



## Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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### PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

**November 25, 2019**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council  
Lower Level Conference Room  
Syracuse*

Mary Robison, Chairperson, Presiding

### AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
  - June 3, 2019
- 3. Communications and Reports**
  - A. 2019-2020 UPWP Status Report
  - B. Update on the I-81 Viaduct Project from the NYSDOT
- 4. Old Business**

None
- 5. New Business**
  - A. 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program
  - B. Safety Performance Measure Targets
  - C. Erie Boulevard Transit Mobility Enhancement Draft Final Technical Memorandum
  - D. NPMRDS Web Interface
  - E. Congestion Management Process 2019 Status Update Draft Final Report
  - F. Community Streets White Paper – City of Syracuse
  - G. City of Syracuse Supplemental Pavement Rating Program
- 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 NOVEMBER 25, 2019 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

### Voting Members

Mary Robison, Chair  
David Bottar  
Neil Burke  
Trendon Choe  
Megan Costa  
Odean Dyer  
Jerrin George  
Casey Jordan  
Owen Kerney  
Dan Kolinski  
Rick Lee  
John Reichert  
Jared Shepard

### Organization

City of Syracuse  
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board  
City of Syracuse DPW  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency  
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

### Also Attending

Julie Baldwin  
Carlos Gonzalez  
Dave Mankiewicz  
David Roth  
Trevor Thieme  
Chris Tuff

NYS Department of Transportation  
FHWA  
CenterState CEO  
NYS Department of Transportation  
NYS Thruway Authority  
Central New York Regional Transportation Authority

### SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Kevan Busa, Mario Colone, Jason Deshaies, Andrew Frasier, Kevin Kosakowski, Danielle Krol, Aaron McKeon, Meghan Vitale, and Patricia Wortley

### BUSINESS MEETING

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Robison called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, Syracuse, NY. Introductions followed.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairperson inquired if there were any changes to the June 3, 2019 minutes. Mr. Jordan requested his stated remarks under the Armory Square item be deleted. The Chairperson called for a motion.

Mr. Dyer moved and Ms. Costa seconded approval of the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

**A. UPWP STATUS REPORT**

Mr. D'Agostino stated that the 2019-2020 Status Report would be highlighted under item 5A. He noted he has been reporting there was going to be a FAST Act rescission. There is no rescission through as a continuing resolution passed last week.

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

Mr. D'Agostino stated the Mr. Frechette was unable to attend today's meeting and this item is tabled. Mr. Frechette will give an update at the Policy Committee meeting in December.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **2020-2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

Mr. D'Agostino reviewed the current work program noting the completed items and other accomplishments. Mr. D'Agostino reviewed the new UPWP, with a \$1.6 million budget. He noted that we are receiving \$400,000 in SPR funds from the NYSDOT for the Dome Traffic Management and Events Strategic Plan. This will be a consultant led, multi-year study. Mr. D'Agostino stated that we received 15 applications in response to our October call letter. Mr. D'Agostino reviewed the proposals. There were two projects from the City of Syracuse and two projects from CenterState CEO that will be not part of the new program. We have no carryover funds from the current UPWP to program to the new UPWP.

Mr. Mankiewicz stated that CenterState obviously has concerns since their two projects were relative to I-81. He stated that they have met with NYSDOT and SMTC. He believes the southside concerns are being addressed. CenterState still has concerns about the downtown center core. These concerns include downtown employees, deliveries, etc. He stated that no one is opposed to the Community Grid; they are looking at how they can do the Community Grid. It is getting people to understand what is going to happen. Mr. Mankiewicz cited the Irving and Crouse areas and how these areas are going to respond to more traffic on the streets. The business groups are starting to talk to CenterState on how they are going to make this work. Mr. Mankiewicz stated that we cannot wait until the construction starts to address these issues. Mr. D'Agostino stated that the SMTC does not disagree; we are just not sure this is an UPWP project. He stated that it is part of the NYSDOT's process. We still have a preliminary draft DEIS. If it becomes clear that NYSDOT is not addressing the concerns as part of their process then CenterState can bring it back to the SMTC.

