



## **Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council**

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### **PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**August 19, 2020  
10:00 a.m.**

#### **Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council Virtual ZOOM Meeting**

Mary Robison, Chairperson, Presiding

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
  - November 25, 2019  
(Joint April 2020 Planning/Policy Meeting Minutes will be acted on by the Policy Committee)
- 3. Communications and Reports**
  - A. 2020-2021 UPWP Status Report
  - B. Update on the I-81 Viaduct Project from the NYSDOT
- 4. Old Business**

None
- 5. New Business**
  - A. Long Range Transportation Plan Update
  - B. TIP Amendment(s)
  - C. Geddes & W. Fayette St. Complete Streets Review
  - D. RTC/Market Area Access Study
  - E. Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System
  - F. City of Syracuse Pavement Prioritization
  - G. City of Syracuse Sidewalk Assessment
  - H. U.S. Route 11 Corridor Plan (Cicero)
  - I. OCDOT Safety Assessment & Analysis
  - J. Election of Officers
- 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 AUGUST 19, 2020 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

### Voting Members

Megan Costa, Vice Chair  
David Bottar  
Neil Burke  
Chris Rauber  
Jerrin George  
Casey Jordan  
Owen Kerney  
James Fayle  
Brian Schultz  
Mark Frechette  
Jared Shepard  
Corey Driscoll-Dunham

### Organization

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

### Also Attending

Ed Mueller  
EJ Moses  
Carlos Gonzalez  
Raymond Tomczak  
David Roth  
Chris Tuff  
Odean Dyer

CNY Regional Transportation Authority  
CNY Regional Transportation Authority  
FHWA  
FTA  
NYS Department of Transportation  
Central New York Regional Transportation Authority  
Onondaga County Department of Transportation

### SMTC Staff

James D’Agostino, Kevan Busa, Mario Colone, Jason Deshaies, Andrew Frasier, Mike Alexander, Kevin Kosakowski, Danielle Krol, Aaron McKeon, Meghan Vitale, and Lori Irvine

### BUSINESS MEETING

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that the YouTube live stream failed due to technical issues. The call was being recorded and will be posted immediately following the call for public viewing.

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

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Megan Costa is filling in for Chairperson Mary Robison as she is unable to attend. Vice Chairperson Costa called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. via Zoom.

Vice Chairperson Costa asked if there were any additions or changes to the Agenda. Hearing none she moved to Approval of Minutes.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any changes to the November 25, 2019 minutes. There were none. Vice Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Schultz moved and Mr. Bottar seconded the approval of the minutes. Motion passed unanimously following a poll of the members.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

**A. UPWP STATUS REPORT**

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following: The SMTC office has been open since mid-June with a mixed hybrid of staff working in the office and at home with 1/3 of the staff working from the office at any given time. Mr. D'Agostino also indicated that the new Administrative Assistant for the SMTC is Lori Irvine who has replaced Patricia Wortley who is now the Business Manager at the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that there is a long agenda for today's meeting since it has been awhile since the last meeting due to the current Covid situation. There are several items to discuss such as the LRTP, S. Geddes & W. Fayette St. Complete Streets Review, RTC/Market Area Access Study, Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System, City of Syracuse Pavement Prioritization, City of Syracuse Sidewalk Assessment, U.S. Route 11 Corridor Plan (Cicero) and OCDOT Safety Assessment & Analysis. Additionally, there were several scopes that were approved by this Committee via mail earlier this summer. Mr. D'Agostino indicated they have tried to transition to an entirely virtual public involvement which seems to be working except for today. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that in terms of the Federal Transportation Legislation, they been working without a Transportation Bill due to the situation in Washington, D.C. and will not have it renewed for some time. Hopefully, they will continue with resolutions to bridge the gap. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that our in-staff Interns are doing fieldwork for a variety of data collection efforts. They are not doing traffic counts due to patterns being off due to the current Covid situation. Mr. D'Agostino indicated the Interns are working on a unique sidewalk data study for the City of Syracuse. They have broken the area into quadrants and with their technology (GPS, I-pads, custom data entry systems, etc.) have been able to come up with some useful data. Mr. D'Agostino is leaving it up to the City of Syracuse to decide whether they will handle it from now on or have the SMTC continue collecting the data. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that in terms of Geographic Information Systems, they are working with on the Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities Plan and city sidewalks. Mr. D'Agostino indicated the 2020 Bike Map is now available. It is pocket size and water-resistant. If anyone is interested in receiving some, please send him an email. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he has staff out there this summer rating the bridge and pavement conditions for both the City and the County. Mr. D'Agostino indicated there has not been a lot of progress with the Joint Traffic Management Co-Location project but is working with the City to provide technical assistance to their team to get their individual TMC up and running through their consultant based RFP and we have provided guidance along the way. Mr. D'Agostino advised that the Dome Traffic Management Strategic Plan is a large consultant-based study regarding access to the former Carrier dome in-light of the new traffic patterns from the I-81 construction. The RFP has been written and posted in the NYS Contract Reporter and would like to get responses, the contract on board and get it kicked off before the end of the calendar year. Mr. D'Agostino indicated the scopes of work that have been approved are the Tuscarora Road, Mattydale (Rt. 11) and Village of Skaneateles projects with the Manlius Village Center Study close to getting the scope completed this month and should go out for a mail vote in September. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Syracuse School Loading Project has been put on hold due to the current Covid situation and has moved up the Syracuse Residential Parking Permit Study and Safe Routes to

