



Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council  
438 Main St, Suite 503 | Buffalo, NY 14202 | 716-856-2026 | [www.gbnrtc.org](http://www.gbnrtc.org)

## Transportation Projects Subcommittee (TPS) Meeting

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:00 AM**

**In-Person: Edward H. Small Conference Room (438 Main St. Buffalo Suite 503)**

**Reminder: Please use new Zoom Login for TPS Meeting**

**Zoom Invite:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85328085776?pwd=ZTV4QWFMSEFFQ2ZtVzBVVFFDOFJHUT09>

**Meeting ID: 853 2808 5776**

**Passcode: 605100**

**Phone: (929) 205-6099 US (New York)**

### Draft Agenda

1. Approval of August 16, 2023 TPS Meeting Summary
  2. 2023-2027 TIP – Action Requests
    - a. AdMod #38: PIN 5111.77 US 20/Cazenovia Creek – Cost Increase (NYSDOT)
    - b. AdMod #39: PIN 5045.27 NY 104 @ NY 93 Intersection – Minor Scope Change (NYSDOT)
    - c. AdMod #40: Four Let Delays (NYSDOT)
      - PIN 5045.27 NY 104 @ NY 93 Intersection
      - PIN 5111.77 US 20/Cazenovia Creek
      - PIN 5813.18 Bridge JOC; SFY 20/21, 21/22, 22/23, 23/24; Catt, Chaut, Erie & Niagara Cos
      - PIN 5813.88 Bridge Cleaning; Erie & Niagara Cos; SFY 23/24
    - d. AdMod #41: PIN 5568.15 Millersport @ Hopkins Intersection – Cost Increase (NYSDOT)
  3. Old Business
    - a. Safe Streets for All (SS4A) - Update
  4. New Business
    - a. RPPM Action Report
    - b. RBMP Implementation – Call for Projects Proposed Approach
    - c. 2023 Thriving Communities Program
  5. Next Meeting – Wednesday October 18, 9:00 AM
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## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE (TPS) MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, August 16, 2023  
9:00 A.M. via Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:** G. Szewcyk, J. Michniewicz, H. Ismail, K. Forma, J. Boser, B. Roth, A. Smith, M. Finn, K. Stilwell, N. Skipper, A. Weymouth, D. Svilokos, K. Smith, N. Allen, and R. Guarino.

