



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 7, 2021

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**
 - May 19, 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. Highway Safety Targets
 - B. TIP Amendments
 - C. SMTC Portfolio Story Map
- 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 October 7, 2021 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Megan Costa, Chair
Neil Burke
Jerrin George
Brian Schultz
David Roth
Dave Mankiewicz
Mary Robison, Vice Chair
Odean Dyer
Patricia Wortley

Organization

Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency
City of Syracuse DPW
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

Also Attending

EJ Moses
Ed Mueller
Mark Frechette

CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
NYS Department of Transportation

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Jason Deshaies, Andrew Frasier, Mike Alexander, Meghan Vitale, and Lori Irvine

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 May 19, 2021 minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Roth moved, and Mr. Mankiewicz seconded the Approval of the Minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**
A. 2021-2022 UPWP STATUS REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino indicated the following: General Administration – The SMTC has begun the process of planning for the next program year. A Call Letter was recently sent out to all SMTC's member agencies, towns and villages. Mr. D'Agostino indicated there will be significant room in next year's program and strongly encouraged project ideas to be sent in. There is also an upcoming required federal FHWA/FTA certification which will happen virtually between November 30th through December 2nd. This will require some of the meeting attendees to attend virtually at some point. When a detailed agenda is received, Mr. D'Agostino will share it. Additionally, there will be several other meetings scheduled in January related to the certification. There will be separate, individual meetings with the Planning and Policy Chairperson, a mass meeting to include all Planning and Policy members for a Q&A session plus a Stakeholders meeting; Public Participation – SMTC held their third Forum on Active Transportation (FOAT) on September 29th where Dan Kwasnowski from SOCPA was the guest speaker and introduced the county's new comprehensive plan, PLAN ONondaga to the attendees. Chairperson Costa indicated that the attendees should be receiving an invite soon for a Focus Group Meeting on Mobility. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the SMTC also sent out an e-newsletter in September and will have additional public involvement opportunities with the LRTP and TIP amendments for I-81; Federal Transportation Legislation Examination & Evaluation – There is no advancement on a new multi-year infrastructure bill and the current bill is on a temporary 30-day extension; Data Collection Compilation &/or Analysis – Staff is trying to complete some last minute traffic counts before the snow flies; Geographic Information Systems (SMTC) – Staff completed several draft interactive maps including a StoryMap that highlights projects completed by SMTC, a Project Location and Environmental Considerations Map which can be accessed from our website. This item will be discussed in length later in the agenda by Mr. Deshaies; Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System – Ratings have been completed for the season. They will be compiled and presented at an upcoming Planning & Policy Committee Meeting; I-81 Participation – The draft DEIS has been released and the public comment period is closing in the near future. SMTC staff is submitting comments on behalf of the MPO. SMTC will be required to do a LRTP Amendment followed by a TIP Amendment which will probably occur sometime in January. This step is required to be completed before NYSDOT can access any Capital funding for this project. If everything stays on schedule, the plan is for a Planning Committee Meeting to happen followed a couple weeks later by a Policy Committee Meeting where the SMTC will ask for adoption of the Amendment to the LRTP that rolls into the I-81 project and Phase 1 funding to be added to the TIP. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that these meetings will be held in-person for committee members but will be live-streamed for the public to attend; MPO Area Regional Planning Initiatives – Staff is wrapping up the EST Local Economic Opportunities Plan for SOCPA and is currently waiting on the approval from OCDOT for the Onondaga County base map to send to the printer; Long Range Transportation Plan/Performance Based Measures – A SAC meeting was held on October 5th to discuss the contents of the amendments and it appears there are no objections and is on target to move ahead; Rail, Truck & Transit Planning – The required Coordinated Plan is currently being updated and staff recently had a call with FHWA regarding freight movement. Mr. D'Agostino asked if anyone had any freight issues to bring them to his attention so they can be addressed as this is a high priority item for FHWA and the community; Joint TMC Co-Location – Efforts continue on summarizing case study research for inclusion in the project's documentation and a White Paper to be adopted later this year; Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan – SMTC Staff and our consultant Stantec have held numerous small group meetings with Syracuse University stakeholders. Stantec has provided SMTC with an Existing Conditions report which the SMTC is currently reviewing. Some of Stantec's staff will be attending an upcoming Syracuse University home football game

