

**GREATER BUFFALO - NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 23, 2009 9:00-11:00AM
Sixth Floor Conference Room
438 Main Street Buffalo, 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) Annual GBNRTC Memorandum of Understanding Resolution 2009-3
 - B) Unified Planning Work Program 2008-2010 – Second Year Affirmation Resolution 2009-4
 - C) TIP Major Amendment: Economic Stimulus Projects Resolution 2009-5
 - D) Election of Policy Committee Chair and Vice Chair
7. Discussion Items:

Plans:

 - A) GBNRTC involvement in 2009 Corridor Plans and Studies

Projects:

 - A) Capital Program Update-Stimulus Projects Plan 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 FEBRUARY 23, 2009 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 23, 2009 at 438 Main Street, Buffalo, 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
William Ross	Niagara County

Others present were:

Richard Beers	FHWA
Hal Morse	GBNRTC
Timothy Trabold	GBNRTC
Robert Wagner	GBNRTC
Gary Gottlieb	NYSDOT
Joe Buffamonte	NYSDOT
Pete Nixon	NYSDOT
Ron Hayes	NYSDOT
Charles Sickler	Erie County
Doug Tokarczyk	NYSTA
Kevin O'Brien	Niagara County
Anthony Bluhm	Resident
Kristin Allen	League of Women Voters
Gladys Gifford	CRTC
Alvin Schuster	CRTC
Marie Hanrahan	League of Women Voters
Kelly Thompson	TVGA Consultants
Rachel Chrostowski	ECDEP
Joelle Guy	Town of Amherst
BK Lockwood	Rep. Higgins
Chris Fahey	Rep. Higgins
Gary Witulski	City of Buffalo OSP
Tim Hughs	C & S Engineering
Elmer McCraty	CRTC
Jim Anderson	CRTC

POLICY BOARD MEETING

1. Roll Call

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

2. Public Comment on Action Items

Gladys Gifford representing CRTA/TRAC spoke in support of several transit projects on the stimulus list, noting the importance of public transportation for the community.

Alvin Schuster read a statement from Self Advocacy Association of NYS, Western Region. The group is very concerned with the possibility of another fare increase, noting the current rise in fare is already adversely affecting people with disabilities. They support bringing cars back to Main Street however not the current plan, noting it has major flaws. The group stated "if money is to be spent at this time it should be spent on securing and expanding the current bus system".

Kristen Allen representing League of Women Voters spoke in support of the purchase of buses, the upgrade and replacement of rail cars and the elimination of the pending fare increase and reduction in service.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (02/23/09)

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

4. Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (11/20/08)

Mr. DeSantis moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2008, seconded by Mr. Sentz, and all were in favor.

5. Secretary's Report

Mr. Morse reviewed public comments received regarding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 Economic Stimulus Project Additions.

6. Action Items (Resolutions)

A. Annual GBNRTC Memorandum of Understanding Resolution 2009-3

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. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

Mr. DeSantis moved approval of Resolution 2009-3, seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.

B. Unified Planning Work Program 2008-2010 – Second Year Affirmation Resolution 2009-4

Every two years GBNRTC develops a work program to guide staff activities in support of the Council's initiatives. The UPWP is currently in its second year. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the UPWP for approval.

Mr. Sentz moved approval of Resolution 2009-4, seconded by Mr. DeSantis, and all were in favor.

C. TIP Major Amendment: Economic Stimulus Projects Resolution 2009-5

The Economic Stimulus Program provides an opportunity for projects to be forward in this region. Mr. Morse noted a list of ready to go projects has been provided along with a list of illustrative projects should additional funds become available. He also noted two NYSDOT projects will be added to the list of Stimulus eligible pending final ICG review, and two projects (Mapleton Road repaving; MOF-Highway JOC) will be removed they were determined not federal aid eligible, these funds were reprogrammed to existing projects.

Mr. Sentz moved approval of Resolution 2009-5, seconded by Mr. DeSantis, all were in favor.

D. Election of Policy Committee Chair and Vice Chair

GBNRCT POLICY MINUTES

February 23, 2009

Page 3

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 2009; and all were in favor.

