GREATER BUFFALO - NIAGARA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 14, 2014 10 AM – 12 PM
Lafayette Hotel, Courtyard Room Buffalo, New York

Proposed Agenda

Special Note: Member of Congress Brian Higgins will be in attendance to provide comments on possible federal Transportation legislation as well as local projects

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 2012 JARC/New Freedom Projects
   B) Approval of Scope Change: Clarence Center Rd/Gott Creek Bridge
   C) Approval 2014 Rail Safety Program
   D) Approval Three Roadway Functional Classification Changes
   E) Approval GBNRTC Memorandum Of Understanding 2014
   F) Approval of SFY 2014-2016 GBNRTC Unified Planning Work Program
   G) MTP 2040 Update: Concurrence in Demographics and Finance
   H) Election of 2014 Policy Committee Chair/Vice Chair

7. Discussion Items

   Plans:
   A) Metropolitan Transportation Plan – 2040 Update and New 2050 Strategy
   B) One Region Forward – Transformative Potential
   C) Funding Issues-Regional Approaches and Next Legislation
   D) BNP Transportation Summit Preview
   E) Planning Highlights 2013
   F) Enhanced NY 511 Demo

   Projects:
   A) Capital Program – Major Projects in 2014 and Look Ahead to Next Transportation Improvement Program
   B) Amherst-Buffalo Public Transportation Corridor Progress
   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/Adjournment of Policy Meeting
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2014 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 14, 2014 at Lafayette Hotel – Buffalo, New York

The following GBNRTC Policy representatives were present:
Darrell Kaminski  NYS DOT
Tom Pericak  NYS Thruway Authority
Charles Sickler  Erie County
Peter Merlo  City of Buffalo
Tom George  NFTA
Kevin O’Brien  Niagara County
Paul Dyster  City of Niagara Falls

Others present were:
Jay Bray  Seneca Nation
Hal Morse  GBNRTC
Tim Trabold  GBNRTC
Amy Weymouth  GBNRTC
Rich Guarino  GBNRTC
Kelly Dixon  GBNRTC
John Michael Muldrig  GBNRTC
Ramsey Kahi  NYSDOT
Doug Tokarczyk  NYSTA
Joe Buffamonte  NYSDOT
Kevin O’Brien  Niagara County
Tom DeSantis  City of Niagara Falls
Mike Leydecker  BNP
Mark Armbrust  URS
Dan Leonard  BNP
Willie Dunn  NFHA
Charlie Rech  City of Tonawanda
Jennifer Michniewicz  Clark Patterson
Dan Howard  Town of Amherst
Lucas Strittmatter  Town of Amherst
Athena Hutchins  NITTEC
Doug Funke  Citizens for Regional Transit
Lynn Magdol  Citizens for Regional Transit
Elizabeth Giles  Citizens for Regional Transit
Jim Gordon  Public
Paul Becker  Village of Hamburg
Jeff Amplement  NFTA
Darren Kempner  NFTA
Alec Frazier  WNYTL
POLICY BOARD MEETING

1. **Roll Call**
   The meeting was called to order at 10:00 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.

3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda (2/24/14)**
   Mr. Pericak moved to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Mr. Sickler and all were in favor.

4. **Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (9/9/2013)**
   Mr. O’Brien moved to approve the minutes of September 9, 2013, seconded by Mr. George, and all were in favor.

5. **Secretary’s Report**
   Mr. Morse reviewed formal correspondence received from various agencies since the last meeting.

6. **Action Items (Resolutions)**

   A) **Approval of Resolution 2014-1: 2012 JARC/New Freedom Projects**: The resolution detailed a project list for the funding program. These had been in public review and are ready approval and amendment of the TIP.

   B) **Approval Resolution 2014-2: Clarence Center Road/Gott Creek Bridge Scope Change**. This project was fully funded; however is changing in scope from bridge repairs to bridge replacement, requiring a TIP amendment at the Policy level per change control procedures.

   C) **Approval Resolution 2014-3: Draft 2014-2018 Rail Safety Program**. This proposed programmatic realignment would improve/upgrade antiquated protection devices (gates, flashers and circuitry) at various locations in Erie and Niagara Counties. Program deletes four (4) existing projects, delays seven existing projects and adds nine new projects. Additional HSIP ($1.975M) funding to the region will offset cost increase.