1. Approval of June 21, 2023 TPS Meeting Summary – *Motion for approval: Forma/Roth. Approved.*
2. 2023-2027 TIP Discussion
  - a. PIN 5763.57 City of Tonawanda Pedestrian Bridge – This is a request to modify an existing project. The project includes a (potentially) historic bridge next to the Erie Canal and is expected to need 13 months for an individual 4(f) review. Section 4(f) refers to the original section within the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which established the requirement for consideration of park and recreational lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites in transportation project development. Let will be delayed from 4/24 (FFY 24) to 4/25 (FFY 25). Fiscal constraint is maintained as funding is unchanged. *Motion to approve change as AdMod #34: Hill/Svilokos. Approved.*
  - b. PIN 5763.17 Allen St Phase 2; Wadsworth St to Delaware Av – This is a City of Buffalo request to modify an existing project. \$0.243M in matched earmarked federal HPP funds will be added to the project. Construction Phase will increase from \$6.077M to \$6.320M. As HPP funds are unallocated statewide federal funds, fiscal constraint is maintained. Project let date was 6/1/2021. *Motion to approve change as AdMod #35: Skipper/Boser. Approved.*
  - c. PIN 5815.65 N Adam St Bridge over Erie Canal – This is a NYSDOT request to add a new project to the TIP. This project will investigate the removal of the N Adam Street Bridge over the Erie Canal. The total project cost is \$1.5M. The funding will come from \$0.060M Design funds (STBG Flex matched) and \$0.500M SDF to be transferred from PIN 5814.77 (Bridge MBC & Preservation Program). The balance of project cost is to be funded by state funding shared by NYSDOT and NYS Canal Corporation. Transportation conformity exemption is being investigated. *Motion to initiate a 20-day public review: Hill/Allen. Approved.*
3. Old Business
  - a. BRIDGE NY – NYSDOT reported that the awarded projects are progressing toward TIP inclusion.
4. New Business
  - a. RPPM Change Report – PIN 5764.14 N Bailey Avenue; Grover Cleveland Hwy – Maple Rd: PreDes and DetDes obligation dates advance from FFY24 TO FFY23. Approved 6/28/2023. 2. PIN 5815.03 ITS System Rehabilitation I-290; Erie Co: Increase Prelim Phase by \$0.069M. \$0.069M Transferred from Const Phase. Approved 8/2/2023.
  - b. 2020 Urban Boundary Update – Some background on the urban boundary past changes include: Once Decennial census is complete, census comes out with an Census Bureau Urbanized Area (UZA) Classification based on the Urban Area Definition; and FHWA uses the (UZA) as a starting point, allowing smoothing and adjustments of the UZA to a larger area to better suit transportation needs. For 2020 the Census Bureau Urbanized Area (UZA) Classification changed. The schedule for the urban boundary update is as follows: September PCC – approval to initiate public notice; October PCC – Finalized PCC approval and electronic ballot Policy approval; Week of October 16, 2023 – Submission of approval to NYSDOT Main Office; Week of October 30, 2023 – NYSDOT submission of Final Adjustments to FHWA; Week of November 27, 2023 – FHWA acceptance; and Final FHWA approval no later than December 29, 2023.
  - c. Regional Bicycle Master Plan Implementation Contract – GBNRTC received a number of requests for trail feasibility studies in the region. Requests were received from the Town of Amherst and Niagara County. Approximately \$100,000 is remaining in the RBMP Implementation contract with GOBike. GBNRTC staff supported by GOBike will develop an approach for project intake and prioritization of project requests to be shared at next TPS meeting.
  - d. 2023 Draft Public Participation Plan Update – The close of the 30-day member review and comment period is Friday, August 18, 2023. Two public meetings will be held both virtually and in-person for those interested in attending. A 45-day public review and comment period is scheduled to begin on September 7, 2023.
  - e. Pilot TOD Planning Program – FTA’s Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning (Section 20005(b)) supports local planning and investment near transit hubs to promote sustainable, livable, and equitable communities. Approximately \$13.4M in competitive grant funds have been made available. This year, applications for areas with a lower population density or lower average income compared to surrounding areas will receive a higher federal funding share. Additionally, applications with a substantial focus on affordable housing may receive up to 100% federal cost share support. On January 20, 2022, FTA launched a TOD Planning Program GIS dashboard that showcases information on awarded proposals and the respective planning studies. To apply for funding, an applicant must be an existing FTA grant recipient – either a project sponsor of an eligible transit project or an entity with land use planning authority in the project corridor. The application period will close on October 10, 2023. For more information, go to <https://www.transit.dot.gov/TODPilot>.
  - f. NYS Freight Plan Update – NYSDOT seeks to update the 2019 New York State Freight Transportation Plan. The plan will identify gaps and opportunities to improve New York State’s multi-modal freight network and competitive position relative to goods movement and global trade; review and incorporate the latest USDOT requirements to ensure compliance with IJA and other relevant state and federal laws and regulations; develop a strategic framework to progress high priority freight strategies and projects in partnership with the Federal government, regional partners,