7. Discussion Items

Plans:

A. Capital GBNRCT involvement in 2009 corridor Plans and Studies

Mr. Morse reviewed upcoming project and corridor studies in the region.

Projects:

A. Capital Program Update-Stimulus Projects Plan and next TIP implications

Implications of the stimulus projects on the TIP and next steps in the process were discussed.

B. Regional Priority Transportation Projects Status

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

C. Regional Agencies Initiatives

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

Mr. Gower noted the current construction of the Niagara Falls Airport Terminal Building, a late summer of 2009 opening is expected. Mr. Gower also reported on the current Transit Strategic Restructuring Study.

New York State Thruway Authority

Mr. Pericak reported major projects underway, South Grand Island Bridge Improvements, ITS Improvements along the I190 and I190 Major rehabilitation.

New York State Department of Transportation

Mr. Taylor reported the attention and focus of the department will be delivery of the Stimulus projects.

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. Sentez moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m., seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.

**GREATER BUFFALO - NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 28, 2009 9:00-11:00AM
Quality Inn – 7708 Niagara Falls Boulevard
Niagara Falls, New York 14304**

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) Resolution 2009-6 TIP Amendments #8 and #9
 - B) Resolution 2009-7 Amendment to Public Involvement Plan
 - C) Resolution 2009-8 MOU Amendment
 - D) Resolution 2009-9 ARRA Project selection process
 - E) High Speed Rail Initiative Support
7. Discussion Items:
 - Process:**
 - A) Mid-Term UPWP work status and upcoming studies
 - Plans:**
 - A) Smart Roads Traffic Systems and Better Border Management: Tom George
Executive Director, Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition
 - Projects:**
 - A) Capital Program – Stimulus projects status and TIP program
 - B) 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 MAY 28, 2009 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 May 28, 2009 at the 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
Charles Sickler	Erie County
Paul Dyster	City of Niagara Falls
Peter Merlo	City of Buffalo
Robert Gower	NFTA
William Ross	Niagara County

Others present were:

Hal Morse	GBNRTC
Timothy Trabold	GBNRTC
Robert Wagner	GBNRTC
Gary Gottlieb	NYSDOT
Joe Buffamonte	NYSDOT
Peter Nixon	NYSDOT
Ron Hayes	NYSDOT
Chris Church	NYSDOT
Doug Tokarczyk	NYSTA
Kevin O'Brien	Niagara County
Thomas DeSantis	City of Niagara Falls
Ali Marzban	City of Niagara Falls
Tom George	NITTEC
Mike Laydecker	BNP
Heidi Bugenhagen	BNP
Paul Pflueger	Watts A/E
Denise Gee	Buffalo News
Ursula Strong	Sen. Thompson
David Distant	Sen. Thompson
Z. Sadler	Sen. Thompson
Michael Gent	Voice Buffalo – TRAC
Mark Scheer	Niagara Gazette
Adam Locher	Assemblymen Gabryszak
Kathy Lenihan	Cong. Slaughter

POLICY BOARD MEETING

1. Roll Call

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:15 am with all members present.

2. Public Comment on Action Items

Thomas Frank spoke in regards to the High Speed Rail Initiative.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (05/28/09)

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

4. Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (2/23/09)

Mr. Ross moved to approve the minutes of February 23, 2009, seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor.

5. Secretary's Report

Mr. Morse reviewed correspondence received from various agencies.

6. Action Items (Resolutions)

A. Resolution 2009-6 TIP Amendments #8 and #9

This resolution amends the current TIP to add three TEP enhancement projects and one High Risk Rural Road project. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

Mr. Merlo moved approval of Resolution 2009-6, seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor.

B. Resolution 2009-7 Amendment to Public Involvement Plan

The GBNRTC Public Participation Plan has been updated to reflect compliance with the SAFETEA-LU language. The plan provides guidance on public participation activities in the development of transportation plans and programs and is designed to provide complete information in a timely manner.

Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

Mr. Gower moved approval of Resolution 2009-7, seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor.

