



GOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND LIAISON COMMITTEE

Boehlert Center at Union Station

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Chairperson, PETER CAMPIONE, Chairman, Herkimer County Legislature
Secretary, JAMES J. GENOVESE II, Commissioner, Oneida County Dept. of Planning

Vice-Chairperson, ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR., Executive, Oneida County
Clerk, JULIE RICHMOND, Director, Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council

Minutes for the February 20, 2025 Governmental Policy & Liaison (GP&L) Committee Meeting Virtual Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Administered by:

Herkimer – Oneida Counties Transportation Council (HOCTC) MPO

Chairperson Robert Hollum called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Julie Richmond reviewed some protocol for virtual meetings:

- Everyone identify themselves as names are called for roll call.
- Please identify yourself when making a motion or seconding a motion.
- Voting consensus for resolutions will be assumed unless a verbal objection is noted during the voting process. Please utilize the chat box and the raise hand option for discussion.
- Please keep yourself muted unless you are participating in a discussion.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Voting members present:

Robert Hollum

James Wallace

Timothy Seymour

John Piseck

Mary Austin Pratt

Peter Rovazzi

Linda Lubey

Peter Campione

Tara Spraker

Chairperson, Chairman, Herkimer County Legislature

Administrator, Herkimer County

Commissioner, Department of Social Services,
Herkimer County

Executive Director, Herkimer County Industrial
Development Agency

Oneida County Legislator, representing Gerald Fiorini
Chairman, Oneida County Board of Legislators

Supervisor, Town of German Flatts

Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 2, representing
Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner, New York
State Department of Transportation

Chairman, Highways Committee, Herkimer County
Legislature

Director of Capital Programs, Central New York
Regional Transportation Authority, representing

Michael Waterman	Nicholas Laino, Chairman, Central New York Regional Transportation Authority
Daniel Guzewich	Chairman, Public Works Committee, Oneida County Board of Legislators
Mary MacEnroe	Representing George Joseph, Oneida County Legislative Majority Leader
Matthew Andrews	Minority Legislative Analyst, representing Timothy Julian, Oneida County Legislative Minority Leader
Sara Sherlock	Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development representing, Jeffrey Lanigan Mayor, City of Rome
Scott Musacchio	Sara Sherlock Assistant Engineer, representing Joanne Mahoney, Chair, NYS Thruway Authority
Shaun Kaleta	Supervisor, Town of Verona Director of Economic Development, Oneida County
 <u>Non-voting members present:</u>	
James J. Genovese II, Secretary	Commissioner, Department of Planning, Oneida County
Julie Richmond, Clerk	Director, HOCTC
Mark DeRocco	Assistant Regional Planning and Program Manager, NYSDOT Region 2
Deborah Windecker	Regional Planning and Program Manager, NYSDOT Region 2
Christine Labuzzetta	Associate Capital Program Analyst, NYSDOT Region 2
Brian Miller	Assemblyman, 122 nd District
Barb Hauck	Principal Planner, HOCTC
Amy Heiderich	Senior Planner, HOCTC
Grace Whiffen	Planning Specialist, HOCTC

2. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from December 17, 2024 by Peter Campione
 - Seconded by Tim Seymour
 - Voting passed 16-0-0

3. Public Comment

- None

4. Director's Report

HOCTC Director, Julie Richmond gave a synopsis of HOCTC activities for the past quarter.

SS4A – The Oneida and Herkimer Counties Safety Action Plan (SS4A)