Regional Economic Development Councils, the private sector, and national and international trade partners; and guide freight-related transportation investments and strategies in a way that supports NYSDOT's mission to have a safe, efficient, balanced, and environmentally sound transportation system. CPCS is the consultant under contract. A "State Freight Core Network" was identified in the 2019 plan to assess the infrastructure which most directly impacts the movement of truck freight on a statewide level. Unlike the federal National Highway Freight Network, there is no mileage limitations. Although there currently is no state dedicated funding, NYSDOT does look at this network when allocating National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) funding. GBNRTC has been asked by NYSDOT MO if NY 16 from NY 400 to Erie County Line (proposed by consultant) should be added to the network. Criterion for inclusion are: all roads on the Interstate Highway System; any facility on the NHS providing a land-based Port of Entry connection with Canada; any roadway with a continuous segment (>15 miles) that carries a volume of more than 365,000 trucks each year, or 1,000 trucks each day; any roadway segment required to provide connectivity along a corridor; and other important facilities identified by stakeholders. Analysis was completed by GBNRTC staff using NYSDOT Traffic Data Viewer to identify several potential additions to the network that meet stated criteria. Whirlpool and Rainbow Bridges in Niagara Falls do not allow trucks so a connection to them was not identified/included. Linkages between existing network and any proposed new routes were included for network connectivity.

5. Adjourn: The next TPS meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday September 20, 2023 – Format will continue to follow the hybrid model (Live and Zoom options). *Motion to adjourn: Boser/Svilokos. Approved.*

# Transportation Projects Subcommittee

September 20, 2023



Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council

**1. Approval of 8-16-23 Minutes**

## 2. Action Items

## a. AdMod #38: PIN 5111.77 US 20/Cazenovia Creek

- This is a NYSDOT request to modify an existing project
- Construction phase will be increased by \$10.508M to \$55M
- Increase related to increase in steel pricing and Erie County water line relocation (additional work item).
- Fiscal constraint maintained as \$10.508M offset comes from matched 100% statewide-funded Bridge Formula Program Main (BFP)
- Let is unchanged at 12/23
- Today's action will be to recommend this change to PCC for approval at the October 4 meeting (minor scope change)

## b. AdMod #39: PIN 5045.27 NY 104 @ NY 93 Intersection

- This is a NYSDOT request to modify an existing project
- The Construction and Construction Inspection phases will be increased by a total of \$1.172M
- Additional funding needed for signalized intersection (additional work item)
- Fiscal constraint is maintained as offset provided from PIN 5B20.06 HSIP/NHPP State Safety Program (Block)
- Let in unchanged at 12/23
- Today's action will be to recommend this change to PCC for approval at the October 4 meeting (minor scope change)



## c. AdMod #40: Four Let Delays

- This is a NYSDOT request to add a modify four (4) existing projects
  - PIN 5045.27 NY 104 @ NY 93 (Lockport Junction-Warrens Crn) Intersection
  - PIN 5111.77 US 20/Cazenovia Creek
  - PIN 5813.18 Bridge JOC; SFY 20/21 21/22 22/23 23/24; Catt, Chau, Erie & Niagara Cos
  - PIN 5813.88 Bridge Cleaning; Erie & Niagara Cos; SFY 23/24
- This request moves Construction and Construction Inspection phases from FFY 2023 to 2024
- These are administrative corrections to reflect actual STIP let dates
- Fiscal constraint is maintained as funding for all projects is unchanged
- **Today's action will be to approve these changes**

## d. AdMod #41: PIN 5568.15 Millersport @ Hopkins Intersection

- This is a NYSDOT request to modify an existing project
- The Construction and Construction Inspection phase total cost will be increased by \$1.171M to \$3.166M
- Additional funding needed for roadway realignment, drainage/utilities, signage (additional work items) as well as unit cost increases
- Fiscal constraint maintained as \$1.171M offset provided from PIN 5B20.06 (HSIP/NHPP State Safety Program - Block Fund)
- Let date is unchanged at 11/23
- Today's action will be to recommend this change to PCC for approval at the October 4 meeting (minor scope change)