Mr. Reichert stated that Mr. Frechette has met with the hospitals. Mr. Mankiewicz stated that in conversations with Mr. Frechette he sounded constrained with regard to the neighborhoods. CenterState has talked with Mr. Loh from the City. CenterState is just looking for some help. He stated that tenants are already starting to make decisions about signing leases and building owners deciding if they should invest in their buildings. They need help sooner rather than later. Mr. D'Agostino stated CenterState could approach the SMTC if their needs are not being met by the NYSDOT. He stated that some of it is somewhat speculative. Mr. Mankiewicz stated that when things are speculative is when rumors run amok. Discussion ensued. Mr. Mankiewicz cited the 1,600 cars that park under the viaduct now. He questioned where are the people going to go. Mr. Frechette has told CenterState they are looking at building a garage. Employers are looking at where their employees are going to park and they

are beginning to look to the suburbs. Mr. Reichert stated that he would relay the concerns back to Mr. Frechette.

Mr. Kerney acknowledged Mr. Mankiewicz's comments. They are worth reinforcing despite the project being omitted from the UPWP.

Mr. Kerney moved and Mr. Bottar seconded a motion that the Policy Committee adopt the 2020-2021 UPWP at their December 12 meeting. Motion carried with one opposition vote from CenterState CEO.

**B. SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Mr. D'Agostino stated that as required by the FAST Act, the SMTC has the option to adopt the performance measures adopted by the State or develop our own. The State adopted 2020 safety targets in August 2019 for the following performance measures: number of fatalities, rate of fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled, and number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries. The SMTC sees no need to develop our own so we will adopt the State's.

Mr. Reichert moved and Mr. Kerney seconded a motion that the Policy Committee adopt the Safety Performance Measures Resolution at their December 12 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. ERIE BOULEVARD TRANSIT MOBILITY ENHANCEMENT DRAFT FINAL TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

Mr. D'Agostino stated that the Town of DeWitt requested this study. Mr. Busa gave an overview of the work performed.

Mr. Burke stated this study has been helpful to the City of Syracuse already with a proposed redevelopment of an unoccupied building on Erie Boulevard. Ms. Costa would like to use this information in other studies we are working on. It is a good model to use when we look at corridors. The town planning boards should work with the developers. She stated that this information is super helpful.

Mr. Burke moved and Mr. Kerney seconded a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Technical Memorandum for the above project. Motion carried.

**D. NPMRDS WEB INTERFACE**

Mr. D'Agostino stated that this is an informational item. The information is valuable as it gives us a set of tools, in addition to our model. It is a better understanding of 'what is.' Mr. Deshaies gave an overview of the tool.

Mr. Shepard inquired about getting the data. Mr. D'Agostino stated that people can request the data through the SMTC.

No action is required of this committee.

**E. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS 2019 STATUS UPDATE – DRAFT FINAL REPORT**

Mr. D'Agostino stated that this report utilizes data from the NPMRDS, as described in the last

presentation. This report is conducted as a federal requirement. Mr. Kosakowski gave an overview of the report.

Mr. D'Agostino stated that our congestion levels are pretty low. Mr. Gonzalez stated that there is a little red there. He stated that presentation showed how we are taking care of business in this area.

Ms. Costa moved and Mr. Dyer seconded a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the report. Motion carried.

**F. COMMUNITY STREETS WHITE PAPER**

Mr. D'Agostino stated this was completed under the City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support work item. The SMTC researched other cities' programs for approving citizen-led 'tactical urbanism' projects. Mr. McKeon provided an overview of the work completed for the City.

Mr. Jordan stated that Syracuse seems like a pretty good area to test this. He believes there would be a period of time needed for people to get used to a change in traffic pattern and two-three weeks does not seem to be enough time. Mr. McKeon reviewed an example from Fayetteville, Arkansas. Mr. Burke stated the city receives a lot of requests for community projects and a lot of them are denied. This is intended to help the City to say yes a little more often. Mr. Gonzalez stated that this seems like a great way to engage folks.

No action is required of this committee.

**G CITY OF SYRACUSE SUPPLEMENTAL PAVEMENT RATING PROGRAM**

Mr. D'Agostino stated that the SMTC provided the City of Syracuse with pavement rating assistance. We are utilizing the NYSDOT windshield rating system. You may have seen the program on the news lately. Mr. Frasier gave an overview of the supplemental work conducted by the SMTC.

The Chairperson thanked the staff, stating it is a great tool. Ms. Costa inquired if the SMTC is still visually rating the roads. Mr. D'Agostino stated that we do. Mr. Shepard inquired if the data will be available. Mr. Frasier stated the data would be available next year.

No action is required of this committee.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m. with a motion from Mr. Kerney seconded by Mr. Dyer.