GBNRTC PCC Meeting

May 6, 2020
Note to Members

The negative impacts of COVID-19 obviously have major implications for all of us in the Buffalo Niagara region. Revenues to federal, state and local governments are experiencing significant decline. GBNRTC will continue to monitor funding impacts and potential federal response efforts and also continuously monitor project status to seek opportunities to best position projects for timely implementation.

In addition, potential pandemic type impacts on transportation planning and mobility solutions are being carefully considered. Incorporation of scenarios and creative solutions will help make our region’s future stronger. Through the great existing cooperative relationships between all levels of government and transportation agencies we will get through this together.
GBNRTC - MPO Operational Status

• MPO fully operational, staff Working From Home consistent with Governors PAUSE requirements
• Remote access enabled, all models, tools, documents are accessible
• Work program is progressing as planned
• Meetings (external/internal) being conducted in various virtual platforms
• Plan to conduct next TPS and PCC in regular format but virtually (Zoom)
• Reviewing office protocol for eventual safe return to on site operations
Current Year Capital Program

- TIP projects appear to be progressing as planned
- Federal budget supports program, severe declines in gas tax revenues (down 26% compared to last year), being monitored as are potential relief efforts
- Potential infrastructure program discussed on proposed Stimulus initiatives, no specific format, size or likelihood agreed on.
- Some discussion on potential inclusion of federal Reauthorization in Stimulus discussed also, does not appear to be progressing.
## Freight Study Status

### Task Status and Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Subtask</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task 1: Regional Freight and Logistics Status</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Base Mapping</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Updated Freight Flows and Projections</td>
<td>EBP developing; waybill data received mid-April</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Bottleneck Analysis</td>
<td>Draft complete - incorporated in Memo 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Expansion of Nearby Port and Airport Facilities</td>
<td>Draft complete - incorporated in Memo 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Impacts of FAST Act and National Freight Provisions</td>
<td>Draft complete - incorporated in Memo 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>National Freight and Logistics Trends</td>
<td>Draft complete - incorporated in Memo 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Regional Studies</td>
<td>Draft complete - incorporated in Memo 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Border Crossing Analysis</td>
<td>Draft complete - incorporated in Memo 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>Environmental and Sustainability</td>
<td>Draft complete - incorporated in Memo 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Draft complete - incorporated in Memo 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Draft complete - incorporated in Memo 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>Freight Performance Measures</td>
<td>Draft complete - incorporated in Memo 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>Tech Memo #1</td>
<td>Draft under development - for review early May</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Task 2: Making the Case for Freight Investments in WNY</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>WNY Value Proposition</td>
<td>Under development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Meeting with ITGO</td>
<td>Several meetings held with ITGO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Freight Market Case Studies</td>
<td>Draft completed in January; revisions provided in March</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Tech Memo #2</td>
<td>Draft under development - for review later May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 3: Regional Freight Stakeholder Input and Analysis</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Steering Committee Meetings (up to 6)</td>
<td>Held 2 Steering Committee Meetings - meetings in future to discuss WNY Value Capture and review drafts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Update Freight Stakeholder List</td>
<td>Updated and continuously updated as needed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>One-on-One Interviews (up to 8)</td>
<td>Held focus group meetings and follow-up interviews in December 2019</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Develop and Administer Online Survey</td>
<td>Survey developed and administered in January 2020; remained open until mid-April</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Survey and Interview Summary</td>
<td>Prepared summary of stakeholder and survey input</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Freight Forum</td>
<td>Will likely need to find a unique way to hold something virtually</td>
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<tr>
<td>Task 4: Gap Analysis and Project Development</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Status Review of Previous Unbuilt Projects</td>
<td>Underway and will incorporate into Memo 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>SWOT and Gap Analysis</td>
<td>Underway, will advance once freight flow analysis is completed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Project Development Goals</td>
<td>Will follow SWOT and Gap Analysis - with Steering Committee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Project Development</td>
<td>Will be developed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Project Evaluation and Prioritization</td>
<td>Will be developed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Tech Memo #3</td>
<td>Will be developed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>Will be developed</td>
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GBNRTC, NFTA and City of Buffalo are working with Bergmann and WSP to look at improvements to transit, traffic flow and safety along Bailey Ave. (Main St.-Abbot Rd.)