   D) **Approval Resolution 2014-4: Three Roadway Functional Classification Changes**. This action would upgrade the functional classification of three routes to “Principal Arterial” per peer review of technical requirements and current regional data:
      1. CR 299 (North French Road) – Rt. 62 to Rt. 78
      2. Rt. 62 – Rt. 391 to Erie County Line
      3. Rt. 16 – Rt. 400 to Erie County Line

   *Mr. O’Brien made motion to approve items A-D, seconded by Mr. Pericak, all were in favor.*

   E) **Approval Resolution 2014-5: GBNRTC Memorandum of Understanding 2014**. It is required that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be reviewed and approved annually. The MOU is the agreement where MPO members agree to work together and cooperatively plan and select projects for programming.
Mr. Dyster made motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Merlo, all were in favor.

F) Approval Resolution 2014-6: GBNRTC 2014-2016 Unified Planning Work Program. The UPWP documents the work and budget that will guide staff activities for the next two years. The program has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Administrative Subcommittee and the PCC.

Mr. Pericak made motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Merlo, all were in favor.

G) MTP 2040 Update: In preparation for approval of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update to 2050 (May 2014), staff have completed sections of the draft update. Key issues are extension of the demographic forecasts for the region from the approved 2035 numbers, and compilation of expected funds to be available for transportation projects across the years, with input from funding agencies. Action was to concur with forecasts for use in the Update.

Mr. Sickler made motion to approve, seconded by Mr. O’Brien, all were in favor.

H) Election of Policy Committee Chair/Vice Chair: election of these positions for 2014 was opened.

Mr. Pericak made motion to nominate NYSDOT as Policy Chair, seconded by Mr. Dyster, all were in favor of electing NYSDOT as Chair for 2014

Mr. Kaminski made motion to nominate NYSTA as Policy Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Dyster, all were in favor of electing NYSTA as Vice Chair for 2014

7. Discussion Items:

Congressman Brian Higgins spoke to the Policy Committee meeting, providing an excellent perspective on history and needs to the Region to progress. In addition, he described current activities in Congress relative to transportation legislation. Interaction with Board members and public followed.

Plans:

A) Metropolitan Transportation Plan – staff presented progress toward development of the interim update for 2040 and strategy for incorporation of ongoing studies into the complete new transportation plan for the Year 2050. The Update would be ready for approval at the May meeting.

B) One Region Forward – Transformative Potential – Kelly Dixon reported that a significant scenario planning initiative was recently completed in community workshops within the context of 1RF. She reviewed the workshops and some initial look at results, in particular how they may affect MTP development, TIP project needs and identification of potential transportation projects to support future growth in the Buffalo Niagara region.

C) Federal Funding Issues-Regional Approaches and Next Legislation – Staff reviewed federal funding issues and potential next legislation, noting that federal funds in the Highway Trust Fund would likely run out prior to the end of the fiscal year.
D) BNP Transportation Summit – Buffalo Niagara Partnership presented their upcoming major Transportation Summit, including agenda and likely speakers. An agenda and invitation would follow.

E) Planning Highlights – as the current Work Program neared completion, staff presented some of the activities completed during 2013 in video format.

F) Enhance 511 Demo – As 511 becomes a major portal for transportation information in New York State, some enhanced features are being demonstrated in this region. Staff presented some initial screens and results of the collaborative effort between NYSDOT, GBNRTC and NITTEC

Projects:

A) Capital Program – Staff presented a review of the capital projects program to indicate project status. A fairly robust program is anticipated for 2014 construction season.

B) Amherst-Buffalo Public Transportation Corridor Progress – planning for the potential public transportation improvement in this major corridor continues to progress. Staff reviewed work to date especially outreach activities.

C) Regional Agencies Initiatives Report
   Major Agencies provided a brief review on current initiatives.

9. Other Business
   No other business was noted at this time.

10. Next Meeting
    Next meeting would be in Erie County; a specific date will be announced, likely early May

11. Adjournment of Policy Meeting
    Mr. Pericak moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m., seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.
Proposed 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 2014-12: Rail Car Rebuild
   B) Resolution 2014-13: NFTA Program Realignment
   C) Resolution 2014-14: MTP 2040 Update Approval
   D) Resolution 2013-15: UPWP Budget Amendment

7. Discussion Items
   Plans:
   A) One Region Forward – Scenario Planning and Plan Development
   B) Metro Transportation Plan – Key Issues Ahead
   C) BNP Trade Gateway Strategic Plan
   D) Federal Legislative Outlook

   Projects:
   A) Capital Program – Transportation Improvement Program Focus
   B) Amherst-Buffalo Public Transportation Options Corridor Progress
   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/Adjournment of Policy Meeting
A meeting of the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) Policy Committee was held on May 12, 2014.

