



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

100 Clinton Square
126 N. Salina Street, Suite 100
Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: (315) 422-5716
Fax: (315) 422-7753
www.smtcmpo.org

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 20, 2022

10:00 a.m.

**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Virtual ZOOM Meeting**

Megan Costa, Chairperson, Presiding

AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - October 7, 2021
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. 2021-2022 UPWP Status Report
 - B. Update on the I-81 Viaduct Project from the NYSDOT
- 4. Old Business**
 - None
- 5. New Business**
 - A. 2022-2023 UPWP
 - B. LRTP Amendment
 - C. Safe Routes to School White Paper
 - D. Tuscarora Road Corridor Study
- 6. Public Comment**
- 7. Adjourn**

The Metropolitan Planning Organization

Office of the Mayor • Syracuse Common Council • Syracuse Planning Commission • CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity • New York State Department of Transportation • New York State Department of Environmental Conservation • New York State Department of Economic Development • New York State Thruway Authority • Office of the County Executive • Onondaga County Legislature • Onondaga County Planning Board • Central New York Regional Transportation Authority • Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board • Federal Transit Administration • Federal Highway Administration

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the January 20, 2022 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Megan Costa, Chair
Jerrin George
Brian Schultz
David Roth
Dave Mankiewicz
Mary Robison, Vice Chair
Martin Voss
David Bottar
Cody Kelly
Neil Burke
Allison Bodine

Organization

Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency
NYS Thruway Authority
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
NYS Department of Transportation
CenterState CEO
City of Syracuse, Administration
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
Onondaga County Legislature
City of Syracuse, DPW
City of Syracuse, Division of Planning

Also Attending

Odean Dyer
EJ Moses
Ed Mueller
Katie Bergan
Rich Sawczak
Mark Frechette
Jennifer Terry

Onondaga County Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Jason Deshaies, Andrew Frasier, Mike Alexander, Meghan Vitale, Tom Bardenett, Danielle Krol, Kevin Kosakowski

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Costa called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. via Zoom.

Mr. D'Agostino completed a roll call by Agency.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated the meeting is being recorded and live streamed on YouTube.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any changes to the October 7, 2021, minutes. Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Schultz moved, and Mr. Voss seconded the Approval of the Minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. 2021-2022 UPWP STATUS REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino moves to skip this report as a detailed UPWP overview will follow.

B. UPDATE ON THE I-81 VIADUCT PROJECT FROM THE NYSDOT

Mr. Frechette from the NYSDOT provided an update to the committee members on the latest efforts regarding the I-81 Viaduct Project. Mr. Frechette indicated that the NYSDOT has received over 7,500 comments, one of the highest comment rates of any project from NYSDOT. Mr. Frechette mentioned that one of the most frequent comments regarded workforce participation. The roundabout proposed by MLK Elementary School was an issue raised by many, with NYSDOT understanding that it is a non-starter for the community. Mr. Frechette indicated that an information center will reopen before and during the construction period to engage the community throughout the process. Mr. Frechette indicated that NYSDOT has sent letters to all property owners who would be affected by the project prior to public meetings with the aim of engaging them in the conversation. Comments that came in ranged in size and scope, with all being responded to and incorporated into the study. Mr. Frechette mentioned that comments from the CNY community have been valuable and have helped shape the project, with an example being the inclusion of Exit 3 off I-481 after the PDEIS release. Commenters will be able to see their comments, and the responses to them, within the FEIS when it is released. Mr. Frechette indicated that NYSDOT is still waiting on all the necessary federal approvals for the project. Once those approvals are received, the FEIS will be released with a 30-day comment period. NYSDOT is looking for this project to compete in the Reconnecting Neighborhoods program within the IIJA that was passed in 2021 by Congress. The Planning and Policy Committees have a voting role in the financing of this project. Mr. Frechette mentioned the Governor's budget proposal includes \$1.1 billion specifically for this project. Mr. Frechette indicated that NYSDOT will be working with the city and the surrounding community on prioritizing local hiring. A working group made up of DOT, FHWA, City of Syracuse, and our federal representatives was created to develop a local hiring preference for this project. NYSDOT performed a peer exchange with Colorado DOT to hear what the local hiring process was for their I-75 project. Training for construction positions was the biggest takeaway of this exchange. The local hiring goal for I-81 submitted to FHWA was 15%. Mr. Frechette is optimistic that the SEP14 application will be approved. There will be over seven million hours of work for this project overall.

Mr. Schultz inquired if any groups that have been actively pushing against this project have affected the timeline of the project in any way. Mr. Frechette indicates that a viaduct alternative has been carried through the report, but NYSDOT has decided that the community grid is the preferred alternative to be constructed. There will be five construction contracts for phase one of the project. These contracts cannot be finalized until after the plan is approved. NYSDOT looks for this to occur in early 2023.

Mr. Mankiewicz inquired about the \$1.9 billion approved by the State and if the State pays for the project up front and then returns to the federal government for the 80% reimbursement. Mr. Frechette indicated that a large portion of the funds from the State would be coming from funds provided to the State through the IIJA. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that SMTC receives federal funding to provide to local projects. Due to I-81 being a federally funded project, the SMTC must approve of the funding before it can be spent on the project.

Mr. Mankiewicz asked how "local" is being defined as part of the hiring program. Mr. Frechette indicated that it is still being defined, but the definition will be focusing on including communities considered economically depressed.

Mr. Bottar asked what the work force application included and for what the funds can be used. Mr. Frechette stated that training will be the most important item in terms of the local hiring process. Conducting outreach to bring in viable candidates and train them in the needed fields through the Syracuse Build initiative has already begun with multiple classes of apprentices graduating recently. These graduates may eventually work on the I-81 project, but they can work on any projects after their graduation from the program. The Department of Labor also has a \$1 million training program in place.

