



## **Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council**

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### **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 23, 2020**

**10:00 a.m.**

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

Brian Schultz, Chairperson, Presiding

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
  - April 28, 2020
- 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 September 23, 2020 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

### Voting Members

Brian Schultz - Chair  
Joe Driscoll  
Corey Driscoll-Dunham  
James Fayle  
Dave Mankiewicz  
Trendon Choe  
David Smith  
Jerrin George  
Odean Dyer  
David Knapp  
Dan Kwasnowski  
Steve Kulick

### Organization

CNY Regional Transportation Authority  
City of Syracuse Common Council  
City of Syracuse, Administration  
Empire State Development  
CenterState CEO  
NYSDEC  
NYSDOT  
NYSTA  
Onondaga County DOT  
Onondaga County Legislature  
Onondaga County Planning Board  
Syracuse Planning Commission

### Also Attending

Christopher Tuff	CNY Regional Transportation Authority
Mary Robison	City of Syracuse, Administration
Neil Burke	City of Syracuse, Administration
Jared Shepard	CenterState CEO
Mark Frechette	NYSDOT
Casey Jordan	Onondaga County Legislature
Heather Lamendola	Syr. Planning Comm.
Raymond Tomczak	FTA
Carlos Gonzalez	FHWA

### 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 completed a roll call by Agency.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Schultz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Schultz inquired if there were any changes to the April 28, 2020 minutes. Hearing none, Chairperson Schultz called for a motion.

Mr. Knapp moved and Mr. Smith seconded the Approval of Minutes. Following roll call of the members, the motion carried unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

**A. UPWP STATUS REPORT**

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following: The SMTC staff is still working at a mix of on-site and at home with most projects on schedule except for a couple of necessary modifications such as projects related to schools which have been placed on hold. Mr. D'Agostino indicated there are eight completed studies that will be presented during today's program. In reference to Public Participation, Mr. D'Agostino indicated they are advancing and learning and requested feedback from the participants regarding today's meeting. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Federal Transportation Legislation has an expiring Transportation Bill with hopes for a Continuing Resolution. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Sidewalk Data Collection project for the City of Syracuse that was worked on this summer is now wrapped up. SMTC did not complete a traffic count study due to the abnormal traffic patterns. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the 2020 Bike Maps are in and if anyone wanted a box to distribute, they should contact a SMTC staff member. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that work has been wrapped up for the Empire State Trail Economics Opportunity Plan for the County. Mr. D'Agostino state that the LRTP is complete and on today's agenda along with several other projects. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan which is how we will eventually get to the Dome for special events once the new I-81 has been constructed had its scope written and approved, the RFP sent out, ten expressions of interest received and finally a total of eight proposals received for consideration. The proposals will be reviewed within the next week or so. Mr. D'Agostino indicated this has a project budget of \$400,000 and is expected to be a highly competitive process. Mr. D'Agostino indicated there were four scopes of work that were recently approved: The Tuscarora Road Corridor Study, US Route 11 Corridor Plan, Village of Skaneateles Pedestrian Safety & Access Study and the Dome Traffic Management Study. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that the Manlius Village Center Pedestrian Safety & Mobility Study and City of Syracuse Residential Parking Permits Study scopes are written but not yet approved, and the Syracuse Sidewalk Planning Study is well underway. Lastly, Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Transportation Improvement Program, which is a capital funded program closes at the end of this month due to fiscal year end and were successful earlier this month at the Executive Committee Meeting in shuffling around projects and schedules to have every dollar obligated and invested. Mr. D'Agostino thanked the State DOT along with all agencies in getting this done.

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 of the NYSDOT provided a brief update to the members on the latest efforts regarding the I-81 Viaduct project. Mr. Frechette indicated that the NYSDOT has worked very hard behind the scenes since the last Policy Committee Meeting.

Mr. Frechette indicated that 2019 was a very big year announcing the recommended idea of the Community Grid as the preferred alternative which will allow high speed freeway traffic of 65 mph in and out of the city. Mr. Frechette indicated that they held an open house which was attended by over 900 people, held 11 neighborhood meetings, 4 noise wall meetings and multiple stakeholder meetings. Mr. Frechette indicated the NYSDOT received over 1000 comments with each one taken into consideration and responded to. Mr. Frechette indicated that they received many concerns regarding Exit 3 (Route 5) along Rte. 481 near Wegman's which is now being

taken into consideration along with multiple other areas. Mr. Frechette indicated that the goal was to educate the public, listen to their concerns, and take into consideration their ideas to improve upon the build alternatives. Mr. Frechette indicated that as a result, the DOT is now adding additional engineering and additional environmental analysis. Mr. Frechette indicated that there are still two viable solutions: their recommendation of the Community Grid and the alternative solution as the Viaduct replacement.