The following GBNRTC Policy representatives were present:
Darrell Kaminski  NYSDOT
Tom Pericak  NYS Thruway Authority
Peter Merlo  City of Buffalo
Tom George  NFTA
Kevin O'Brien  Niagara County
Paul Dyster  City of Niagara Falls

Others present were:
Hal Morse  GBNRTC
Tim Trabold  GBNRTC
Amy Weymouth  GBNRTC
Rich Guarino  GBNRTC
Kelly Dixon  GBNRTC
JohnMichael Muldrig  GBNRTC
Ramsey Kahi  NYSDOT
Doug Tokarczyk  NYSTA
Joe Buffamonte  NYSDOT
Kevin O’Brien  Niagara County
Tom DeSantis  City of Niagara Falls
Jeffrey Amplement  NFTA
Fred Frank  Parsons Brinckerhoff
Athena Hutchins  NITTEC
Doug Funke  Citizens for Regional Transit
Lynn Magdol  Citizens for Regional Transit
Anne Redmond  Fisher Assoc
Sheila Ransbottom  Core Environmental
Gary Witulski  City of Buffalo OSP

POLICY BOARD MEETING

1. Roll Call
   The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM, a quorum was present.

2. Public Comment on Action Items
   Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to speak publicly on the action items before the Council.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (5/12/14)
   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 (2/14/2014)**

   Mr. George moved to approve the minutes of February 14, 2014, seconded by Mr. Dyster, and all were in favor.

5. **Secretary’s Report**

   Mr. Morse reviewed formal correspondence received from various agencies since the last meeting.

6. **Action Items (Resolutions)**

   A) Approval of Resolution 2014-12: Rail Car Rebuild: This is a previously approved project and appeared in the previous TIP, rollover provisions will include it in the current TIP. Policy approval will ensure this action. Mr. George made the motion to approve this resolution, seconded by Mr. Merlo, all were in favor.

   B) Approval Resolution 2014-13: NFTA Program Realignment. TIP projects for NFTA are subject to realignment after the annual federal budget process is complete and allocations authorized. Final budget values for the public transit program have been delivered by Congress and this resolution will include the program into the current TIP. Mr. George made the motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Merlo, all were in favor.

   C) Approval Resolution 2014-14: MTP 2040 Update. The update has been completed and all public comments incorporated, staff gave a detailed presentation of the plan. Mr. Merlo made motion to approve the plan, seconded by Mr. O’Brien, all were in favor.

   D) Approval Resolution 2014-15: UPWP Budget Amendment. Recent federal budget changed the amount of federal planning funds available to GBNRTC. A total of $9,606 in new funds to be added to the current UPWP. Mr. Pericak made the motion to approve the change, seconded by Mr. Merlo, all were in favor.

7. **Discussion Items:**

   **Plans:**

   A) One Region Forward – Scenario Planning and Plan Development – The 1RF initiative is through the scenario planning phase and integrating findings with working team recommendations. Staff presented status and path forward to project completion at year’s end.

   B) Metro Transportation Plan – Key issues ahead – Upon completion of the 2040 MTP Update cycle, work continues on the complete new plan. A presentation was given to highlight the process.

   C) BNP Trade Gateway Strategic Plan – This private/public proposal is nearing startup, a brief presentation reviewed the actions and expectation regarding the freight initiative.

   D) Federal Legislative Outlook – An administration proposal for successor legislation to MAP-21 has been announced. Details on funding levels and policy implications were reviewed.
Projects:

A) Capital Program – Staff presented a review of the capital projects program to indicate project status.

B) Amherst-Buffalo Public Transportation Corridor Progress – planning for the potential public transportation improvement in this major corridor is progressing, study status was reviewed along with upcoming outreach.

C) Regional Agencies Initiatives Report
Major Agencies provided a brief review on current initiatives.

9. Other Business
No other business was noted at this time.

10. Adjournment of Policy Meeting
Mr. Pericak moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m., seconded by Mr. Merlo, and all were in favor.
Proposed 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) Project Amendments to Current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
   - RESOLUTION 2014-21 2014-2018: Safety Improvements at the Intersection of Sibley Road and CR 409 (Genesee Road) and NY 240.
   - RESOLUTION 2014-22: Highway Functional Classification Changes South Cascade Drive (Old Rt. 219) in Erie County and New US Route 219 Expressway in Erie County
   - RESOLUTION 2014-27: Three New Projects: Hamburg Quiet Zone; South Union Sidewalk; Dysinger Sidewalk.

