

DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (SMTC) • FALL 2016



Onondaga Creekwalk at Fayette Street in Syracuse

WORK COMPLETED ON VILLAGE OF TULLY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ASSESSMENT

The SMTC recently completed an assessment of a pedestrian and bicycle path along New York State Route 80 from the Tully Junior-Senior High School driveway to the intersection with Route 11/Route 281 in the Town and Village of Tully.

This work was completed at the request of the Village of Tully under SMTC's general bicycle and pedestrian planning. Currently, sidewalks extend from the Village of Tully to the high school, but there are no pedestrian or bicycle facilities west of the high school. However, there are commercial destinations near the intersection with Route 11 and residential areas farther to the west that generate some pedestrian traffic.



Looking east along Route 80/Elm Street from the Tully Junior-Senior High School driveway, toward the village center, where sidewalks currently exist.

Working with New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Region 3 landscape architecture staff, SMTC staff examined the existing conditions along this stretch of Route 80 and confirmed that narrow shoulders and steep slopes

adjacent to the roadway would pose significant challenges in constructing a sidewalk. As an alternative, SMTC offered two options outside of the highway right-of-way: a shared-use path (to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians) or a pedestrian-only pathway (with bicyclists using the shoulder on Route 80). These options, along with some potential funding opportunities, were discussed with the Town and Village of Tully and presented in a memorandum to

SMTC STAFF PARTICIPATE IN WALK-BIKE NEW YORK SYMPOSIUM

The SMTC staff participated in the **Walk-Bike New York – Encouraging Sustainable Movement Symposium** at the Crowne Plaza Syracuse, on September 13 and 14, 2016. The event was sponsored by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), New York State Departments of Health, Transportation and State, Cornell Local Roads Program (CLRP) and the Institute for Traffic Safety Management & Research (ITSMR).

The theme of the conference focused on *What Is a Walkable and Bikeable Community?* Walkable and bikeable communities have numerous benefits: opportunities for people to be healthy and active, reduced pedestrian injuries, less traffic congestion and air pollution, reduced crime due to more “eyes on the street,” and economically viable downtowns where people can walk, bike and shop. Creating walkable and bikeable environments requires the active collaboration of people with interests in safety, land use, economic development, transportation, education, law enforcement and health promotion.

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Commissioner Matthew J. Driscoll gave the keynote address on **Safe Pedestrian Crossings and Pedestrian Opportunities in Downtown Syracuse**. Closing remarks were given by Andrew Maxwell, Director of Policy and Innovation for the City of Syracuse.

Michael Alexander, Senior Transportation Planner, coordinated his presentation with staff from the Rochester Cycling Alliance on **A Deep Look at Bicycle Commuting and Bicycling as Transportation in Syracuse and Rochester**. The session explored factors to consider when planning where to incorporate bicycle facilities in an urban and suburban context. The presentation included an overview of the planning process associated with developing



NYSDOT Commissioner Matthew Driscoll addresses conference attendees. Photo courtesy of the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee

the SMTC’s **Greater Syracuse Area Bicycle Commuter Corridor Study**.

Danielle Krol, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the **Erie Canalway Trail – Syracuse Connector Route**. The gap in the Erie Canalway Trail in the Syracuse area is one of the largest gaps in the state and considered one of the most difficult sections to complete due to the urbanized area it will traverse, in addition to the associated cost and the need for local champions to spearhead the effort. The project was completed in two parts: Part I developed a short-term, on-road route to be signed and utilized until a permanent route was developed and implemented, while Part II examined options for a permanent off-road route, to the extent possible.

Aaron McKeon, Senior Transportation Planner, addressed the topic of **Eyes on the Sidewalk: Sidewalk Inventories from Macro to Micro**. His presentation focused on the key first step in developing a more walkable community – understanding the current pedestrian infrastructure, including where sidewalks exist, as well as their condition. The session presented a county-wide assessment, a village-scale study, and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan inventory.

For further information, contact the SMTC at 315.422.5716.

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS is a publication of the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC). Formed in 1966 as a result of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962, and the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, the SMTC serves as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Syracuse metropolitan area, and provides a forum for cooperative decision making in developing transportation plans and programs. Its committees are comprised of elected and appointed officials, representing local, state and federal governments or agencies (member agencies) having an interest in or responsibility for transportation planning and programming.

Editor: **Patricia A. Wortley**

Join us for the 2nd OPEN HOUSE on the:



Syracuse Metropolitan Area Regional Transit Study Phase 1

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Drop in any time from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

(Presentations at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.)

The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) invites you to attend the second open house for the Syracuse Metropolitan Area Regional Transit Study Phase 1 (SMART 1). Drop in any time to learn more about the possibility of **Bus Rapid Transit** or **Light Rail Transit** between the Regional Transportation Center to Syracuse University, and Eastwood to Onondaga Community College corridors.

A presentation will take place at 5:00 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m., that provides background information and current work efforts. Interactive stations, staffed by the project team, will be available for the public to “walk through” and learn more about the project background, suggested modes and route alternatives.

Can't make the meeting in person?

Meeting materials will be available online beginning November 10 at www.smtcmpo.org/SMART

Meeting Location

SKY Armory

351 South Clinton Street
Syracuse, NY

**Main entrance is on Clinton St. (between Modern Malt and the Clinton St. Garage). **

Meeting location is 0.4 miles from the Centro Transit Hub.

Parking

On-street & area parking garages available. Parking will not be validated.

Accommodations

All attendees will receive two complimentary single-use Centro bus passes at the meeting.

The meeting facility is ADA accessible. American Sign Language (ASL) and Spanish interpreters will be available at the meeting.

Additional info

For more information about the study contact Mario Colone, SMTC Program Manager, at 315-422-5716 or mcolone@smtcmpo.org.



Follow us on Facebook at Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council



www.smtcmpo.org



contactus@smtcmpo.org



315-422-5716



126 N. Salina Street
Suite 100
Syracuse, NY 13202

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
100 CLINTON SQUARE, 126 NORTH SALINA STREET, SUITE 100
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13202
PHONE: 315.422.5716 FAX 315.422.7753
WEB SITE: WWW.SMTCMPO.ORG

PRSR.T.STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SYRACUSE, N.Y.
PERMIT NO. 1302



THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

SMTc PARTNERS WITH SU SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

A research team from the Syracuse University (SU) School of Architecture is studying alternatives to single-occupancy automobiles for mobility within the City of Syracuse, and the SMTc is participating as one of the study partners. This year-long study, called **Feasibility Assessment of Sustainable Transportation (FAST): Syracuse**, will assess the feasibility of developing, implementing, growing and promoting three urban mobility systems: 1) human-powered mobility through enhanced walkability and bikeability; 2) sharing economy in the form of shared bikes and electric vehicles (EVs); and 3) improved integration with existing regional public transportation services. The study is funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, the New York State Department of Transportation and project partners under the Integrated Mobility Solutions for Smarter Cities and Communities program. The research team is seeking community input. Please take a few minutes to answer a survey about your travel choices at soa.syr.edu/fast.

TULLY CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE

the working group for this assessment. The next steps are for the village to decide on a preferred option, obtain necessary easements, secure funding, and engage an engineer and/or landscape architect to design a facility. This would be a great step to encourage non-motorized transportation in the Tully community!



*Looking east along Route 80, at a point west of the high school.
No pedestrian facilities exist in this segment.*