- There have been setbacks with the plan development and in coordinating PSC and TAC meetings. Apology for the multiple changes to the final meeting date for the PSC and TAC members.
- There have been course corrections with the consulting team and a delayed schedule. The project is now back on track with a planned adoption at the April Legislative meetings.
 - The plan delays are still within the 18-month contract period, so no contract extensions had to be made.
- The staff has reviewed the draft, comments have been addressed, and the plan was sent to the PSC and TAC for final review and comment.
- The PSC and TAC aided in project prioritization and conceptual design.
- Due to the weather conditions, the final PSC and TAC meeting scheduled for February 18, 2025 was canceled. In place of the final meeting, there will be a virtual office hour session on Friday February 21, 2025 from 10:30 – 12:00. Staff and the consulting team will be available for questions and discussion. All are welcome to attend. A link will be emailed later today.
- The presentation and strategies section of the plan will also be distributed. The goal of the final meeting is to review the newer additions, reconcile any comments and edits, and get concurrence on the vision and goal of the plan.
- The plan is required to have a goal and ensure stakeholders are committed to the strategies and goals.
 - The approved primary goal is to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes by 50% for all modes by 2050.
- The graph shows the trendline for each – fatalities and serious injuries since they trend slightly different. The forecast line shows what will happen if we do nothing versus implementing the Safety Action Plan recommended countermeasures ambitiously to achieve a 2.5% reduction per year.
- The final meeting will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders and the TAC to commit to and participate in acting as stewards for advancing recommended strategies and recommendations. Please note areas in the plan that have been assigned to your agency and make us aware of any corrections. No further edits will be made beyond Monday, February 24, 2025.
- There was a rush to have the plan adopted ahead of the implementation funding release date, but that funding is now questionable. There is agreement to forge ahead with the plan still in alignment with implementation funding parameters, including incorporating proven safety countermeasures, allowing identified segments and intersections in this plan to be eligible for other types of funding as well. The plan is consistent with both the State and Federal Strategic Highway Safety Plans. (SHSPs)

Exit 31 Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Study

- Two Technical Advisory Group meetings have taken place since the last GP&L meeting. These meetings:
 - Reviewed the results of the December Public Meeting where the community had an opportunity to identify needs, opportunities, and difficulties within the project study

area. They were also shown potential countermeasures and asked to choose the best option for the area in question.

- The survey for the Exit 31 PEL Study opened on December 3, 2024 and closed at the end of January. The consultant team is now assessing the survey data but has also opted to do some targeted survey outreach to the LEP communities to diversify the demographics of the survey respondents.
- The study requires agency coordination, which has been initiated with agencies involved in the study including NYSTA, NYSDOT Region 2, FHWA, City of Utica, HOCTC, and Oneida County Planning. These stakeholders have been presented various concepts ranging from a no-build option to high intervention. Revisions were made based on stakeholder feedback and the concepts have progressed to their next stage of analysis.
- Additional coordination with interested permitting agencies has been initiated as well. There is now a more defined project area and preliminary concepts to discuss.
- The next phases of the project include a change in the project study area boundaries to incorporate any outlying contiguous areas that are included in the concepts. The area is extended to the east and west to include the entirety of the exit ramps and north to include portions of Coventry Avenue and Trenton Road.
- Next steps include taking the concepts to the next stage of analysis by screening against the Purpose and Need, Tech Memo updates reflecting the updated boundaries, finalizing the survey analysis, ongoing engagement through Public Meeting #3 (tentatively March/April) to have the concepts vetted by the public, finalize the Purpose and Need, continued agency coordination and summary, and the PEL Study report.
- The final report is on schedule for August 2025.

5. NYSDOT Region 2 Report

Deborah Windecker reported on the activities that NYSDOT Region 2 has performed in the last quarter.

- The Governor's transportation budget maintains funding for CHIPS at \$637.8 million, which continues a \$60 million increase from the previous state fiscal year.
 - There is approximately \$100M available to the Pave Our Potholes program, \$150M for Pave NY, \$140M for State Touring Route, \$200M for Bridge NY, and \$80M for Mohawk Valley REDC, which includes Otsego and Schoharie Counties.
 - Bridge NY has been successful in addressing infrastructure needs.
 - Inflation continues making it difficult to keep up in funding for projects.
- Recent letting - Ashe Road over Crum Creek in the Town of Manheim, Herkimer County for \$1.2M.
- Recent letting - Erie Blvd. between S. James St. and George St., City of Rome, Oneida County, Wheels to Heels Transportation Alternative Project.
 - \$2.8M total project cost. \$1.059M of this is from a TAP award.
 - Road reallocation of access road, 10' multi-use path, signal timings, refuge islands, improving pedestrian connections, and bicycle lanes.
 - This area is not safe for bicycles and pedestrians, so this project is adding safer crossings.

- Rome has updated renderings. This project was part of the City's 2004 Comprehensive Plan.
- Rome is seeking to add new life into downtown with more street trees, seating options, lighting, vehicle and pedestrian accommodations, and addressing SS4A concepts.
- Recent letting - Multi-site paving project in Oneida & Madison Counties.
 - \$5.3M total project cost.
 - NYS Route 20 in Sangerfield from Brothertown Rd. to Beaver Creek Rd. (12 lane miles).
 - NYS Route 12 in the Village of Waterville from Putnam St. to Village line North (1.06 lane miles).
- Region 2 is working on some major infrastructure projects such as the North Genesee Street bridge, Oriskany Blvd. over Sauquoit Creek, and the Dolgeville bridge replacement project will have a public meeting in March.