C. Resolution 2009-8 MOU Amendment

The Memorandum of Understanding, previously approved by Policy committee is being slightly revised to reflect SAFETEA-LU language to assure all parties cooperate in developing and sharing information related to the development of financial plans for the LRP and TIP. Subsequent to recommendation to adopt from PCC, the Federal Highway Administration requested that action be postponed to allow development of a coordinated approach among all MPO' statewide. It is recommended that this Resolution be tabled at this time.

Mr. Ross moved to table Resolution 2009-8, seconded by Mr. Sickler, all were in favor.

D. Resolution 2009-9 ARRA Project Selection process

Mr. Trabold described the evolving documentation requirements for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) program and a directive that MPOs demonstrate their ARRA infrastructure investments are an appropriate use of taxpayer's dollars and meet the priority project criteria required in the bill. The GBNRTC undertook a full review of the procedures used when programming ARRA projects and prepared a resolution affirming such compliance.

Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

Mr. Pericak moved approval of Resolution 2009-9, seconded by Mr. Dyster, all were in favor.

E. High Speed Rail Initiative

Opportunities for further development of passenger rail services and higher speed linkages are evolving, including potential funding in current ARRA process. A support letter has been drafted for support of

initiatives to include the Buffalo Niagara region. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the letter for submittal.

All were in favor of support letter.

7. Discussion Items

Process:

A. Mid-Term UPWP work status and upcoming studies

Mr. Morse reviewed upcoming project and corridor studies in the region.

Plans:

A. Smart Roads Traffic Systems and Better Border Management:

Tom George of NITTEC presented the comprehensive, binational approach to traffic management including recent initiatives, being deployed through the coalition.

Projects:

A. Capital Program – Stimulus project status and TIP program

A report was given on the status of ARRA (stimulus) projects in the region and also on TIP projects funded through traditional sources, including the 2009 construction season.

Implications of the stimulus projects on the TIP and next steps in the process were discussed.

B. Regional Agencies Initiatives

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

Mr. Gower reported the Niagara Falls Airport Terminal Building will be having a grand opening ceremony September 2, 2009. He also noted the Transit Service Fair Study is underway and the NFTA will be purchasing 80 new Hybrid buses this year.

New York State Thruway Authority

Mr. Pericak reported recent data on thruway usage.

New York State Department of Transportation

Mr. Taylor reported the attention and focus of the department will be delivery of the Stimulus projects.

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. Sentz moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m., seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.

**GREATER BUFFALO - NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
July 28, 2009 9:00-11:00AM**

**438 Main Street – Sixth Floor Conference Room
Buffalo, New York 14202**

Agenda (Rev 1)

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comment on Action Items *
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
5. Secretary's Report
6. PRESENTATION: New York State High Speed Rail Opportunity and the Stimulus (ARRA) Project Application
7. Action Items:
 - A) Resolution 2009-10 TIP Amendment #10:
 - Add two new projects to NFTA 5307 program .
 - B) Resolution 2009-11 TIP Amendment #11:
 - Add \$717,000 for Truck VMT/Congestion Study
 - Reduce Rt 33 Retaining Wall Replacement and Corridor Enhancements project by \$2.775M
 - Add \$2.0M total funds to evaluate feasibility and cost implications of covering a portion of the Kensington Expressway-Best to Delavan
 - Add \$775,000 to rehabilitate Hopkins Street Bridge over Buffalo and Pittsburg rail line
 - Reallocate \$804,650 from intermodal project at Canisius College to University LRRT Station at South Campus
 - C) Resolution 2009-12 Highway Functional Classification Change-adding Main Street from Tupper to Scott as a Collector in Buffalo, New York
 - D) Resolution 2009-13 GBNRTC Unified Work Program Amendment-addition of Value Pricing Pilot Program Grant for Truck VMT study
8. Discussion Items:
 - Process:
 - A) MPO Cooperative Planning Agreement
 - B) Upcoming Transportation Legislation Alternatives and Issues
 - Plans:
 - A) Traffic Signal Improvement and Coordination Projects
 - Projects:
 - A) Capital Program – Stimulus projects status and TIP program
 - B) Regional Agencies Initiatives Report
 - Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
 - New York State Thruway Authority
 - New York State Department of Transportation
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 and concerns and all are welcome to participate

