



Policy Committee Minutes  
 Friday, September 29, 2023  
 Meeting facilitated by Zoom

10:30 AM

Attendees	Organization (voting members or proxy in bold)
<b>Mike Arthur, A/GFTC Secretary</b>	<b>Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 1</b>
<b>John Barton</b>	<b>Mayor, Village of Hudson Falls</b>
<b>Nick Bodkin</b>	<b>Mayor, Village of South Glens Falls</b>
<b>Chris Desany</b>	<b>representing Carm Basille, Capital District Transportation Authority</b>
<b>Deb Donohue</b>	Superintendent, Washington County Department of Public Works
<b>Pat Dowd</b>	<b>representing Mayor Collins, City of Glens Falls</b>
<b>Cassie Fedler</b>	<b>Supervisor, Town of Cambridge</b>
<b>Mike Geraci</b>	<b>Supervisor, Town of Horicon</b>
<b>Bob Henke, A/GFTC Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Chairman, Washington County Board of Supervisors</b>
Kevin Hajos	Superintendent, Warren County Department of Public Works
<b>Kim Lambert</b>	<b>representing Chrm. Kusnierz, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors</b>
Nicole McGrath	Community Planner, Federal Highway Administration
<b>Shelby Moore</b>	<b>representing J. Moloughney, NYS Canal Corporation</b>
Kristen Morris	NYSDOT Region 1
<b>Dave O'Brien</b>	<b>Chairman, Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board</b>
<b>Ray Perry</b>	<b>Mayor, Village of Lake George</b>
Bob Rice	Regional Planning and Program Manager, NYSDOT Region 1
<b>John Strough, A/GFTC Chairman</b>	<b>Supervisor, Town of Queensbury</b>
Greg Wichser	Regional Program Coordinator, NYSDOT Region 1

Staff

Aaron Frankenfeld	A/GFTC
Jack Mance	A/GFTC

1. **Welcome / Acknowledgment of Participants** – Aaron initiated the meeting at 10:30, listed attendees, and turned the meeting over to A/GFTC Chairman John Strough.
2. **Visitor issues** – Chairman Strough requested visitors issues from attendees; no responses were provided.
3. **Administrative Items**
  - A. Approval of February 2023 meeting minutes - Chairman Strough reported that the meeting minutes were provided to participants immediately following the February meeting and sent out to the full committee on 9/7.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 2023 meeting as final.

Moved by: Dave O'Brien

Seconded by: Bob Henke

Minutes approve

- B. Consideration of re-forming A/GFTC Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Aaron reported that interest has been expressed among members of the public and from bicycling and trail groups that a regional Bicycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee be formed. Activities envisioned to include:

- Advise the Council on matters concerning walking and bicycling; relevant concepts to be reported back to the Planning Committee / Policy Committee as warranted
- Assist municipalities and agencies with bicycle and pedestrian project proposals and potential advancement of A/GFTC work program tasks (w/ Planning Committee consultation)
- Coordinate / communicate regional efforts to avoid task duplication
- Assist with bicycle and pedestrian studies, including updates to the A/GFTC's Bicycling and Pedestrian Plans
- Provide information back to the community regarding related ongoing A/GFTC tasks

Staff would chair the committee and it would meet quarterly. Activities would be reported to the Planning Committee.

Pat Dowd offered the City's support for re-establishing the committee. Deb Donohue noted the potential value in having enhanced expertise to provide advice on related matters. Chairman Strough added that the Adirondack Cycling Advocates also supports this initiative.

*A motion was made to approve establishment of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.*

Moved by: Pat Dowd

Seconded by: Dave O'Brien

Motion carried

- C. Consideration of changing public comment period from 30 days to 25 days – Aaron reported that it has proven difficult in recent years to be able to schedule a Policy Committee meeting more than 30 days off of sequence from our standard 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month Planning Committee meetings. In order to get a full public comment period in between Planning and Policy Committee meetings, staff is recommending following CRTC's lead in reducing the public comment period for core documents from 30 days to 25 days. This will require a change to our Public Participation Plan and Policy Committee approval is required. Chairman Strough asked if this was consistent with applicable requirements; Aaron replied that it was within the MPO's discretion to set. Greg Wichser added that CRTC's research indicated that there was no requirement for 30 days.

*A motion was made to approve revising the Public Participation Plan to require a 25-day public comment period for core documents.*

Moved by: Ray Perry

Seconded by: Dave O'Brien

Motion carried

- D. Approval of adjusted urban area boundary - Jack summarized the process of designating an adjusted urban area boundary based upon the urbanized area identified and issued by the U.S. Bureau of Census. Maps of the previous area and the proposed new area were displayed on-screen. The new Census urban area now includes the Towns of Fort Ann and Bolton. The basic methodology is to smooth out

the Census boundary so that it is included in its entirety but also features logical termini when possible. While the changes to Fort Ann in Washington County are fairly straightforward and not subject to much iteration, the Town of Bolton and Warren County DPW have provided comments on A/GFTC's proposed adjusted urban area boundary. Those comments have been incorporated into the boundary map file that has been sent to NYSDOT for transmission to other agencies. While Policy Committee approval of the proposed boundary is not required in order to process the change, documentation of this committee's support is nonetheless valuable.