School Study that are currently being scoped. Mr. D'Agostino indicated the Travel Demand Model has been updated extensively and wanted to remind anyone wanting to use it for possible economic development or transportation program use to contact us as it is a good computer model and is ready to go. Mr. D'Agostino conveyed that most TIP projects are on schedule and will have a significant percentage meeting obligation. There were no questions.

No action is required by the Committee as this is an informational item.

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

Mr. Frechette provided a brief update to the members on the latest efforts regarding the 1-81 Viaduct project. Mr. Frechette indicated that last year was a big year with the Rt. 81 project Open House and the DOT recommendation of the Community Grid as the preferred alternative with the creation of the business loop concept which maintains a freeway north and south of the city going 65 mph. Mr. Frechette indicated that they held 11 neighborhood meetings along with noise wall and Stakeholder meetings. Mr. Frechette indicated the NYSDOT received over 1000 comments with each one taken into consideration and responded to. Most comments were related to jobs. The NYSDOT will be partnering with the City regarding a job initiative. Mr. Frechette indicated their goal was to improve and refine build solutions for both the Community Grid and Viaduct alternative long before they get to the construction phases. Mr. Frechette indicated that additional engineering and environmental analysis will be needed. In mid-July, the NYSDOT provided a draft to the Federal Highway Administration that needs to be signed before releasing it to the public. The NYSDOT is still waiting for their comments. Once the comments are received and worked out, it will then need to go to Headquarters in Washington D.C for a legal sufficiency review. Mr. Frechette indicated that the FHWA and NYSDOT is forming a committee on how to release the DEIS to the public because there needs to be a public hearing first then the public is provided 45-60 days to send in their comments. Mr. Frechette stated this would be difficult due to the current Covid situation. Mr. Frechette indicated it is very important the public is given an opportunity for their comments, for the NYSDOT to address their concerns and to engage the community. Mr. Jordan had a question regarding the initiatives for the three alternatives and a discussion took place.

No action is required and is presented as an informational item.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN – MOVING TOWARD A GREATER SYRACUSE – 2020 UPDATE**

Mr. D'Agostino reviewed the current work program noting the completed items and other accomplishments. The SMTC staff has completed the required 5-year update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Ms. Vitale, Principal Transportation Planner at SMTC gave a brief presentation of the draft LRTP Update which included: National Goals, Goals & Objectives, Regionally Significant Projects, Demographics & Economy, the System Performance Report, Emerging trends in transportation, Future Projects, the meaning of "Maintenance", Future costs by category, Fiscal Constraint, Additional Projects, Public Outreach and "What's Next". Mr. Gonzalez from the Federal Highway Administration thanked SMTC for their work on this. Onondaga County Legislature, Mr. Jordan had questions regarding the Caughdenoy Road/Rt.

31 project and Hiawatha St. bridge project. Discussion occurred. Public comments on the draft LRTP Update are being accepted through September 2, 2020. Mr. D'Agostino would like to have the Planning Committee recommend the Policy Committee adopt the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) - Moving Toward a Greater Syracuse—2020 Update prior to September 30, 2020.

Vice Chairperson Costa took a vote and all were in favor. The Planning Committee voted for the Policy committee approve this item.

**B. TIP AMENDMENTS**

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is in need of the following amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program:

Addition of project:

PIN 360417 (VPP/MILL RT 20, LAFAYETTE/POMPEY TN LINE TO MADISON CO LINE, TN OF POMPEY). Sponsor NYSDOT. The NYSDOT is proposing to add the project to the current TIP, specifically the Construction and Inspection phases to Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 20/21, utilizing \$1,698,000 of NHPP federal funds and \$468,000 of State Dedicated Funds (SDF). Offset provided by funds from outside the SMTC planning area.

PIN 360418 (VPP/MILL RT 31, BALDWINSVILLE E VIL LINE TO BELGIUM BRIDGE, TN OF LYSANDER). Sponsor NYSDOT. The NYSDOT is proposing to add the project to the current TIP, specifically the Construction and Inspection phases to FFY 20/21, utilizing \$581,000 of NHPP federal funds and \$160,000 of SDF. Offset provided by funds from outside the SMTC planning area.

