

SMTC's Forum on Active Transportation | June 15, 2021

Additional questions/comments and post-meeting evaluation form results

Note: Most of the questions that were submitted prior to and during the meeting were answered live by SMTC and member agency staff. A recording of the meeting is available on our YouTube channel at www.smtcmpo.org/watch. Some questions required additional follow-up information, and these questions are summarized here.

Participant comments/questions in *italics*, SMTC staff responses follow.

Will the county be removing snow and ice from their portion of the Empire State Trail next winter?

SMTC staff response: The Onondaga County Department of Transportation (OCDOT) has indicated that the portion of the Empire State Trail that is also the Onondaga County Loop the Lake Trail (from the Orange Lot to Hiawatha Boulevard) will not be plowed. They expect cross-country skiers will continue using this portion of the trail just as they have in the past.

Deplorable condition of bike trail between Transport Center and Onon Lake Pkwy, any plans?

SMTC staff response: OCDOT stated that this trail piece was built in the early 1980s and has been largely unused for years. This route has several road crossings with NYS 370 (high speed), which is not desirable. Currently, they are not planning on improving this route, nor encouraging folks to use it.

Are there plans for a safe bike/walk route from inner harbor or creek walk around to Liverpool side of lake?

SMTC staff response: OCDOT stated that they are beginning to design a solution to connect the Village of Liverpool and the City of Syracuse, including adding a trail route that will not cross any high-speed highways. The proposed trail will extend from Murphy's Island over the CSX railroad track and continue next to NYS 370 to the Village. We will provide updates as more details become available.

The intersection of CR 46 & CR 57 in the Village of Liverpool has been widened with new lanes and markings in anticipation of increased Amazon Warehouse traffic from Town of Clay. Wider turning lanes' radii will better accommodate trucks and center lanes will handle commuter and some village-bound traffic. (Other village-bound traffic will be diverted by eliminating a Left Turn off of Commerce onto CR 46,) The CENTRO bus stop has been moved from the intersection and on-street parking on CR 57 will be removed to facilitate increased traffic flow.

This central village intersection is adjacent to Johnson Park, one block from Liverpool Public Library and two blocks from Onondaga Lake Park. Summer concerts attract heavier than usual walkers & cyclists, as does increased use by patrons of adjacent OLP's bike and walking trails. The Village of Liverpool Masterplan - which has likely been compromised by recent accommodations - stated that pedestrian & cyclist safety are a village traffic control priority.

Questions:

- Will the County be installing very prominent Pedestrian Crossing signage & lanes on the more complex CR 46/CR 57 intersection in the Village of Liverpool?

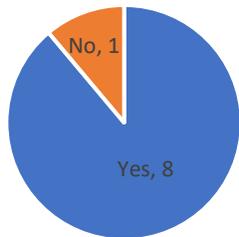
- Will the County be putting bike lanes/striping on its streets in the Village of Liverpool to accommodate existing heavy bike traffic and to ensure safety from increasing Warehouse Traffic?

SMTC staff response: This is a NYSDOT owned intersection, and Oswego St between Tulip St and Cypress St (near Johnson Park) is NYSDOT Reference Route 931G. NYSDOT noted that the only planned change near the park is just trimming of the curb bump out to allow for vehicles to turn more safely. There are no planned bike improvements, and only some minor changes to the pedestrian crossings in that area. NYSDOT also noted that there are no other projects programmed to address this area, although they did apply (unsuccessfully) for funding to reconstruct 931G and one block of NY370 in the 2018 Transportation Improvement Program update. NYSDOT may consider proposing work at this location again in a future TIP update, because it has been a top priority for them. Additionally, OCDOT stated that they have no plans to add bike lanes on County highways within the Village.

Meeting evaluation results

39 people registered for the meeting (excluding SMTC staff), and 28 people participated (excluding SMTC staff). There were 9 responses to the post-meeting evaluation form.

1. Does this meeting time (3:30 p.m. on a weekday) generally work for you?



2. If this meeting time does not work well for you, what time - on weekdays - would you prefer?

Evening (6:00 p.m. or later) – 2

Midday/lunch time (around noon) – 1

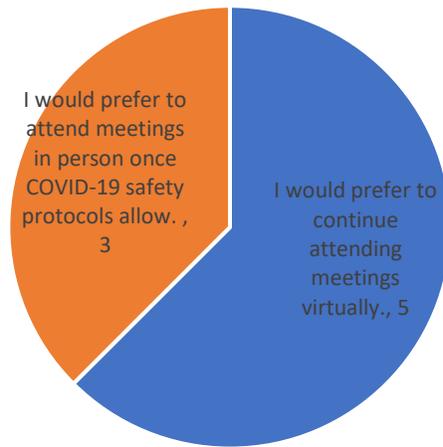
Early morning (before 9:00 a.m.) – 0

3. Please rate the ease of use for the Zoom meeting platform on a scale of 1 (difficult to use) to 5 (very easy to use)

Average rating: 4.67

4. Do you have a suggestion for a presentation topic or guest speaker for our next meeting?
 - Beata Karpinska or someone else from ARISE to talk about accessibility issues in Syracuse; Owen Kearney on ReZone Syracuse
 - Like to hear about current planning activities, desired systems to include in other projects like communicating alternative transportation options for commuters, special event users.
 - Trends in NYS for safety. I.e. roundabouts and raised crosswalks. Status of current projects, if possible.
 - A posted agenda. I may have missed it. (SMTC note: Agenda was available on the FOAT page of our website <https://smtcmpo.org/planning-activities/bicycle-pedestrian/active-transportation-forum/> and linked from the News page <https://smtcmpo.org/news/>)

5. As COVID-19 safety protocols evolve, we anticipate that the SMTC will begin holding in-person meetings again at some point in the future. If in-person meetings are allowed, how would you prefer to attend future Forum on Active Transportation meetings?



6. Any other feedback you would like to offer about the meeting?
 - Very well organized meeting. Thank you!
 - In response to Q5 it would be nice to alternate between the two.
 - Even if it goes in person, would suggest a recorded option still available to keep the information being available.
 - Nice to keep meetings on zoom even when live is available