*A motion was made to support the adjusted urban area boundary as proposed by A/GFTC staff*

Moved by: Pat Dowd

Seconded by: Bob Henke

Motion carried

- E. Committee representation - Washington County - Aaron reported that Washington County Board of Supervisors Chairman Henke has notified A/GFTC staff of the request to add County Administrator Melissa Fitch to the Planning Committee. A/GFTC works on consensus of affected parties, so adding a representative from a municipality does not necessarily create an imbalance. Committee structure does not stipulate how many representatives a Policy Committee municipality can have. Given that, this is to serve as consultation that staff will seek to add Washington County's County Administrator to its roster of Planning Committee representatives.

- 4. Approval of Resolution adopting Long Range Plan and conformity determination** – Aaron reported that multiple versions of the draft Long Range have been sent to this committee for individual review; the latest one went out last night with only minor revisions to the safety targets included in Appendix A. The LRP by design is a generalized framework of existing conditions, demographics, public input, trends, performance targets and resource estimates that are intended to guide federal transportation investments over a 20-25 year horizon. A/GFTC is required to update the plan at least every 5 years. This plan is just that; an update. The preceding version was subjected to significant overhaul and that format has served us well. The LRP is intentionally not project – specific, but rather is intended to support broader investment areas and strategies. The plan was presented in a public meeting that was combined with the last Planning Committee meeting; that presentation formally opened the 30 day public comment period for the Planning Committee – approved version of the document; that closed on 9/14. The latest revision includes comments and corrections offered by agencies including NYSDOT, our local municipalities, WCSWCD, and the Adirondack Council during the public comment period. Resolution 23-04 is the mechanism to communicate that the A/GFTC Policy Committee has considered and has approved the Long Range Plan and the required Albany- Schenectady Troy Air Quality Conformity Demonstration.

*A motion was made to approve Resolution 23-04 and thus approve the Long Range Plan and conformity determination.*

Moved by: Dave O'Brien

Seconded by: Ray Perry

Motion carried

5. **Staff update - SFY 2023-24 work program accomplishments** - Jack summarized ongoing A/GFTC staff activities and planning projects, including the Argyle Pedestrian Plan, Glens Falls ADA and Sidewalk and Pavement Condition Inventory, White Creek Pedestrian and Parking Plan, Glens Falls School District Access Study, Old Fort Edward Junction Locks Trail Extension plan, Fort Ann / Empire State Trail Wayfinding, and Hudson Avenue Pedestrian Improvements. Bob Henke asked about the bridge costs associated with the Fort Edward project, noting that recent bridge projects have resulted in unanticipated costs for the county.
6. **Public transit reports** – Chris Desany of CDTA provided an update on transition activities between GGFT and CDTA, also involving the City of Glens Falls and the Federal Transit Administration. Existing services are being studied, and transition plans are under development with a goal of continuing to provide services with existing GGFT staff. CDTA is already providing operational and maintenance support to GGFT. It is anticipated that as of January 1, 2024, CDTA will be operating the local services provided by GGFT with minimal to no change to those services.
7. **TIP project sponsor summaries of 2023 accomplishments**
  - A. Warren County DPW – Kevin Hajos provided updates on the Johnsbury bridge replacements, Quaker Road rehabilitation, Olmsteadville Road reconstruction, Adirondack bridge replacements, and South Johnsbury Road bridge replacement projects.
  - B. Washington County DPW – Deb Donohue provided updates on the Shushan bridge, Church Street bridge replacement, CR 61 over the Batten Kill bridge replacement, CR 37 pavement preservation, Gray Lane bridge replacement, and Lock 8 Way bridge replacement projects.
  - C. Saratoga County DPW – Kim Lambert provided updates on the CR 27 pavement preservation, CR 28 pavement preservation, and CR 24 culvert replacement projects.
  - D. City of Glens Falls – Pat Dowd provided updates on the Glens Falls / Feeder Canal connector, Webster Avenue pavement rehabilitation, and the Coles Woods connection projects.
  - E. NYSDOT – Mike Arthur provided updates on the NYS 254 culvert emergency repairs, Exit 24 bridge replacement, and the I-87 over Route 9 bridge replacements projects. Interviews have been completed to fill the Regional Traffic Engineer vacancy created by Mark Pyskadlo’s retirement. Kaylee Noll has joined Region 1 staff. Region 1 has been providing training to local governments on funding opportunities; interested municipalities are invited to reach out to Mike, Bob Rice or Lorenzo DiStefano. Kevin Hajos and Deb Donohue expressed thanks to Mike for the funding information.
8. **Other items of interest** – no additional discussion.
9. **Next meeting and adjourn** -

*A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 AM.*

Moved by: Kim Lambert

Seconded by: Pat Dowd

Meeting adjourned.