B) RESOLUTION 2014-25: GBNRTC Memorandum of Understanding – Annual reaffirmation of the MOU

C) RESOLUTION 2014-23: Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Second Year Concurrence – recognizing second year of the approved work program

D) RESOLUTION 2014-24: One Region Forward Concurrence - Approval of Project Completion

E) Election of Officers for 2015
7. Discussion Items:

**Plans:**

(A) Leveraging Logistics: Strategic Plan for the Buffalo Niagara Trade Gateway

(B) Rebuilding the Region: Process Flow for the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**Projects:**

A) Improving Traffic in the Buffalo Corridor: Simulation results for Interim Improvements in I-90/I-290

B) Amherst-Buffalo Transit Options Study-alternatives development and analysis

C) Capital Program – Summary of 2014 Construction Season

8. Regional Agencies Initiatives Report

   - Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
   - New York State Thruway Authority
   - New York State Department of Transportation
   - Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition

9. Other Business

10 Next Meeting/Adjournment of Policy Meeting
A meeting of the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) Policy Committee was held on May 12, 2014.

The following GBNRTC Policy representatives were present:
Darrell Kaminski  
Doug Tokarczyk  
Peter Merlo  
Tom George  
William Ross  
Thomas DeSantis  
Charles Sickler

Others present were:
Hal Morse  
Tim Trabold  
Amy Weymouth  
Rich Guarino  
Kelly Dixon  
JohnMichael Muldrig  
Ramsey Kahi  
Joe Buffamonte  
Jodi Clark  
Kevin O’Brien  
Jeffrey Amplement  
Athena Hutchins  
Doug Funke  
Lynn Magdol  
Mark Armbrust  
Sheila Ransbottom  
Gary Witulski  
Dan Howard  
Jennifer Michniewicz  
Karen Stanley Fleming  
Bradley Bethel Jr.

POLICY BOARD MEETING

1. Roll Call
   The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM

2. Public Comment on Action Items
   Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to speak publicly on the action items before the Council.
3. Approval of Meeting Agenda (12/15/14)
   Mr. DeSantis moved to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Mr. Merlo and all were in favor.

4. Approval of GBNRTC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (5/12/2014)
   Mr. Merlo moved to approve the minutes of May 12, 2014, seconded by Mr. DeSantis, and all were in favor.

5. Secretary’s Report
   Mr. Morse reviewed formal correspondence received from various agencies since the last meeting.

6. Action Items (Resolutions)
   A) The following proposed resolutions and actions have been recommended by the Planning and Coordinating Committee and have completed any required review process. All four of the following resolutions were voted on as a block. Mr. Sickler made motion to approve Resolutions 2014-21, 26, 22 and 27, seconded by Mr. DeSantis all were in favor.
   
   - Approval of Resolution 2014-21: Safety Improvements Sibley Rd/CR 409: This project will seek to reduce the number of and severity of accidents at this intersection.
   - Approval Resolution 2014-26: FY2014 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project Additions. Ten TAP candidates were selected in Region 5 for funding with nine being in the MPO area and will be added to the TIP.
   - Approval Resolution 2014-22: Highway Functional Classification: Changes South Cascade Drive (old Rt 219) in Erie County and New US Route 219 in Erie County
   - Approval Resolution 2014-27: Three New Projects: Hamburg Quiet Zone; South Union Sidewalk; Dysinger Sidewalk.

   B) Resolution 2014-25 GBNRTC Memorandum of Understanding – Annual reaffirmation of the MOU. Mr. DeSantis made motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Mr. Sickler all were in favor.
   
   C) Resolution 2014-23- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Second Year Concurrence – Recognizing the second year of the approved work program. Mr. George made motion to approve UPWP 2nd year, seconded by Mr. DeSantis all were in favor.
   
   D) Resolution 2014-24 – One Region Forward Concurrence – Approval of Project Completion – Resolution was tabled, Seneca Nation will be submitting documents to be include in the One Region Forward documents. Mr. DeSantis made motion to table, seconded by Mr. Sickler all were in favor.
   
   E) Election of officers for 2015 – NYSDOT and NYSTA were nominated for Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy Committee Mr. Tokarczyk made motion to approve nominations, seconded by Mr. George all were in favor.

7. Discussion Items:

   Plans:

   A) Leveraging Logistics: Strategic Plan for the Buffalo Niagara Trade Gateway; Recent activities to advance the Trade Gateway initiative and logistics complex was presented.
B) Rebuilding the Region: Process Flow for the next Transportation Improvement Program; A new TIP is in the early developmental stages by GBNRTC. The process including uncertainties in level of funding was reviewed.

Projects:

A) Improving Traffic in the Buffalo Corridor: Simulation results for Interim Improvements in the I-90/I-290. A visual review of interim improvement possibilities was presented.

B) Amherst-Buffalo Transit Options Study: Current status and next steps was provided.

C) Capital Program – Summary of the 2014 Construction Season: A review of the capital projects program was presented.

Regional Agencies Initiatives Report: Major Agencies provided a brief review on current initiatives.

9. Other Business
No other business was noted at this time.

10. Adjournment of Policy Meeting
Mr. DeSantis moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 pm., seconded by Mr. Sickler, and all were in favor.