Mr. Frechette indicated that the SEP14 application, should it be approved, will allow for NYSDOT to require contractors to include up to 15% of the worker hours to be performed by local hires. Mr. Bottar asked whether NYSDOT has funding to add to the training programs like Syracuse Build as demand is out stripping the ability of these programs at this time. Mr. Frechette mentioned that NYSDOT includes language within their contracts funding for apprenticeship programs to bring develop workers. It typically takes 3 years to graduate apprenticeship programs. Mr. Frechette indicated that training does need to be ramped up to reach the needs of this project.

This was an information item only and no action is required by the Committee.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **2022-2023 UPWP**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that a call letter was sent to member agencies in the fall of 2021. As part of this meeting, the summary table was provided to members. Mr. D'Agostino reviewed the current UPWP including the projects that were completed in the past year. The SMTC has continued to expand public participation, releasing at least one printed newsletter and six digitally. The Forum on Active Transportation (FOAT) began this year. The 2020 Census is currently being analyzed and data incorporated into the SMTC database. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that SMTC has taken on a new consultant for traffic counts to help keep counts up to date.

The SMTC has a number of ongoing efforts including providing GIS assistance to member agencies and updating internal files; The Bridge and Pavement CMS was completed as it is annually; Citywide pavement ratings for the City of Syracuse has continued, helping guide investments in road reconstruction; City sidewalk rating has also continued with the assistance of summer interns with 350 miles completed so far; SCOPA's Empire State Trail Local Economic Opportunities Plan; Travel demand modeling has been conducted for multiple studies within the UPWP, including on the Route 11 study in Mattydale; the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been maintained. 100% of the funds have been obligated this year, which equates to \$76.162 million Federal. Development of a new 5-year TIP is underway.

The proposed 2022-2023 UPWP costs just over \$2 million with \$1.6 million for new FHWA and FTA planning funds. Eight major projects carrying over and nine new projects. Member agencies were contacted to submit planning projects. The projects carrying over into the new UPWP include: the Joint TMC Co-Location study; the Dome Traffic Management and Events Strategic Plan which is currently paused until the final decisions on I-81 are released; the Mattydale Rt 11 Corridor Study which will be completed in early 2022 with a public Q&A occurring shortly; the Manlius Village Center

Pedestrian Safety and Mobility Study; the Village of Skaneateles Pedestrian Safety and Access which just conducted a public outreach event this week; Syracuse School Loading Zone Study and the Syracuse Safe Routes to School Manual; and the Syracuse Residential Parking Permits Study which will be completed in the first half of 2022.

New projects for 2022-2023 include: a Centro rider on-board socio-economic survey; CNYRTA public outreach assistance; Downtown intersection safety; Westvale Plaza revitalization; Coldbrook Creek Trail study in the Valley neighborhood of the city; Westside Trail along Fayette Street in Syracuse; Community Streets Program building off Community Streets Guide from 2020; Nedrow Rt 11 Corridor Study; Martisco Rail-to-Trail Evaluation; and assistance for a variety of SOCPA's projects.

Mr. D'Agostino stated that given the size of the program, most projects will not be completed within the 2022-2023 program year and will carry over.

Mr. D'Agostino inquired if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Bottar moved, and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the 2022-2023 UPWP.

B. LRTP AMENDMENT

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the LRTP is being amended at this time in response to the release of the NYSDOT I-81 Viaduct Project DEIS.

Ms. Vitale gave a short presentation on the topic. Ms. Vitale mentioned that I-81 is currently identified as a "Regionally Significant" project and an "Illustrative Project." The individual projects for the I-81 construction will eventually need to be included as part of the SMTC's TIP, but first it must be included in the fiscally constrained portion of the LRTP. This means it cannot be considered an "Illustrative Project" any longer.

Addendum to Chapter 4:

- New safety targets adopted in June 2021 and current highway safety targets adopted in October 2021.

Revised Chapter 6:

- I-81 Community Grid Phase 1 (5 projects, \$800 million) added to short-term project list and Phase 2 (5 projects, \$1.1 billion) added to mid-term project lists
- Additional anticipated revenue
- I-81 Community Grid projects costs and revenues in the fiscal constraint analysis
- Revised text to remove I-81 from "Illustrative Projects"

The proposed changes were available for public comment October 25, 2021, through November 30, 2021. Two comments were received and responded to, including one from the Port of Oswego.

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Mankiewicz moved, and Mr. Mueller seconded the motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the proposed amendments to the 2050 LRTP – 2020 Update.

C. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL WHITE PAPER

Mr. D’Agostino indicated the effort is being completed at the request of the City of Syracuse and would like to acknowledge completion of the White Paper.

Ms. Vitale gave a brief presentation.

Chairperson Costa inquired whether districts outside of the city may find this project useful. Ms. Vitale indicated that other school districts could follow some of the examples noted in the white paper, but districts have varying transportation policies that affect how students get to school. Phase II will focus on the specific district so it may not be as applicable to other districts.

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Burke moved, and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion that the Planning Committee acknowledge the completion of the Safe Routes to School white paper.

D. TUSCARORA ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY

Mr. D’Agostino mentioned the study was conducted on behalf of the Village of Chittenango and would like to acknowledge its completion.

Mr. Colone played a pre-recorded presentation by Mr. Aaron McKeon discussing the completed corridor study.

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Bottar moved, and Mr. Mueller seconded the motion that the Planning Committee acknowledge the completion of the Tuscarora Road Corridor Study.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. D’Agostino reminded the Committee that there is a Policy Committee meeting on February 10, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m. by Chairperson Costa.