



## **Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council**

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### **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 21, 2021  
1:00 p.m.**

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

Brian Schultz, Chairperson, Presiding

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
  - June 23, 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 21, 2021 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

### Voting Members

Corey Driscoll-Dunham – Vice Chairperson  
David Bottar  
E.J. Moses  
Joe Driscoll  
Daniel Kolinski  
David Smith  
Trendon Choe  
Jerrin George  
Odean Dyer  
James Rowley  
Dan Kwasnowski

### Organization

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

### Also Attending

Christopher Tuff  
Neil Burke  
Mark Frechette  
Jennifer Terry  
David Roth  
Ryan Frantzis

CNY Regional Transportation Authority  
City of Syracuse, Administration  
NYSDOT  
FTA  
NYSDOT  
Onondaga County Legislature

### SMTC Staff

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

### BUSINESS MEETING

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER/ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Vice Chairperson Driscoll-Dunham called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. via Zoom.

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

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there were no additions or changes to the agenda.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairperson Driscoll-Dunham inquired if there were any changes to the June 23, 2021 minutes.

Hearing none, Vice Chairperson Driscoll-Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Bottar moved and Mr. Smith seconded the Approval of the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. D'Agostino indicated the following updates: 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 30<sup>th</sup> through December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will require some of this meeting attendees to attend virtually at some point. Mr. D'Agostino indicated he just received the agenda and will be contacting individuals regarding their specific date and time to attend. 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 29<sup>th</sup> and indicated it was a success with good participation virtually from the public; 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 while school is back in session and before the snow flies; Geographic Information Systems (SMTC) – There will be a demonstration later in the agenda that highlights an interactive StoryMap which can be accessed from our website for agency and public view; Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System – Ratings have been completed for the season but is still waiting for data from NYSDOT; I-81 Participation – The draft EIS was released and the public comment period has closed. Mr. Frechette from the NYSDOT will give an update later in the agenda; MPO Area Regional Planning Initiatives – Staff is wrapping up the EST Local Economic Opportunities Plan for SOCPA; Long Range Transportation Plan – There are some Performance Based Planning Measures that will be updated later in the agenda. Additionally, there is a need for a LRTP Amendment that will allow NYSDOT to program funds for the I-81 project as the current plan does not have a 2-billion-dollar project identified in it. This amendment will most likely happen in January or February of 2022 which will then be followed up by a Policy Committee Meeting. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that if the TIP Amendment is ready at the same time, the meeting will be in-person instead of virtual due to the scope of the large dollar amount; Rail, Truck & Transit Planning – The required Coordinated Plan is currently being updated and staff recently had a call with FHWA regarding freight movement which Mr. D'Agostino felt went well. 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 – Underway for completion this year for the White Paper; 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 a draft Existing Conditions Report which the SMTC is currently reviewing. Some of Stantec's staff recently attended a Syracuse University home football game (10/15/2021) to review current traffic and parking patterns. Tuscarora Road Corridor Study – Staff prepared a narrated video outlining the project along with a live Q&A session which will be posted on the SMTC website for those that were unable to attend; US Route 11 Corridor Plan – This study is making considerable progress with some ideas brought to OCDOT regarding some modifications to their infrastructure. SMTC and OCDOT staff are working together to move that idea forward; Manlius Village Center Pedestrian Safety & Mobility Study – This study is on track to be completed this program year; Village of

Skaneateles Pedestrian Safety & Access –This project should be wrapped up in the next 30-60 days with Staff 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. Mr. D’Agostino has requested the City of Syracuse to put it in writing as part of the UPWP solicitation; TIP Development & Maintenance – Started a new Federal Fiscal Year 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 100% of the money being obligated and is working on reports to share to indicate as such.

Vice Chairperson Driscoll-Dunham asked if there were any questions. There were none.

#### **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 draft EIS was published on July 16<sup>th</sup> followed by virtual and in-person public hearings in mid-August along with nine community/neighborhood meetings in the suburbs throughout August and into September. Mr. Frechette mentioned there have been numerous changes to the scope since 2019 and briefly discussed the changes. Mr. Frechette indicated the public comment period closed on October 14<sup>th</sup> which was extended from the original date of September 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Frechette mentioned that over 8000 comments had been received from approximately 7500 commentors compared to approximately 1200 comments received in 2019. Mr. Frechette indicated that the next step will be for the NYSDOT to respond to each of the comments, take them into consideration and roll them into the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Mr. Frechette mentioned that the roundabout near MLK is the most controversial topic with a lot of questions raised regarding jobs. Discussion occurred regarding these topics along with the process of receiving the funding for the project. Mr. Frechette fielded a few questions from committee members.

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

#### **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.

Vice Chairperson Driscoll-Dunham call for a motion.

Mr. Bottar moved and Mr. Moses seconded a motion that the Policy Committee adopt the 2022 Safety Performance Measure Targets

The motion passed unanimously.

**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.

Vice Chairperson Driscoll-Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Moses moved and Mr. Bottar seconded a motion that the Policy Committee approve the TIP amendments.

The motion passed unanimously.

**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**

There was a 30 second delay due to livestream. Mr. Frasier confirmed that no questions or comments came in.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chairperson Driscoll-Dunham called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Smith moved and Mr. Bottar seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.