6. New York State Thruway Authority Report

Sara Sherlock, NYSTA, for Jerrin George, NYSTA Assistant Engineer, gave a synopsis of NYSTA activities for the past quarter.

Ongoing Projects:

- Mainline bridge rehabs over Sterling Creek, scheduled to be completed in Fall 2025.
 - There will be a lane shift in the spring.
- Thruway bridge replacement over Oriskany Blvd. with a scheduled completion of Fall/Winter 2026.
 - Electrical relocation is happening now.
- Thruway bridge replacement over Mohawk St. (Route 28) – National Grid will be relocating gas soon, contractor work to begin in March with a Fall/Winter 2026 completion date.

Tentative 2025/2026 Projects:

- Rehab of North Genesee Street Bridge (away bridge) – Let on 02/19/2025.
- Replacement of Route 46 Bridge over Thruway at 257 – Letting 07/2025.
- Safety upgrades from 197 to 210 – Letting 02/2025.
- Exit 29A WB bridge over 29A ramp rehabilitation – Letting Q1 2026.
- NYS Thruway is continuing to comment and coordinate with the Exit 31 PEL Study.
- NYSTA reached out regarding the tourism building at Exit 31 and is waiting for a response.
- There was a fire at the administrative offices for NYSTA in Syracuse. No one was injured nor was any snow removal equipment. NYSTA is currently assisting Herkimer County with snow removal.

7. Other Reports

- None

8. Presentations

- None

9. Old Business

- None

10. New Business - HOCTC Resolutions 2025-01 – 2025-07 and 2025-09 - 2025-11

2025-01 – Approval of the 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), *Presenter: Julie Richmond, HOCTC*

- Description: HOCTC works to achieve LRTP and TIP goals through interim planning in the annual UPWP to carry out the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process.
- HOCTC receives an annual allocation of PL planning funds and FTP MPP funds to program into task categories for delivery of transportation planning. Most of the budget is allocated toward staff time to carry out the required planning processes and some allocation for consultant assistance.
- This document:
 - Directs the daily operations and delivery of transportation planning and it does that by making sure that HOCTC's allocates hours to Tasks:
 - Implementing the LRTP goals- both short term and long term; and
 - Supporting the TIP Capital Programming.
- The UPWP aligns with federal planning factors and ensures all modes of travel are included, engaging the community in the decision-making process, aligning goals and investments, and utilizing data analysis to support transportation planning.
- Programming funding is a balancing act that is all interrelated and coordinated with short and long range planning.
- There are several planning emphasis areas determined at the federal level where there is alignment with the HOCTC UPWP tasks. Two examples were highlighted: Complete Streets, which has been incorporated into planning for safety and accessibility for all modes, and the Planning and Environment Linkages – Exit 31 PEL Study which is an example of taking a federal process to advance a project into NEPA more efficiently.
- Several new tasks have been added as subcategories such as the SS4A Grant Administration line has been adjusted to Roadway Safety Planning and Implementation to reflect the work to identify funding sources and apply where appropriate. Under LRTP, Land Use Scenario Planning and Freight Planning were added, which will take a complete look at future demand.
- Other planning projects include an update to the Environmental Justice Analysis/Title VI for 2025 in alignment with the TIP update that happens every three years to be used as a basis for project prioritization and an update to the LRTP Atlas, which is the graphic representation of the LRTP.
 - The TIP update is for a five year capital plan and a four-year STIP. Project proposals were due at the end of January and HOCTC staff will be working on updating the narrative. There will be coordination with Region 2 to complete this plan that must be approved by the GP&L before June 20, 2025.

- A draft of the UPWP was shared with FHWA and NYSDOT Main Office in January and was circulated for a 30-day public review, with no comments received.
- Discussion: None
- Motion to approve Resolution made by: James Wallace
 - Seconded by: Dan Guzewich
 - Voting: Passed 16-0-0

2025-02- 2025 Traffic Safety Performance Measures Targets, Presenter: Julie Richmond, HOCTC

- Description: NYSDOT has established targets for five safety performance measures based on five year rolling averages for the number of fatalities, rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT, and number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.
- The Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee has adopted the same targets.
- The targets needed consistency with a reduction goal of 1.5% by 2026, 0.5% by 2024 and 1.0% in 2025.
- The MPO has 180 days to adopt or support these targets.
- Discussion: None
- Motion to approve this Resolution made by: Peter Campione
 - Seconded by: Timothy Seymour
 - Voting: Passed 16-0-0