Mr. Frechette indicated the NYSDOT has completed the modifications to the draft of the Environmental Impact Statement and in July they shared the document with their Federal partners which will need to buy into the changes. Mr. Frechette indicated that from there the document needs to go to Headquarters in Washington for the legal sufficiency review then released to the public for a hearing. Mr. Frechette indicated they are reviewing other state's public meeting ideas through COVID as the public hearing will need to take place within 2-3 weeks after the draft is released. Mr. Frechette indicated an exact timeframe has not been established yet, but reassured they are fully engaged with the project.

Mr. Driscoll inquired if changes can be made to the DEIS if better alternatives are presented at the public engagement sessions prior to the final record of decision. Mr. Frechette confirmed that changes can be made prior to the final solution of the record of decision. Discussion also took place regarding local jobs being an important factor in this project.

Mr. Knapp inquired about the economic analysis associated with the diversion of truck traffic specifically for southern, western towns along with the Salina area. Mr. Frechette indicated that the results will be shared at the next public hearing.

No action is required as this 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 indicated the SMTC staff has completed the mandatory 5-year update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan and the recommendation is to have the Policy Committee adopt the changes before September 30, 2020.

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. Mankiewicz inquired about the I-81 funding and whether it will impact the funding for the LRTP. Mr. D'Agostino responded that this is unknown.

Mr. Driscoll inquired about expanding the current system. Discussion occurred with Ms. Vitale and conversation will continue at a later time.

Mr. Gonzalez from the Federal Highway Administration thanked Mr. D'Agostino and Ms. Vitale for their work on this update and reiterated that all funding changes/requests need to go through the required process.

Chairperson Schultz asked for a motion for the Policy Committee to approve the LRTP.

Mr. Mankiewicz moved and Ms. Dunham seconded the motion. Chairperson Schultz took a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**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 \$1,449,000 of NHPP federal funds and \$399,000 of State Dedicated Funds (SDF). Offset provided by PIN 328723 (Onondaga Lake Parkway Safety Improvements, Old Liverpool to I-81 Ramp, Tn of Salina, Onondaga Co) and 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 \$813,000 of NHPP federal funds and \$224,000 of SDF. Offset provided by PIN 328723 and funds from outside the SMTC planning

Mr. D'Agostino indicated both projects are for the next fiscal year which begins October, 2020.

Chairperson Schultz called for a motion for the Policy Committee to adopt the Tip Amendments.

Mr. Knapp moved and Mr. Driscoll seconded the motion.

Motion was approved.

**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 sidepath 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.

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

Mr. Smith moved and Mr. Driscoll seconded a motion 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.

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

Mr. Driscoll inquired about projected cost estimates for the project and Mr. Alexander indicated there wasn't any at this time. Mr. Kwasnowski indicated that there will be some Capital Funding attached to a similar project which will include the results of this study.

Mr. Schultz called for a motion to acknowledge the completion of the RTC/Market Area Mobility study.

Mr. Driscoll moved and Mr. Kwasnowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that this is an annual item with a way to measure our investments. 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. Schultz asked for a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the BPCMS report. Mr. Smith moved and Mr. Driscoll seconded the motion. 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 ones 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.

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

Mr. Driscoll questioned the criteria for consideration of federal funds. Mr. D'Agostino and Mr. Colone explained the attributes needed with safety being the number one concern.

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. D'Agostino indicated there was an error on the summary page and this item is for information only.

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.

No vote required as this is an informational item only.

## **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.

Chairperson Schultz called for a motion. Mr. Mankiewicz moved and Mr. Driscoll seconded a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the report. The motion passed unanimously.

## **I OCDOT 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.

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

Mr. Knapp moved and Mr. Smith seconded a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge completion of the 2020 Onondaga County Safety Assessment Study. Motion Passed unanimously.

**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 September 23, 2020 and expires September, 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.

The nominees for the next term as Policy Committee Chair and Vice Chair are Mr. Schultz and Ms. Dunham respectively. Both accepted their position.

Chairperson Shultz called for a motion. Mr. Driscoll moved and Mr. Knapp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6.**      **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was a 20 second delay due to live-stream. Mr. Frasier confirmed that no questions or comments came in.

Mr. D'Agostino thanked everyone on the Committee for taking their time to participate in the call.

**7.**      **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m. by Chairperson Schultz