MINUTES OF THE JULY 28, 2009 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 28, 2009 at 438 Main Street 6th Floor, Buffalo, New York. Alan E. Taylor, Director for Region 5 of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), opened the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

The following GBNRTC Policy Members or their representatives were present:

Alan E. Taylor	NYSDOT
Thomas Pericak	NYS Thruway Authority
Charles Sickler	Erie County
Ali Marzban	City of Niagara Falls
Peter Merlo	City of Buffalo
Robert Gower	NFTA
Kevin O'Brien	Niagara County

Others present were:

Hal Morse	GBNRTC
Timothy Trabold	GBNRTC
Robert Wagner	GBNRTC
Amy Weymouth	GBNRTC
Gary Gottlieb	NYSDOT
Joe Buffamonte	NYSDOT
Doug Tokarczyk	NYSTA
Gladys Gifford	CRTC
Curt Krempa	NCI
Chris Zeltman	Rep Slaughter
Jeff Sheridan	Rep Slaughter
Gary Witulski	COB OSP
Robert Miller	Citizen
Donald Smith	Urban Eng.
Andrew Graham	TRAC
Yuri Hreshchyshyr	CTRRC
Paul Pflieger	Watts A/E
Maria Lehman	Bergmann Associates
Craig Turner	BNP
Christina Akers	Rep. Hoyt
Zachary Sadler	Sen. Thompson
Andre Scott	Shabach Realty
Jon McNutty	Sen. Ranzenhofers
Adam Locher	Assm. Gabryszak
Thomas Frank	Citizen

POLICY BOARD MEETING

1. Roll Call

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:10 am with a quorum present.

2. Public Comment on Action Items

Gladys Gifford of CRTA spoke in regards to Light and High Speed Rail, more specifically having the Airport Corridor moved from an illustrative concept to an actual concept of GBNRTC's planning process. Andrew Graham of TRAC read from a letter written by George Grassor. Mr. Grassor would like GBNRTC to become a pro-active voice in Land Use Change. Thomas Frank spoke in regards to the High Speed Rail Initiative.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (07/28/09)

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

4. Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (5/28/09)

Mr. Merlo moved to approve the minutes of May 28, 2009, seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor.

5. Secretary's Report

Mr. Morse reviewed correspondence received from various agencies.

6. Presentation: NYS High Speed Rail Opportunity and the Stimulus (ARRA) Project Application – Presentation given by Mr. Don Hannon

7. Action Items (Resolutions)

A. Resolution 2009-10 TIP Amendments #10

This resolution amends the current TIP to add two new projects to NFTA 5307 program. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

Mr. Gower moved approval of Resolution 2009-10, seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor.

B. Resolution 2009-11 TIP Amendment #11

This resolution amends the current TIP by adding two new federally funded studies, one new bridge project and adjusting the scope of work on two existing projects. These include:

- Pre-Implementation Pilot of a GPS-based Pricing System (New Study) \$717,000
- Route 33; Retaining Wall Rail Replacement & Corridor Enhancement (scope/cost reduction) \$11,560,000
- Study to Cover Portion of Route 33 – Best St to Delavan Avenue (New) \$2,000,000
- Hopkins St over B&P RR Bridge Rehabilitation (New) \$775,000
- Buffalo NY Intermodal Center Parking Facility (scope change) \$804,650

Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

Mr. Sickler moved approval of Resolution 2009-11, seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.

C. Resolution 2009-12 Highway Functional Classification Change – Main Street Buffalo

Currently the pedestrian/rail portion of Main Street in downtown Buffalo is mostly not on the federal aid eligible street system. This resolution would reclassify Main Street from Tupper to Scott Street as a collector, therefore eligible for federal aid.

Mr. Merlo moved approval of Resolution 2009-12, seconded by Mr. Sickler, all were in favor.

D. Resolution 2009-13 GBNRTC Unified Work Program Amendment

This resolution amends the current UPWP to include the scope and budget of a Federal Value Pricing Pilot Program.