(10/15/2021) to review current traffic and parking patterns. Ms. Vitale mentioned that the Traffic Count consultant will also be around doing counts that evening and that she will be posting a link to the public survey and asked members to participate and pass it along for others to complete as well; Tuscarora Road Corridor Study – Staff prepared a narrated video outlining the project and posted it on SMTC’s YouTube channel then a live, interactive session will be planned for public review and comment; US Route 11 Corridor Plan – This study is making considerable progress and is on target to be completed by the end of the program year; Manlius Village Center Pedestrian Safety & Mobility Study – This study is on track to be completed this program year; Village of Skaneateles Pedestrian Safety & Access – Staff is currently working on a draft presentation which will be posted on the SMTC YouTube page followed by a virtual Q&A session with the public; Syracuse Sidewalk Planning Study – Work on rating sidewalk conditions has been completed for this year and the City of Syracuse has requested the SMTC collect again for them next year and lastly TIP Development & Maintenance – SMTC has started a new FY this month. The NYSDOT has requested two TIP Amendments which are on the schedule for today’s meeting. Mr. D’Agostino indicated that the SMTC closed out LY with all the money being obligated and is working on reports to share to indicate as such.

Ms. Robison asked if the new TIP amendment for I-81 was contingent on the new infrastructure bill passing. Mr. Frechette responded that it was and discussion occurred.

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

Mr. Frechette from the NYSDOT provided a brief update to the committee members on the latest efforts regarding the I-81 Viaduct Project. Mr. Frechette indicated that the NYSDOT is pleased with the public engagement over the last three months and indicated the public comment period will end on October 14th which was extended from the original date of September 14th. Mr. Frechette mentioned that so far over 3000 comments have been received. Mr. Frechette also mentioned that there were two virtual hearings and two in-person hearings that were held in August along with nine neighborhood/community meetings. Mr. Frechette indicated there has been five significant changes from a scope perspective to the 2019 document which were explained to the committee members. Mr. Frechette indicated that controversial items which will be taken into consideration are the roundabout, skybridge and local jobs with a lot of work being done behind the scenes with job advocacy groups. The next steps are the Federal Legal Sufficiency Review followed by any engineering/environmental analysis changes followed by the FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement) which will include a public 30-day review process then the Record of Decision which is the final decision. Mr. Frechette emphasized that public engagement will be able to continue throughout the project and is planning on a public outreach center to open during construction so the public can call or stop in and have discussions with the DOT.

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

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. HIGHWAY SAFETY TARGETS

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that as required by the FAST Act, the SMTC has the option to either adopt the performance measure targets established by the State or develop our own. The State adopted 2022 safety targets in August 2021 for the following performance measures:

- Number of fatalities
- Rates of fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- Number of serious injuries
- Rates of serious injuries per 100 Million VMT
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.

Staff provided an overview of the proposed Performance Measure Targets at the meeting.

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Burke moved and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion that the Planning Committee recommend the Policy Committee adopt the 2022 Safety Performance Measure Targets.

B. TIP AMENDMENTS

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is in need of the following 2 amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program.

Addition of project:

PIN 350199 (I-81 over Oneida River/NYS Barge Canal Bridge Rehabilitation)

PIN STIC21 (Sharing Transportation Industry Career Incentive Program FY21)

Discussion occurred at the meeting.

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Roth moved and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion that the Planning Committee recommend the Policy Committee approve the TIP Amendments.

C. SMTC PORTFOLIO STORY MAP

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that the SMTC has created several new interactive mapping applications including a Work Products Portfolio Story Map, a Project Locations and Environmental Considerations Map, an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Devices Map, and an Environmental Justice Mapper. These tools will be useful for member agencies and the public to learn about SMTC projects and download documents, review environmental features within project study areas, identify locations of ITS devices within the SMTC Planning Area, and inform the public about the demographic makeup of our metropolitan planning area respectively. These new applications are available from the SMTC website and will be helpful for users, including project sponsors, to review past projects and to perform additional analysis.

A brief presentation of these resources was given to members by Mr. Deshaies.

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

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m. by Chairperson Costa.