# 3. Old Business

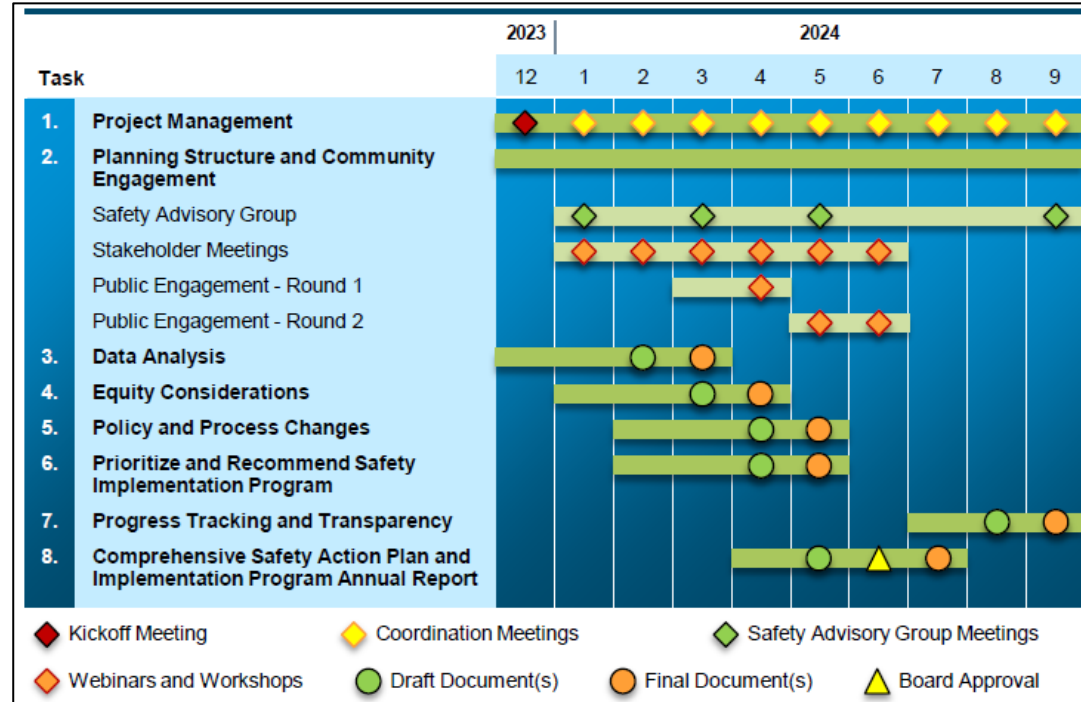
## a. Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Update

- The Roadway Safety Action Plan will look at crash history and develop a High Injury Crash Network for public roadways Erie and Niagara Counties and provide a strategy to make improvements to the safety outcomes on those roadways
- Funding for this effort is provided by the Federal Highway Administration Safe Streets and Roads for all grant in the amount of \$450,000 with 20% matching funds being provided by member agencies of the GBNRTC for the total maximum amount of \$562,500

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Value</u>
SS4A Grant (FHWA)	80%	\$ 450,000
NYS DOT Cash Match	8.89%	\$ 50,000
Erie County Cash Match	4.44%	\$ 25,000
City of Buffalo Cash Match	2.67%	\$ 15,000
Niagara County Cash Match	1.78%	\$ 10,000
GBNRTC Member Agency In-Kind	2.22%	\$ 12,500
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 562,500</b>

# a. Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Update

- Proposed Schedule



- Action Plan Steering Committee

- Currently have commitments from GBNRTC staff, CNF, NFTA, EC and NC
- Looking for representatives from other three members

# 4. New Business

## a. RPPM Action Report

### 1. Nine (9) Buffalo Obligation Date Slips (Design Phase FFY23 to FFY24)

- PIN 5763.25 Buffalo Roadway Rehabs - Phase 2
- PIN 5763.93 Cars On Main St Buffalo; Exchange To Church
- PIN 5763.95 Tiff St Buffalo; Route 5 To McKinley Pkwy
- PIN 5763.96 Louisiana St Buffalo; Seneca To Ohio
- PIN 5764.43 Parkside Ave At Linden Intersection
- PIN 6764.44 Perry Blvd, Commercial St - Erie St
- PIN 5764.45 Traffic Signals, SFY 25/26; Various Locations
- PIN 5764.47 Gates Circle Roundabout, Intersection Of Delaware Ave, Chapin Pkwy & Lafayette Ave
- PIN 5764.48 West Ferry Lift Bridge Rehabilitation

