

**GREATER BUFFALO - NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 17, 2010 9:00-11:00AM  
Adams Mark Hotel  
120 Church Street, Buffalo, New York 14202**

**Agenda**

*Presentation: Green Infrastructure* – Executive Director, Julie Barrett O'Neill of Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper will present contemporary concepts as related to transportation infrastructure to both achieve cost savings and environmental improvement.

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) Approval of Long Range Plan 2035 Update: Resolution 2010-6
  - B) Approval of Transportation Improvement Program 2011-2015: Resolution 2010-7
  - C) Approval of Air Quality Conformity Documentation: Resolution 2010-8
  - D) Approval of GBNRTC Planning Self Certification: Resolution 2010-9
  - E) Approval of TIP Amendment High Speed Rail Planning: Resolution 2010-5
  - F) Election of Policy Committee Chair/Vice Chair
7. Discussion Items:
  - Process:**
    - A) Upcoming Planning Studies
    - B) Status of Emerging Transportation Legislation and Funding
  - Plans:**
    - A) Regional Freight Study and path to implementation
    - B) Value Pricing Initiative-Initial Findings and Opportunities
  - Projects:**
    - A) Capital Program – Stimulus Results and 2010 Construction Outlook
    - 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 three minutes per speaker on agenda items please

MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2010 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 17, 2010 at the Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo New York. Mr. Alan Taylor of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), opened the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

The following GBNRTC Policy Members or their representatives were present:

Alan Taylor	NYSDOT
Tom Pericak	NYS Thruway Authority
Gerard Sentz	Erie County
Mayor 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
Amy Weymouth	GBNRTC
Rich Guarino	GBNRTC
Tom George	NITTEC
Gary Gottlieb	NYSDOT
Paul Gavin	NYSDOT
Joe Buffamonte	NYSDOT
Christopher Church	NYSDOT
Greg Szewczyk	NYSDOT
Doug Tokarczyk	NYSTA
Charlie Sentz	Erie County
Tom DeSantis	City of Niagara Falls
Rick Eakin	Niagara County
Brian Moore	Bergmann Assoc.
Brian Kulpa	Williamsville
Jody Clark	Seneca Nation
Jennifer Michniewicz	Clark Patterson Lee
Jessie Fisher	Bflo. Niag. Riverkeeper
Renata Kraft	Bflo. Niag. Riverkeeper
Mary Rossi	Erie County DEP
Bill Licata	COB Common Council Staff
Mark Lee	Erie County Planning
Thomas Frank	Citizen
Bob Miller	Citizen
Alan Oberst	Bflo. Niag. Riverkeeper
Melanie Sherry	Sen. Thompson

## **POLICY BOARD MEETING**

### **1. Roll Call**

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:20 AM with all members present.

### **2. Public Comment on Action Items**

Alfred Cappola spoke about the community concerns on a possible new Peace Bridge.

Thomas Frank spoke about the Williamsville Toll Barrier.

### **3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (5/17/10)**

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

### **4. Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (12/15/09)**

*Mr. Dyster moved to approve the minutes of December 15, 2009, seconded by Mr. Ross, and all were in favor.*

### **5. Secretary's Report**

Mr. Morse reviewed correspondence received from various agencies.

## **6. Action Items (Resolutions)**

### **A. Resolution 2010-6 Long Range Plan 2035 Update**

This resolution extends the planning horizon for the currently approved LRP and sets the stage for a comprehensive planning process in the coming years. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

*Mr. Pericak moved approval of Resolution 2010-6, seconded by Mr. Sentz, and all were in favor.*

### **B. Resolution 2010-7 Transportation Improvement Program**

This resolution approves the five year plan for transportation projects in the MPO area and signifies eligibility for federal funding of the projects included. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

*Mr. Dyster moved approval of Resolution 2010-7, seconded by Mr. Ross, and all were in favor.*

### **C. Resolution 2010-8 Air Quality Conformity Documentation**

This document represents technical analysis of the transportation system to demonstrate consistency with the air quality standards. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

*Mr. Pericak moved approval of Resolution 2010-8, seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.*

### **D. Resolution 2010-9 GBNRTC Planning Self Certification**

In between on-site reviews of the GBNRTC planning process, a self certification is done. The Self Certification document represents GBNRTC continuing compliance with SAFETEA-LU planning requirements. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

*Mr. Sentz moved approval of Resolution 2010-9, seconded by Mr. Dyster, and all were in favor.*

### **E. Resolution 2010-5 High Speed Rail Planning**

This amendment to the current TIP approves the inclusion of High Speed Rail planning funds awarded to NYS for use in the statewide program. Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended the resolution for approval.