- WSP is nearly done with modeling various transit and streetscape alternatives
- These will be evaluated based on impacts on overall mobility and safety (for all users), cost, and other economic impacts
- Will also integrate smart technology (e.g., coordinated signals, smart parking, mobility hubs) and placemaking
- Study expected to be complete in late summer 2020
Regional Bicycle Master Plan Status

• Task 1: Data Collection and Existing Conditions – Complete
• Task 2: Agency and Community Outreach – Ongoing
• Task 3: Identify Gaps within the Current Network – Complete
• Task 4: Recommendations to the Regional Network – Complete
• Task 5: Develop Implementation and Financial Plan – Underway
• Task 6: Guidelines for Design and Installation Type – Underway
• Task 7: Prepare Draft and Final Plan – Underway

Final Plan Expected July 2020
Regional Bicycle Master Plan Status
Remote Outreach Approach

• Virtual outreach tentatively scheduled to begin towards the end of May to present draft plan
• Recorded PowerPoint presentation will be made available for review on project website https://www.gbnrtc.org/bikebuffaloniagara
• Extensive notice will be made through various social media outlets, stakeholder organizations, press releases, etc.
• Public will be encouraged to send comments via email to GBNRTC
Scajaquada Area Planning

• GBNRTC requested by NYS to pursue comprehensive approach to transportation needs and solutions in the Scajaquada area
• Project scope and budget approved and included in work program
• Intent is to expand the discussion and geography, acknowledge impacts and opportunities beyond immediate corridor, designated as Region Central
• Initial activities include building future vision based on plans from cultural institutions, educational complex, natural resource organizations, communities, etc.
• Initiated with in person meetings, now progressing with remote contact and data collection
Scajaquada Area Planning

• Plans will be assembled into compelling vision with public input
• Transportation access and mobility opportunities needed to achieve the vision will then be drafted
• MTP 2050 and One Region Forward will offer input and metrics
• Comprehensive approach then developed and implementation and funding opportunities identified
• COVID challenging current schedule in terms of in person meetings and consultant support acquisition
• Workarounds in place to continue project progress
LRT EIS STATUS

• Public comment period for the Draft EIS closed
• NFTA will incorporate and address comments received from the public, agencies, and stakeholders during the 60-day comment period, as well as the analysis presented in the Draft EIS, to prepare a Final EIS
• Final EIS is scheduled to be released this summer, followed by a Findings Statement in the fall
Transit Oriented Development – Phase 2

- NFTA progressing a second phase of TOD Planning
- Initiative supports LRT planning and funding pursuit
- Phase 1 developed a plan for TOD at several existing and proposed LRT stations in the corridor
- Phase 2 assist with local plan and regulatory issues to advance TOD
- Also operationalize a TOD committee, establish preferred development locations and assess housing needs, create value capture mechanisms and a TOD fund
Transit Oriented Development – Phase 2

• Work plan and consultant team in place
• Project Steering Committee expanded
• Initial public/private stakeholder interviews hampered by COVID-19
• Presentations and remote interviews being developed as workaround
Current GBNRTC Traffic Analysis Efforts – April 1, 2020 to Present

• I-90 Eastbound Lane Modification under Henry Street Overpass (Completed)
• I-90 Westbound / I-190 Northbound Interchange Modification Analysis (Ongoing)
• I-190 Southbound Ramps at Beaver Island Pkwy Modification Analysis (Ongoing)
• Youngs Rd Interchange/Extension Travel Demand Analysis (Ongoing)
• Skyway Alternative Travel Demand Analysis (Ongoing) / Consultant Support (Ongoing)
• Bailey Avenue Feasibility Study – Initial Model Development (Completed) / Consultant Support (Ongoing)
• Bailey Ave Interim Reconfiguration Operations Analysis Phase 1 (Completed)
• LRT EIS – Travel Demand Modeling (Completed) / Consultant Support (Ongoing)
• Amherst GEIS – Transportation Infrastructure Assessment Support (Ongoing)
• Entertainment District Operational Optimization Analysis (Ongoing)
• NF Downtown Transportation Demand Management (Ongoing)
Traffic Count Program 2020

• Traffic counts for Spring/Summer 2020 have been delayed due to COVID-19
• All counts will begin when NYS Pause has been lifted and traffic returns to a “normal” state.
• A working count list of 400 ATR counts & 150 Turning movement counts are currently being scheduled.
• GBNRTC still taking request for ATR Counts and Turning Movement counts for this year.
• Submit traffic count request to vpowell@gbnrtc.org
• Continue to check our online traffic count database for recent counts which is updated daily. http://gbnrtc.ms2soft.com
MPO Certification Process

• Federal regulations require FHWA/FTA review MPO process and products every four years and certify. 2020 is our year
• Review is typically extensive three day process. No findings resulted from last review
• COVID has delayed review to June 8-10, will be conducted all remote
• Staff will present program and process
• Policy and PCC Chairs will have opportunity to interact with review team remotely, members also in separate meetings. Public and stakeholders also will participate remotely.
• Staff contacting you to establish availability
April TIP Approval Summary
April 8 Planning and Coordinating Committee

• PIN 501924 NY 265 (Military Rd); Kenmore Av to Tonawanda South City Line (NYSDOT)
  • This was a request for a new $1.48M NYSDOT project to conduct ADA Compliance work and Pedestrian Signal Upgrades in the Town Of Tonawanda & Village Of Kenmore
  • Approved as Amendment 11 via Resolution 2020-8