## a. RPPM Action Report

2. PIN 5813.88 Bridge Cleaning at various FA Locations
  - Increased DD by \$0.049M (Funds transferred from C NHPP)
3. PIN 5764.49 Bridge Washing, City of Buffalo, SFY 22/23, Erie County
  - \$0.005M Moved Within Const Insp Phase and \$0.036M Moved Within Const Phase
  - Total Project Cost Remains the Same
4. PIN 5763.93 Cars On Main St Buffalo; Exchange To Church
  - DDES Obligation Date Advance from FFY 24 TO FFY 23
5. PIN 5813.88 Bridge Cleaning At Various FA Locations
  - Replaced \$0.260M of STBGP Flex with \$0.260M NHPP in construction phase (Fed to Fed transfer)





**b. Regional Bicycle Master Plan Implementation**  
Proposed Project Intake Approach



# Proposed Project Intake Approach (Off Road Trail Projects)

1. Issue a Call for Projects (10/1/23)
  - Provide notice for the call for projects and online webinar to be sent to local municipalities, planning departments, DPWs, etc.
2. Call for Projects Webinar (10/18/23)
  - Regional Bicycle Master Plan overview
  - Online resources available
  - Eligible project types
  - Project intake request form application (online)
  - Project evaluation criteria
  - Selection process schedule
3. Project intake form applications due (11/8/23)
4. Evaluation period (11/9/23 - 11/23/23)
5. Draft recommendations presented to members (12/2/23)



# Proposed Evaluation Criteria

1. Regional Bicycle Master Plan consistency
  - Priority project
2. Connectivity and Accessibility
  - Fills gap between existing facilities
  - Destinations
  - Modal connectivity
  - Barrier elimination
3. Geographic Equity, Community Support and Planning
  - Investing in areas with underserved populations
  - Commitment, community support and planning
4. Project Readiness
  - Status of project development
  - Project timeline



# Proposed Project Intake Approach (On Road Projects)

1. On Road Projects
  - Is the TIP project identified in the RBMP?
  - GBNRTC to provide list of projects currently on TIP and RBMP
2. Member Local Project meetings
  - Discuss whether there is a need for assistance
  - If so, what type of assistance is needed?
3. GBNRTC staff assistance available to members
  - Developing on-road and intersection treatment recommendations
  - Perform needed modeling to evaluate recommendations if applicable







**THRIVING  
COMMUNITIES**  
PROGRAM



# GUIDING TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION



## c. 2023 Thriving Communities Program

- On September 12, USDOT announced that applications for the fiscal year 2023 Thriving Communities Program - administered by the Build America Bureau
- The TCP program is part of the larger Federal Thriving Communities Initiative and provides intensive technical assistance to under-resourced and disadvantaged communities to help them identify, develop, and deliver transportation and community revitalization opportunities.
- Those communities receive in-kind support from Capacity Builders funded through the TCP to prepare grant application materials and undertake pre-development and project delivery activities including deploying innovative community engagement, workforce development, and clean technology strategies. There is no cost for communities to receive support through the program.
- The program will offer two years of intensive technical assistance and three years of facilitated peer learning to selected communities at no cost

## c. 2023 Thriving Communities Program

- TCP has a funding pool of \$22 million and offers two separate avenues for applicants
  - Letter of Interest (LOI) intended for teams of community partners that may lack the staffing or technical expertise to scope, fund, and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals
  - Notice of Funding Opportunity for capacity builders will fund organizations to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to communities located across the U.S. and selected by DOT through the Letter of Interest process
- Applicants are required to identify community partners and submit an LOI by November 15, 2023, to be considered for the program
- An informational webinar was held on September 15, 2023 to provide details about the program and the application process. A recording will be posted at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities/webinars>



# Next Scheduled TPS Meeting

- Wednesday October 18 @ 9:00 AM