*Mr. Dyster moved approval of Resolution 2010-5, seconded by Mr. Pericak, and all were in favor.*

#### F. Election of Policy Committee Chair/Vice Chair

Annually the committee selects a member to serve as the chair and vice chair.

*Mr. Pericak nominated Mr. Taylor for chairman, seconded by Mr. Gower all were in favor.*

*Mr. Taylor nominated Mr. Pericak for vice chair, seconded by Mr. Dyster all were in favor.*

### **7. Discussion Items**

#### **Process:**

##### Upcoming Planning Studies

Mr. Morse outlined scope and schedule for many of the upcoming studies and major work elements identified in the Unified Planning Work Program. Advanced modeling tools developed will assist in completing a number of major corridor studies and smaller localized initiatives.

##### Status of Emerging Transportation Legislation and Funding

Mr. Morse reviewed current status of federal legislation and possible implications for this metro region. While some major initiatives and funding changes appear in draft SAFETEA-LU successor legislation, revenue sources have not been identified, and continuing extensions appear likely.

#### **Plans:**

##### Regional Freight Study and Path to Implementation

Mr. Guarino reviewed the progress of the regional freight study. As the study nears completion, the comprehensive analysis of regional opportunities and recommended projects will provide a template for possible improvements to the economy and transportation infrastructure.

##### Value Pricing Initiative – Initial Findings and Opportunities

As the studying is also nearing completion, a presentation of the findings and opportunities to date were summarized. Use of truck VMT fee systems were examined both from a revenue side opportunity and also relative to the opportunity for value pricing to impact congestion mitigation in the region.

#### **Projects:**

##### A. Capital Program – Stimulus Results and 2010 Construction Outlook

Mr. Trabold provided a detailed review of capital projects in the MPO region upcoming in the 2010 construction season, as well as a summary of ARRA stimulus project success.

### **8. Regional Agencies Initiatives**

##### Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

Mr. Gower discussed the NFTA's Fare and Route restructuring study.

##### New York State Department of Transportation

Mr. Taylor reported the state has resumed lettings. He also congratulated everyone for a successful stimulus program, noting every penny for Region 5 has been spent and is on the streets of WNY.

##### NITTEC

Mr. George reported NITTEC's travel time initiative should be complete and in use sometime this summer. He reminded everyone to take notice of the area's message boards especially during the busy construction season.

### **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 11:00 a.m., seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.*



## Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council Policy Committee Meeting

December 10, 2010 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m.  
The Conference Center Niagara Falls  
101 Old Falls St, Niagara Falls, NY 14303

### Agenda

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**Welcome and Presentation by City of Niagara Falls:** The Niagara Falls International Railway Station/Intermodal Transportation Center Project

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
  - Resolution 2010-17 Annual Affirmation of Memorandum of Understanding
  - Resolution 2010-18 Project Addition for Culverts and Pavement Maintenance and Local Bridge Maintenance Program
7. Discussion Items:
  - Plans:**
    - A) Buffalo-Niagara Regional Freight Study – Final Results and Study Summary
      - **Presentation by Wilbur Smith Associates**
    - B) Upstate High Speed Rail Plans and Associated Initiatives
  - Process:**
    - A) GBNRTC Work Items and Planning Results
    - B) Opportunities for the MPO in the Next Few Years
    - C) HUD/EPA/DOT Sustainability Proposal and Regional Framework for Growth
      - **Presentation by Buffalo-Niagara Partnership**
  - Projects:**
    - A) Capital Program – 2010 Construction Summary
    - 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 three minutes per speaker on agenda items please

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2010 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 10, 2010 at the Conference Center in Niagara Falls New York. Mayor Dyster opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to Niagara Falls, New York. The Mayor described the emerging Intermodal Transportation Center project in Niagara Falls and impact expected in the overall resurgence of the City. Project consultants (Wendel) provided an extensive presentation on the project, including visual simulations and project schedules.

The following GBNRTC Policy representatives were present:

Darrell Kaminski	NYS DOT
Matt Latko	NYS Thruway Authority
Gerard Sentz	Erie County
Mayor Dyster	City of Niagara Falls
Peter Merlo	City of Buffalo
Seth Piccirillo	NFTA
Kevin O'Brien	Niagara County

Others present were:

Hal Morse	GBNRTC
Robert Wagner	GBNRTC
Amy Weymouth	GBNRTC
Rich Guarino	GBNRTC
Teri Call	GBNRTC
Tom George	NITTEC
Ramsey Kahi	NYS DOT
Joe Buffamonte	NYS DOT
Tom DeSantis	City of Niagara Falls
Tom Radomski	City of Niagara Falls
Charlie Sickler	Erie County
Ken Swanecamp	Erie County
Chris Pawenski	Erie County
Darren Kemper	Erie County
Mark Lee	Erie County
Kelly Thompson	Bergmann Assoc.
Mark Berndt	Wilbur Smith Associates
Alexander King	Wilbur Smith Associates
Jennifer Michniewicz	Clark Patterson Lee
Joseph Polchnopok	Urban Engineers
Gary Witulski	City of Buffalo OSP
Michael Ziolkowski	SUNY Brockport
Benjamin Bidell	Niagara County Dept Econ Dev
Bill McKibben	GLG
Joelle Guy	Town of Amherst
Eric Adams	Sonwil
Michael Leydecker	Wendel
Pat Whalen	BNMC
Dave McCoy	Abate Associates

Matt Hartrich	BNP
Laura Smith	BNP
John Manzella	Manzella Trade Communications
Roslyn Sher	Wendel
Mark Molnar	Wendel
Dave Duchscherer	Wendel
Sue Shewood	Wendel
Steve Shelton	ZIO Automation, Inc
David Tytka	Uniland Development
Gladys Gifford	VOICE/TRAC
Andy Graham	VOICE/TRAC
James Jones	Town of Tonawanda
Linda Soltis	Canadian Consulate
Kerry Mitchell	Canadian Consulate
Robert Badger	CHA
Mark Scheer	Niagara Gazette
Kevin Jolly	YNN
Kevin Cottri	City of Niagara Falls
Ray Spiteri	Niagara Falls Review

## **POLICY BOARD MEETING**

### **1. Roll Call**

Mr. Kaminski called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM with all members represented.

### **2. Public Comment on Action Items**

Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to speak publicly on the action items before the Council. Further opportunity to introduce issues of regional concern was provided and several attendees highlighted emerging and pertinent topics.

### **3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (12/10/10)**

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

### **4. Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (5/17/10)**

*Mr. Sentz moved to approve the minutes of May 17, 2010, seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.*

### **5. Secretary's Report**

Mr. Morse reviewed correspondence received from various agencies.

### **6. Action Items (Resolutions)**

A. Resolution 2010-17 Annual Affirmation of Memorandum of Understanding

*Mr. Merlo, seconded by Mr. Sentz to approve the resolution affirming the Memorandum of Understanding, all were in favor.*

B. Resolution 2010-18 Project Addition for Culverts and PMI and Local Bridge Maintenance Program

*Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Merlo to approve the resolution to add projects to the current TIP as described. All were in favor.*



## **7. Discussion Items**

### **Plans:**

#### A) Buffalo-Niagara Regional Freight Study – Final Results and Study Summary

A substantial study of freight issues, data and improvements had recently been completed for the MPO by Wilbur Smith Associates working in conjunction with the Freight Stakeholders group and GBNRTC staff. The presentation provided a detailed description of commodity movements, global trade issues, potential improvements in the region and a potential for an integrated binational logistics complex. This complex would seek to integrate marketing, development and logistics in the region for a stronger presence and overall economic development.

#### B) Upstate High Speed Rail Plans and Associated Initiatives

Staff reviewed current status of the High Speed Rail EIS being developed in New York State for improved rail passenger service, as well as projects emerging to further the initiative.

### **Process:**

#### A) GBNRTC Work Items and Planning Results

GBNRTC staff presented a summary of work items and planning outcomes. Some of the pending studies were outlined for informational purposes.

#### B) Opportunities for the MPO in the Next Few Years

Mr. Morse reviewed status of new federal transportation legislation and discussed future opportunities for MPOs. Some concepts in draft legislation refer to greater use of performance measures, measured results, asset management, etc. Several of these had been previously discussed locally in the benchmarking initiative.

#### C) HUD/EPA/DOT Sustainability Proposal and Regional Framework for Growth

Laura Smith from the Buffalo Niagara Partnership discussed ongoing efforts to support the Regional Framework for Growth including the HUD/EPA/DOT Sustainability Grant Proposal.

### **Projects:**

#### A) Capital Program – 2010 Construction Summary

GBNRTC staff provided a comprehensive review of the 2010 construction season, detailing accomplishments by the member agencies in project delivery and a summation of number of projects and their value.

#### B) Regional Agencies Initiatives Report

Member agencies provided informational updates on issues and projects in their jurisdictions.

## **9. Other Business**

No other business was noted at this time.

## **10. Next Meeting**

Next meeting would be in the City of Buffalo in 2011; a specific date would be announced.

## **11. Adjournment of Policy Meeting**

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

*Mr. Sentz moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m., seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.*