2025-03– Acceptance and Support of the Revised NYSDOT Transportation Performance Management Biennial Performance Report for Performance Period 2022-2025, Presenter Julie Richmond, HOCTC

- Description: Acceptance and support for this report was approved by the GP&L on February 21, 2023, via Resolution 2023-25. NYSDOT has updated its pavement targets.
- NYSDOT had to revise the report due to the value for the Total Emission Reductions for PM2.5 that was erroneously reported in the Baseline Performance Period report as 2.643 kg/day and corrected in the October 1 submission to 3.643 kg/day.
- Discussion: None
- Motion to approve this Resolution made by: Mary MacEnroe
 - Seconded by: Peter Rovazzi
 - Voting: Passed 16-0-0

2025-04 - Amendment to the 2023-2027 TIP to revise a Bridge Replacement Project, Presenter: Mark DeRocco, NYSDOT

- Description: PIN 2065.40 – Route 12B over Oriskany Creek Bridge replacement (BIN 1009890) and unnamed creek culvert, which will become a bridge in the Town of Kirkland in Oneida County. This project will also include paving approximately 800 feet from the culvert replacement to Route 12B/233 intersection.
- The total project amount shall be increased by \$0.881M from \$5.275M to \$6.191M which includes additional CRP medium Urban funds for construction to accommodate additional trail and bridge widening work in partnership with Kirkland Trails.

- This project is in FFY 2026, with plans to begin in late 2026. The project is currently in design.
- Discussion: None
- Motion to approve the Resolution made by: Michael Waterman
 - Seconded by: Linda Lubey
 - Voting: Passed 16-0-0

2025-05 - Amendment to the 2023-2027 TIP to revise a Bridge Replacement Project,

Presenter: Mark DeRocco, NYSDOT

- Description: PIN 2047.07 – North Genesee Street Gateway Bridge and Multi-Modal Connector Project that will replace two bridges carrying Route 921C (N. Genesee St.) over the Mohawk River, Harbor Lock Road, and Erie Canal in the City of Utica in Oneida County.
- This project will also rehabilitate North Genesee Street from Wurz Ave. to I-790.
- The total project cost shall be increased by \$2.164M from \$60.803M to \$62.967M for ROW Acquisition work, adding state funding. The NHPP funds shall be removed from ROW Acquisition and shall be added to the NHPP funds in Detailed Design and move ROW and Detailed Design to the next fiscal year.
- Discussion: A question was asked about ROW values and if they are coming back. Herkimer County is seeing lots of growth already, almost three times more than in the past. This project is in the preliminary stages, appraisals are still being done.
- Motion to approve the Resolution made by: Michael Waterman
 - Seconded by: Dan Guzewich
 - Voting: passed 16-0-0

2025-06 - Amendment to the 2023-2027 TIP to revise a Bridge Rehabilitation Project,

Presenter: Mark DeRocco, NYSDOT

- Description: PIN 2303.52 – Route 46: Rehabilitation of 6.25 miles of Route 46 from the Lansingkill Creek (BIN 1025790) bridge to Holmes Road in the towns of Western, Ava, and Boonville in Oneida County. The project will also address deficient guardrail, drainage, and signing within the project limits.
- The total project amount shall be increased by \$1.005M from \$11.472M to \$12.477M for Construction and Construction Inspection work. The funding year for the Detailed Design phase shall be changed from FFY 2024 to FFY 2025.
 - The increase in project cost is due to an underestimation in the cost increase of materials.
- Discussion: None
- Motion to approve the Resolution made by: James Wallace
 - Seconded by: Peter Campione
 - Voting: passed 16-0-0

2025-07 – Amendment to the 2023-2027 TIP to revise a Rehabilitate Pedestrian Facilities Project, Presenter: Mark DeRocco, NYSDOT

- Description: PIN 2650.57 is a 2018 TAP for Downtown Rome Wheels to Heels Streetscapes Project for pedestrian and streetscape improvements on Erie Boulevard from James Street to

Madison Street, Madison Street from Erie Boulevard to Ridge Street, and Ridge Street from Madison Street West to the Blue Crab site in the City of Rome.

