMahon	Town of Grand Island
Deanne Stachowski	TKG

POLICY BOARD MEETING

1. Roll Call

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:15 am with a quorum present. He stated that Commissioner Glynn sends her regrets, as she was not able to attend.

2. Public Comment on Action Items

Kathy Hochul spoke in support of the NYSTA's Mobility and Modernization Study, more specifically supporting the concept of enhancing the free zone in Western New York.

Thomas Frank discussed the Williamsville Toll Barrier, and the area surrounding BNIA.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (11/20/08)

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

4. Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (7/17/08)

Mr. Sentz moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2008, seconded by Mr. DeSantis, and all were in favor.

5. Secretary's Report

Mr. Morse reviewed items of formal correspondence received since the last meeting.

6. Action Items (Resolutions)

A. Approval of GBNRTC Major TIP Amendments:

Major TIP Amendment #4 would add three (3) Safe Routes to School projects to the current TIP selected for the MPO area. Major TIP Amendment #5 would add an allocation from the 2008 Discretionary Section 5308 Clean Fuels Program and a House Resolution earmark awarded to NFTA for future hybrid replacement bus acquisitions. In response to Mr. Sentz's question, it was confirmed that both amendments involved new funding to the region and no existing projects were affected.

Mr. DeSantis moved approval of Major TIP Amendments # 4 & #5, seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.

B. Approval of 2008 GBNRTC Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Resolution 2008-8

Mr. Trabold gave a brief presentation highlighting the new *2008 Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan for Erie and Niagara Counties*. He noted this was the culmination of nearly two years of outreach and development with the express goal of making bicycling and walking a regular part of daily life. He added this update provided coordinated guidance for the implementation of a safe, efficient and accessible transportation system designed for walking and bicycling. Future work plans and projects for further study and/or capital project action will be based upon the Plan's recommendations and priorities.

Mr. DeSantis moved to adopt the 2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for Erie and Niagara Counties, seconded by Mr. Sentz, and all were in favor.

7. Discussion Items

Process:

A. Presentation by Division Administrator, FHWA, regarding findings on the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process in the Buffalo-Niagara Region.

Jeff Kolb spoke of the challenges ahead and the importance of the MPO's role in future Transportation Planning.

Rob Griffith presented the findings of Federal Highways Certification Review.

Plans:

A. Tom Pericak, Buffalo Division Director of the New York State Thruway Authority presented findings of the Thruway Mobility and Modernization Report. Mr. Pericak noted the system is 50 years old; this study looked at four different scenarios and found expanded free urban travel may be the best scenario.

B. Hal Morse presented current findings in the Niagara Frontier Freight Study. The study identified freight transportation needs for our region as well as recommendations for improvements linked to a stronger regional economy.

Projects:

A. Capital Program Update – Impacts of revised funding and next TIP implications

Mr. Morse reported on the recent statewide program update and the possible effects for this region. He noted the update would reflect lower levels of federal and state funding.

B. Regional Priority Transportation Project Status

A baseline status of projects was presented showing current plans for implementation, projected costs, and impacts on the major projects suggested in the Program Update.

C) Regional Agencies Initiatives Report

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

Ms. Golen reported on the two upcoming Public meetings to held in regards to the proposed two-tiered fare increase.

New York State Department of Transportation

Mr. Nixon reported the Route 5 Buffalo Skyway Management Study is complete. He detailed a few key findings.

- Annual and corrective maintenance, including snow and ice removal for the Skyway, is estimated at \$164,850 per year.
- Skyway is currently in good condition
- Skyway averages 43,400 vehicles daily.
- Over a four year period 12/02 – 1/07 Buffalo PD reported 94 accidents

Mr. Nixon also noted the complete findings of the study can be found at NYSDOT's website.

Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition

Mr. George spoke of the recent 511 Travel Information Program hosted by NYSDOT noting when the program becomes statewide NITTEC will provide the data for this region. Also in early 2009 NITTEC is expecting to post travel times in the local area on overhead message signs. Lastly, Mr. George reminded all council members on the availability of NITTEC's Revolving Loan Fund.

8. Other Business

No other business.

9. Next Meeting

To be announced.

10. Adjournment of Policy Meeting

Mr. Taylor thanked the members for attending and the audience for their participation.

Mr. DeSantis moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m., seconded by Mr. Sentz, and all were in favor.