Mr. Sickler moved approval of Resolution 2009-13, seconded by Mr. Merlo, all were in favor.

8. Discussion Items

Process:

A. MPO Cooperative Planning Agreement

Mr. Morse reported the agreement is currently being worked on and shall include a specific provision for cooperatively developing and sharing information related to the development of financial plans that support the MTP and TIP.

B. Upcoming Transportation Legislation Alternatives and Issues

With SAFETEA-LU expiring soon, new approaches are being considered for authorizing the federal program. Potential impacts at the MPO level were discussed.

Plans:

A. Traffic Signal Improvement and Coordination Projects

Mr. Morse discussed a few of the major signalization projects underway. He noted over fifty signalization related projects are currently in the TIP.

Projects:

A. Capital Program – Stimulus project status and TIP program

A report was given on the status of ARRA (stimulus) projects in the region and also on TIP projects funded through traditional sources, including the 2009 construction season.

B. Regional Agencies Initiatives

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

Mr. Gower reported on the current Transit Study noting the consultants will provide short and long term recommendations for the service and fare restructuring. He also noted a web site has been created for the public to see updates on the study as well as fill out a questionnaire. Niagara Falls Airport Terminal Building will be having a grand opening ceremony September 2, 2009.

New York State Thruway Authority

Mr. Tokarczyk reported the Thruway is working on the scope services of the Buffalo Corridor Study.

New York State Department of Transportation

Mr. Taylor reported the department is beginning the process of developing the new 5 year plan. They are also kicking off an outreach effort to local municipalities and elected officials as well as stakeholders to explain the process of developing a new 5 year plan, the expected accomplishments of the plan, current conditions and other relative issues.

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. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m., seconded by Mr. Tokarczyk, and all were in favor.

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

Date: December 15, 2009 9:00-11:00AM

**Location: Niagara Falls International Airport
2035 Niagara Falls Blvd
Niagara Falls, New York 14304**

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. Welcome to the New NFIA Terminal
7. Action Items:
 - A) Resolution 2009-17/TIP Amendment #15: TIGER Discretionary Grant Application Support – TIP Illustrative Listing Endorsement
 - B) Resolution 2009-18: Addition of Two RR Safety Projects to Current TIP
 - C) Resolution 2009-19: Affirmation of Vision, Goals, Objectives 2035 Plan Update
 - D) Resolution 2009-20: Approval of Demographic Distributions for 2035 Plan Update
 - E) Resolution 2009-21: Approval of Congestion Management Process Document
 - F) Resolution 2009-22: Approval of MPO Cooperative Planning Agreement
 - G) Resolution 2009-23: Approval LRP/TIP Conformity-Williamsville Toll Barrier
8. Discussion Items:
 - Process:**
Federal Transportation Legislation Status and Issues
 - Plans:**
Niagara to GTA Corridor and BiNational Implications
 - Projects:**
 - A) Capital Program – Summary of 2009 Project Delivery
 - B) Regional Agencies Initiatives Report
 - Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
 - New York State Thruway Authority
 - New York State Department of Transportation
 - Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition
5. Other Business
6. Next Meeting
7. 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 DECEMBER 15, 2009 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 December 15, 2009 at the Niagara Falls New Terminal Building, Niagara Falls, New York. Gary Gottlieb of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), opened the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

The following GBNRTC Policy Members or their representatives were present:

Gary Gottlieb	NYSDOT
Doug Tokarczyk	NYS Thruway Authority
Charles Sickler	Erie County
Mayor Paul Dyster	City of Niagara Falls
Peter Merlo	City of Buffalo
Robert Gower	NFTA
Kevin O'Brien	Niagara County

Others present were:

Hal Morse	GBNRTC
Timothy Trabold	GBNRTC
Robert Wagner	GBNRTC
Amy Weymouth	GBNRTC
Tom George	NITTEC
Paul Gavin	NYSDOT
Joe Buffamonte	NYSDOT
Mike Leydecker	BNP
Gladys Gifford	CRTC
Edward Stachura	TVGA/Fair Exec Comm.
Kelly Thompson	Bergmann Assoc.
William Geiben	Village of Lewiston
Denise Gee	Buffalo News
Thomas Frank	Citizen

POLICY BOARD MEETING

1. Roll Call

Mr. Gottlieb called the meeting to order at 9:10 am with a quorum present.