Mr. Frechette from the NYSDOT indicated these will both be simplified paving projects.

The Planning Committee recommends the Policy Committee approve the TIP amendments.

Mr. Schultz moved and Mr. Rauber seconded a motion. Motion Passed.

**C. SOUTH GEDDES & W. FAYETTE ST. COMPLETE STREETS REVIEW**

As part of the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 UPWPs, the SMTC agreed to assist the City of Syracuse in identifying opportunities to add or improve bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities within the existing right-of-way on South Geddes and West Fayette Streets. Recommendations suggested in this report include:

- Adding transit-friendly features, such as concrete landing pads and benches to bus stops with the highest ridership in the study area;
- Bringing sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps into ADA and City codes compliance, and adding RRFB's where appropriate;
- Implementing a side-path on the west side of Geddes Street or implementing a road diet to accommodate on-road bike lanes;
- Adding formalized parking on the western end of West Fayette Street, along with improved sidewalks;
- Implementing a walkway enhancement design concept to improve the pedestrian experience under the abandoned railroad tracks on West Fayette Street (west of Geddes Street); and
- Construct a multi-use trail linking Lipe Art Park to the west side of South Geddes Street.

Design concepts for this project were presented at a public meeting on February 6, 2020. The Draft Final Report is available for review on the SMTC website.

Ms. Krol, Sr. Transportation Planner with SMTC provided an overview presentation of the study at the meeting.

Mr. Burke moved and Mr. Kerney seconded a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the South Geddes and West Fayette Street Complete Streets Review Study. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. RTC/MARKET AREA ACCESS STUDY**

As part of the 2018-2019 UPWP, the SMTC identified four intersections to improve for Northside residents who walk or bike to the Regional Market and Destiny USA. The study also identifies “high-level” options to connect to existing trails. Concept plans in this report include:

- Four priority intersections: Hiawatha/Park, Hiawatha/Carbon, Hiawatha/Tex Simone, and Park/Harborside/NBT Bank Stadium;
- Where deemed feasible, options are presented for bike lanes, shared lane markings, off-road shared use paths, sidewalks, ADA-compliant curb ramps and crosswalks, pedestrian refuge islands, Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI), on-road parking, etc.;
- Lane reduction and reconfiguration options along Park Street (north of Farmers Market Place), and at Park/Hiawatha;
- High-level concepts for on- and/or off-road facilities to Destiny USA and to existing trails (i.e., the Onondaga Creekwalk, the Loop-the-Lake Trail, the Park Street Bikeway (abandoned), and the Beartrap Creek Trail).

SMTC conducted outreach at community group meetings, with refugee service providers, and at two staffed information kiosks (at the Regional Market). SMTC also posted the draft report online for a 30-day public review period.

The Draft Final Report is available for review on the SMTC website.

A brief presentation was provided by Transportation Analyst, Mr. Frasier on behalf of the Project Manager, Mr. Alexander from SMTC at the meeting.

Vice Chairperson Costa and Mr. Burke thanked Mr. Alexander for his work on this project.

Mr. Kerney moved and Mr. Burke seconded a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the RTC/Market Area Mobility Study. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. BRIDGE & PAVEMENT CONDITION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The goal of this reoccurring work item is to report, map, and analyze roadway bridge and federal-aid eligible pavement conditions in our Metropolitan Planning Area.

Mr. Frasier, Transportation Analyst at SMTC provided a brief presentation at the meeting. This presentation included an update of the Yearly Report, Report Goals, the Bridge Rating

System, Pavement Rating Scale, Weighted Average FAE Rating, Performance Measures & the LRTP. Mr. D'Agostino reiterated that we are still missing NYSDOT Data Ratings.

The Draft Final Report is available for review on the SMTC website.

Mr. Jordan questioned the percentage of bridges in poor condition vs. the 4-year target percentage. Discussion occurred with Mr. Frasier and Mr. Frechette.

Mr. Frechette moved and Mr. Schultz seconded a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the BPCMS report at their meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. CITY OF SYRACUSE PAVEMENT PRIORITIZATION**

On behalf of the City of Syracuse, the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council conducted an analysis of the City's road network to provide insight into prioritizing certain roads for pavement maintenance. The City was interested in determining roads where the investment of resources would be justified. The memo outlines the methods considered in this analysis and an explanation of the final products.

Using available data, the SMTC developed a Priority Score on each applicable road segment. This score considered several variables, including pavement rating (collected by the SMTC in 2019), traffic volumes, and functional classification, among others.

The approach considered in this analysis is just one of several possible data-driven approaches. The approach utilized data accessible by the agency and seeks to create a repeatable process that stands on solid analytical ground. The output suggests roads which could be considered reasonable candidates for reconstruction.