• PIN 511188 Rt. 5 & Old Lakeshore Road Intersection Improvements (NYSDOT)
  • This was a request to delete this project from the TIP & STIP
  • $1.08M in unused funds would be moved to PINs 581343 Resurfacing of Rt. 417 & Rt. 219 in the City of Salamanca & the SNI Allegany Territory and 5B2003 (State Infrastructure Program Block Funding)
  • Approved as Amendment 12 via Resolution 2020-9 (POLICY)

• PIN 576157 Buffalo Avenue Rehabilitation; Cayuga Dr to 102 St (CNF)
  • This was a request for a minor scope change that would change the project limits to Devaux St. to Highland Ave.
  • $396K of matched Federal STP Large Urban funds was to be transferred from PIN 576328 College Ave; Lewiston Rd to Highland Ave to cover cost overruns
  • Approved as AdMod #30
April 15 Transportation Projects Subcommittee

• PIN 576346 Grand Island Sidewalks (NYSDOT)
  • Request was to move let from 4/20/21 (FFY21) to 12/15/21 (FFY22)
  • Approved as AdMod # 31

• PIN 581361 NY 78 (Transit Rd); French Rd To Wehrle Drive (NYSDOT)
  • This request was to create a ROW phase and transfer $0.86M total to the new phase from the existing C and CI phases.
  • Approved as AdMod # 32

• PIN 576347 Parker Blvd Complete Streets, PIN 576350 Village of Hamburg SRTS, PIN 576351 N Tonawanda Bike Path Connection & PIN 576357 City of Tonawanda Pedestrian Bridge (NYSDOT)
  • Request was to move lets for all four projects from 4/15/21 (FFY 21) to 10/15/21 (FFY 22)
  • Approved as AdMod # 33
**TIP Public Review Status**

- **PIN 582485 NFTA Rail Customer Information Enhancement**
  - New $2.97M project to upgrade customer NFTA-Metro Rail customer communication systems to enhance rider notification and public information dissemination methods, including for those with disabilities.
  - 100% of the funding for will come from 2018 NYSDOT Modernization and Enhancement Program (MEP) Supplemental funds awarded in 2020
  - Public comments will be received until May 13, 2020

- **2019 FTA Section 5310 Program - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities**
  - 12 new projects totaling $2.81M ($1.78M FTA 5310)
    - Six (6) traditional vehicle projects (18 vehicles) totaling $1.03M ($0.82M FTA 5310)
    - Five (5) operating assistance projects totaling $1.57M ($0.79M FTA 5310)
    - One (1) mobility management project totaling $0.21M ($0.17M FTA 5310)
  - Public comments will be received until May 22, 2020
PIN 513140 RT 277; Woodward Dr To North Of French Rd
PIN 558054 I-290; I-190 TO I-90

1. PIN 513140 RT 277; Woodward Dr To North Of French Rd
   • $1.77M new NYSDOT project that will apply preventative/corrective treatment measures to extend life of the existing pavement.
   • Offset will be provided by funding from Governor’s Harsh Winter Paving Program ($0.650M), PIN 5B1555 (PMI-PAVT MAINT LET & VPP SFY 21/22 - $0.746) and (ADA Block - $0.054)
   • Anticipated let date is 11/21

2. PIN 558054 I-290; I-190 TO I-90
   • $15.7M new NYSDOT project that will include mill and resurface, guiderail improvements, pavement marking/sign installation and ADA Curb ramp improvements.
   • Offset will be provided by funding from PIN 5B1555 (PMI PAVT MAINT LET & VPP; SFY 22/23 - $11.203M), PIN 5B2006 (HSIP/NHPP STATE SAFETY PROGRAM; SFY 23/24 - $0.100), PIN 581367 (ADA COMPLIANCE PROJECT; SFY 22/23 - $0.222M) AND PIN 581372 (GUIDERAIL REPLACEMENT; SFY 22/23 - $1.300M)
   • Anticipated let date is 4/22

• Public review completed on May 5. No comments were received
• The Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) concurred that both pavement resurfacing and/or rehabilitation projects are exempt for the purposes of air quality conformity (Code A10)
• Today’s PCC action would be to approve as Amendment 14 via Resolution 2020-10
PIN 530838 RT 62/950K, Niagara Falls Blvd Pedestrian Safety Improvements; Kenmore Ave - Erie Co Line

- Increases Construction and CI Phases by $0.746M to match the current PS&E.
- $0.746M is being provided by unused PSAP HSIP funding (100% Federal) that had already been awarded to the region.
- Let remains unchanged at 6/20
- This change was recommended by TPS in April
- Today’s PCC action is to approve as AdMod # 34