- The total project amount shall be increased by \$3.0M from \$1.60M to \$4.60M for Construction and Construction Inspection work. The project cost increase is a contribution from the City of Rome.
- Discussion: None
- Motion to approve the Resolution made by: Mary Austin Pratt
 - Seconded by: Scott Musacchio
 - Voting: passed 16-0-0

Note: 2025-08– *Amendment to the 2023-2027 TIP to add a Pavement Project was tabled at the February 6, 2025 TPC meeting at the request of NYSDOT Region 2, and was not carried forward to this meeting.*

2025-09 - Amendment to the 2023-2027 TIP to add a Pavement Rehabilitate Project,

Presenter: Mark DeRocco, NYSDOT

- Description: PIN 2303.53 – This project will rehabilitate approximately 8.7 miles of NYS Route 46 from Center Street to the Route 46 bridge over the Erie Canal in the Town of Verona in Oneida County.
- This project shall be funded in the amount of \$1.495M with STBG FLEX funds from PIN 2TP2.61 and the Design approval was obtained under PIN 2PC6.01.
- This new paving project shall be added to the TIP for a Construction phase.
- Discussion: None
- Motion to approve the Resolution made by: Dan Guzewich
 - Seconded by: Mary Austin Pratt
 - Voting: passed 16-0-0

2025-10 – Amendment to the 2023-2027 TIP to revise an Intersection Improvement Project,

Presenter: Mark DeRocco, NYSDOT

- Description: PIN 2806.52 – This project will improve the Route 46/Wright Settlement Road Intersection from North James Street to the first driveway of Ridge Mills school along Route 46. It involves traffic control device improvement and/or minor geographic improvement in the City of Rome in Oneida County.
- The project cost shall be increased by \$0.268M by adding Safe Routes To Schools funds to the Construction phase. The total project cost shall increase from \$1.767M to \$2.035M for sidewalk work.
- Discussion: None
- Motion to approve the Resolution made by: Mary Austin Pratt
 - Seconded by: Dan Guzewich
 - Voting: passed 16-0-0

2025-11 – Amendment to the 2023-2027 TIP to revise a Bridge Replacement Project,

Presenter: Mark DeRocco, NYSDOT

- Description: PIN 2754.50 – Bridge NY 2018: This project involves the replacement of the existing West Main Street bridge over Moyer Creek (BIN 2263720) in the Village of Frankfort in Herkimer County.
- The project cost shall be increased by \$1.507M in NHPP funds and the total project cost shall be increased from \$5.358M to \$6.865M.
- Discussion: None
- Motion to approve the Resolution made by: James Wallace
 - Seconded by: Peter Campione
 - Voting: passed 16-0-0

11. Administration Modifications to the 2023-2027 TIP, Presenter: Julie Richmond, HOCTC -
Presentation and discussion of the TIP Administrative Modifications Memorandum.

- This is a report on the actions that the MPO has taken behind the scenes of the committee meetings, throughout the course of daily operations.
- These are all the smaller revisions to the TIP capital program that equate to a change of less than 10% of the total project cost or a change in phases or federal funding years and don't require action by the policy committee.
- There is no vote required for these modifications. This saves on the number of resolutions.

ADMIN MOD. #	PIN	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY
2025 – 01MOD	2118.08	Route 28 over Route 12 Alder Creek (BIN 1009530). This project will reconstruct the Route 28/12 Interchange and replace the Route 28 over Route 12 bridge in the Town of Boonville in Oneida County. This modification is for the following 1) adding the ROW Incidentals Phase, which will increase the Total Project Cost by \$0.005M in SDF funds 2) changing the fund source type for the Scoping and Preliminary Design Phase(s) from BFP Main to NHPP; and 3) The Funding Years will be changed for the Scoping and Preliminary Design Phases from FFY 2024 to FFY 2025.	NYSDOT
2025 – 02MOD	2754.67	Bridge NY 2021: Old Poland Road (CR 56) over Cincinnati Creek (BIN 2205960). This project will replace the bridge that carries old Poland Road, County Route 56, over the Cincinnati Creek in Town of Trenton in Oneida County. The Funding Years will be changed for the Construction and Construction Inspection Phase(s) from FFY 2025 to FFY 2026.	NYSDOT

12. Open Forum for Committee Discussion

- Robert Hollum, on behalf of Herkimer County and its municipalities, thanked the Governor's Office, the DOT, and the Thruway Authority for their assistance with the latest storm situation and snow removal.

13. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting made by: Peter Campione
 - Seconded by: Mary Austin Pratt
 - Voting: Passed, 16-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Heiderich