2. Public Comment on Action Items

Thomas Frank spoke about the Williamsville Toll Barrier

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (12/15/09)

Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Mr. Dyster, and all were in favor.

4. Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (7/28/09)

Mr. Merlo moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2009, seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor.

5. Secretary's Report

Mr. Morse reviewed correspondence received from various agencies.

6. Action Items (Resolutions)

A. Resolution 2009-17 TIP Amendment #15 TIGER Discretionary Grant Application Support – TIP Illustrative Endorsement

This resolution amends the current TIP by adding these projects as “illustrative” meaning the projects would be added to the committed list only if they are selected by USDOT for grant award. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

B. Resolution 2009-18 Addition of Two RR Safety Project to Current TIP

The two new RR Crossing Improvement projects being proposed are in the Towns of Hamburg and Eden. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

C. Resolution 2009-19 Affirmation of Vision, Goals, Objectives 2035 Plan Update

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan Vision, Goals and Objectives are consistent with the current 2030 Plan. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

D. Resolution 2009-20 Approval of Demographic Distributions for 2035 Plan Update

The demographic forecasts for the 2035 update were recommended to be kept the same as 2030 by the Planning and Coordination Committee.

E. Resolution 2009-21 Approval of Congestion Management Process Document

As a result of the last certification review, GBNRTC was requested to update the draft CMP and approve. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

F. Resolution 2009-22 Approval of MPO Cooperative Planning Agreement

The agreement is a SAFETEA-LU requirement being requested by all of the MPO's in NYS this year. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

G. Resolution 2009-23 Approval LRP/TIP Conformity-Williamsville Toll Barrier.

The Williamsville Toll Barrier is now being included in the air quality conformity analysis for the TIP and LRP at a specific location, not previously available. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

Mr. Merlo moved to approve all resolutions, seconded by Mr. Gower, all were in favor.

8. Discussion Items

Process:

Federal Transportation Legislation Status and Issues

Mr. Morse reported authorizing legislation for federal transportation programs continues to be in the development and approval stage.

Plans:

Niagara to GTA Corridor and Bi-National Implications

Mr. Morse discussed the major initiative in nearby Ontario for transportation improvements in the Niagara to Greater Toronto Area. Bi-National implications of current proposals were discussed.

Projects:

A. Capital Program – Summary of 2009 Project Delivery

A report was given on the status of ARRA (stimulus) projects in the region and also on TIP projects funded through traditional sources, including the 2009 construction season.

B. Regional Agencies Initiatives

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

Mr. Gower welcomed everyone to the New Niagara Falls Airport noting the first flight will be on December 18, 2009. NFTA is expecting delivery of the first newly rebuilt rail cars, the two cars are expected to be in

GBNRTC POLICY MINUTES

December 15, 2009

Page 3

service the spring of 2010. Also the new budget being considered for the NFTA's upcoming fiscal year does not include any fare increases or significant service cuts.

New York State Thruway Authority

Mr. Tokarczyk wanted to thank Hal Morse and staff for their efforts in getting the Air Quality Conformity Study on Williamsville Toll Barrier completed.

New York State Department of Transportation

Mr. Gottlieb reported Region 5 has obligated all of the Stimulus funding for the area and wanted to thank all the agencies for their assistance and cooperation.

NITTEC

Mr. George reported since 11/4/09 expressways in this region have been closed for 100 hours, all the closures were either weather or incident related. He also expressed the importance of continued collaboration with all agencies involved. Mr. George also reviewed a new program NITTEC rolled out in November. It's called MYNITTEC and it provides up to the minute travel information for an individual regarding any segment of highway or any time of day.

9. Other Business

No other business.

10. Next Meeting

To be announced.

11. Adjournment of Policy Meeting

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

Mr. Merlo moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m., seconded by Mr. Tokarczyk, and all were in favor.