The Draft Technical Memorandum is available for review on the SMTC website.

A brief overview was given at the meeting by Mr. Frasier, Transportation Analyst at SMTC.

Mr. Burke and Ms. Driscoll-Dunham both agreed this was a very useful and helpful effort and thanked the partnership with SMTC. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that if they would like to continue with this partnership in the future, they would need to put in their request in a timely manner.

No vote required as this is an informational item only.

**G. CITY OF SYRACUSE - SIDEWALK ASSESSMENT**

As part of its City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support item, the SMTC agreed to support the City's investigation into the feasibility of a city-wide sidewalk maintenance program, to be developed and administered by the City of Syracuse.

Mr. McKeon, Sr. Transportation Planner at the SMTC prepared a detailed presentation outlining an approach to prioritizing sidewalk maintenance throughout the city based on a quantitative assessment of pedestrian demand and safety considerations.

Two products came out of this effort:

- Every sidewalk in the city was assigned a “priority” score based on a combination of factors.
- Every sidewalk segment in the city was included in a geodatabase; when sidewalk quality ratings (to be collected in the future) are added to this geodatabase, the City can use priority and quality scores to develop sidewalk maintenance work plans based on objective criteria.

The Draft Technical Memorandum is available for review on the SMTC website.

Mr. D’Agostino indicated this was a data collection pilot project for the City of Syracuse. There were 2-3 staff out there every day and were able to complete several neighborhoods but due to the size of the City, they could not complete it all.

Mr. Kearney moved, and Mr. Schultz seconded a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the study. Motion passed.

#### **H U.S. ROUTE 11 CORRIDOR PLAN (CICERO)**

As part of the 2019-2020 UPWP, the SMTC completed the US 11 Corridor Study for the Town of Cicero. This study considered future land use and transportation system needs within the US 11 corridor from Bear Road to Route 31. The Study Advisory Committee (SAC) provided input on the anticipated future development in the study corridor, and SMTC staff used various analysis tools to determine the expected impacts on the transportation system.

The SAC then identified four focus areas, and SMTC staff worked with the SAC members to create conceptual development plans for these areas, drawing on the existing and future analysis results. These concept plans emphasize mixed used development, internal road connections, and walkability. Although conceptual, these plans may be used by the Town to inform future planning efforts and examination of existing zoning.

Ms. Vitale, Principal Transportation Planner at SMTC provided an overview of the study at the meeting.

The full Draft Final Report can be viewed on the SMTC website.

Vice Chairperson Costa thanked Ms. Vitale for her efforts with this project.

Vice Chairperson Costa moved and Mr. Schultz seconded a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the report. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **I OCODT SAFETY ASSESSMENT & ANALYSIS**

As part of the 2018-2019 UPWP, the SMTC agreed to conduct a County roadway network screening of fatal and serious injury crash patterns (for a 3-year period) to identify and summarize findings for ‘hot spot’ locations as well as identify high-risk roads for systemic emphasis areas. The Safety Assessment identified:

- 50 Focus Segments and 42 Focus Intersections - sorted into Priority (‘hot spots’) and Special Mention (Tier I-III) categories;
- Hot spots include: 5 road segments and 7 signalized intersections, a detailed summary of

crash patterns was provided;

- High-risk roads (based on features that are correlated with particular crash types, rather than crash frequency) for each systemic emphasis area: *intersections, lane departure, vulnerable users, speed, age-related, and driver behavior.*

Hot spot and high-risk road findings will help guide the County's selection of safety solutions and help place the County at a competitive advantage when seeking safety funds.

Transportation Analyst, Mr. Frasier gave a short presentation on behalf of Project Manager, Mike Alexander of SMTC.

Mr. Jordan questioned if the OCDOT would be incorporating this into their Highway Plan. Mr. Rauber indicated that they will.

This was a technical assessment only- public review was not required.

The Draft Final Report is available for review on the SMTC website.

Mr. Rauber moved and Mr. Schultz seconded a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge completion of the 2020 Onondaga County Safety Assessment Study. Motion Passed.

## **J** **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Pursuant to the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's (SMTC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and By-Laws, the Policy, Planning and Executive Committees are due to elect, by consensus of each Committee, a new slate of officers. The term of office is two (2) years and commences August 19, 2020 and expires August, 2022. The New York State Department of Transportation shall serve as the Secretary of the Policy Committee and the Executive Committee, and the Central Staff Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Planning Committee.

Chairperson Robison and Vice Chairperson Costa would like to switch roles.

Mr. Schultz moved and Mr. Burke seconded a motion. Motion passed.

The Policy Committee will select officers at their upcoming September 23rd meeting.

## **6.** **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **7.** **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m. with a motion from Mr. Schultz seconded by Mr. Frechette.