

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the JUNE 12, 2018 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Brian Schultz, Chair
David Bottar
Neil Burke
Timothy Coley
Megan Costa
Joe Driscoll
Heather Lamendola
Daniel Kolinski
Dave Mankiewicz
Nick Paro
David Smith

Organization

CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
City of Syracuse DPW
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency
Syracuse Common Council
City Planning Commission
Empire State Development Corporation
CenterState CEO
Onondaga County Legislature
NYS Department of Transportation

Also Attending

Maria Chau, FHWA; Rick Lee, CNY Regional Transportation Authority; Mark Frechette, NYSDOT; Cyrenthia Ward, FTA

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mike Alexander, Kevan Busa, Matthew Byrne, Mario Colone, Jason Deshaies, Andrew Frasier, Kevin Kosakowski, Aaron McKeon, Mary Storholm, Meghan Vitale, and Patricia Wortley

BUSINESS MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Schultz called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m., in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, Syracuse, NY. The Chairperson stated there was an additional TIP Amendment on the table.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairperson inquired if there were any changes to the February 16, 2018 minutes. Hearing none, the Chairperson called for a motion.

Mr. Smith moved and Ms. Costa seconded approval of the minutes. Motion carried.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. UPWP STATUS REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following items: For Public Participation, work on the summer newsletter is underway. Under Federal Legislation, the TIGER program has been replaced by a program called BUILD. We mailed out notices and received a few calls on the program. There are two other federal requirements on today's agenda for adoption. Our new program is under way. Several project scopes are written and are underway. The Armory Square scope is out for a vote now. The Data Collection RFP was re-advertised due to the first vendor changing their prices

when we went to contract. We hope to have the contract in place in the next few weeks. Staff has been conducting traffic counts. Mr. D'Agostino reviewed the studies on the agenda today. Church Street had been on hold until we heard from the Village of North Syracuse regarding their land use planning efforts. We are now moving the project forward. The City requested that we tweak the Geddes Street project. Congestion and queuing have raised some concerns for the city. We printed Centro System Maps as well as large maps for the Hub. We are updating the financial plan in the LRTP following our Federal Certification. Staff will be reaching out to member agencies. Relative to the Travel Demand Model, staff are fine tuning the model calibration. Regarding the TIP, we have several amendments on today's agenda. Mr. D'Agostino reviewed the CMAQ and TAP projects that have been built in our community.

B. UPDATE ON I-81 OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE NYSDOT

Mr. Frechette stated they are currently working on a tunnel solution as a possible alternative to the viaduct project. This is a new alternative they are looking at. They have quite a bit to draw upon from previous work. A lot of good information was done on the tunnel solutions. They are trying to draw on those. WSP, the NYSDOT's consultant, released tunnel alternatives. Their orange alternative was the most feasible. They negotiated a contract with Parsons for all of the traditional tunnel functions: operating 24/7, 365 days a year. He described the work. It also includes the environmental impact assessment. They are studying the social and economic considerations. There will be a public involvement component, but they are not a place yet to be holding public meetings. Traditional type meetings: public, neighborhood and meetings in the suburbs.

Other things they have been working on: They completed the subsurface utility exploration work this spring. This is huge component to all of the alternatives. It was a huge effort that started last fall. They are also continuing efforts for job development. They want to see that this project addresses a lot of the benefits of job opportunities. DOT will remain committed to that and will explore the opportunities.

Mr. Mankiewicz inquired as to the projection on the release of the DEIS and is the tunnel a part of the DEIS or separate. Mr. Frechette stated the tunnel is part of the DEIS. They are in the early stages of trying to understand the impacts of the tunnel option. Things need to roll out at the same level. The tunnel alternative has to catch up to the level of the other options. Mr. Mankiewicz inquired as to a projected date as to the release of the DEIS. Mr. Frechette stated that he cannot tell that today as it cannot be released until after the public involvement phase. The information that came out in December needs a lot more meat on it. They are working on that now. Mr. Paro inquired if there was a projected date. Mr. Frechette stated probably in six months.

Mr. Driscoll inquired to the \$10 million in maintenance in the WSP tunnel report and who would be responsible. Mr. Frechette stated that there has to be dedicated staff to a tunnel. Operating expenses are not federally reimbursable. The NYSDOT does not own any tunnels in NYS, they are owned by authorities. The \$10-20 million per year in operation costs is in addition to the cost of building the tunnel. Mr. Paro inquired as to the community grid and if the State would be taking control of maintenance of the grid. Mr. Frechette stated that they will remain owners of all the interstates. The initial conversation was that the NYSDOT would maintain Almond Street. There would need to be an agreement between the state and the city.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**
None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. TIP AMENDMENTS

Mr. D'Agostino stated that following amendments are needed to the 2017-2021 TIP and Statewide TIP to remove projects as well as add one project:

PIN 304360 (Rt. 11 & Rt. 20 Intersection Pavement Rehabilitation). Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). Project sponsor requests removal of project from SMTC's program as all prior funds were utilized as offset for other PINs.

PIN 328717 (Onondaga Lake Parkway Corridor Pavement Resurfacing, Rt. 370). Sponsor NYSDOT. Project sponsor requests removal of project from SMTC's program as the project will progress under another PIN in order to address safety concerns within the corridor.

PIN 360383 (VPP/Mill Rt. 91, North of Coleman Hill Road to Rt. 173). Total cost \$650,000. Sponsor NYSDOT. Project sponsor requests removal of project from SMTC's program as no federal dollars will be utilized.

PIN 375563 (City of Syracuse SRTS Neighborhood Greenway, Various Streets). Sponsor City of Syracuse. Project sponsor requests removal of project from SMTC's program.

PIN 395064 (Sidewalk Extension project, Village of Baldwinsville). Sponsor Village of Baldwinsville. Project sponsor requests removal of project from SMTC's program.

PIN 360394 (VPP/Mill Rt. 48, Brown St to Oswego County Line, Onondaga County.) Sponsor NYSDOT. Project sponsors requests addition of project. Compensating offset comes from the deletion of PIN 360383 (VPP/Mill Rt. 91, North of Coleman Hill Rd to Rt. 173).

Mr. Coley moved and Mr. Driscoll seconded a motion to approve the TIP Amendments. Motion carried.

B. TIP ANTICIPATED EFFECTS NARRATIVE

Mr. D'Agostino stated that this is a new federal requirement that must be adopted by MPOs. He stated that we have always done this. The narrative will be added to our TIP as an Appendix. Mr. Colone stated that this has to be in place in order for our federal partners to advance any amendments to our TIP. Ms. Chau stated that if this was not done today when an amendment arrived on her desk she would not be able to authorize it.

Ms. Lamendola moved and Ms. Costa seconded a motion to approve the narrative. Motion carried.

C. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Mr. D'Agostino stated that this is also a new requirement. This is also nothing new to the SMTC as we work and coordinate with the transit agency, state, and MPO.

Mr. Mankiewicz moved and Mr. Coley seconded a motion to approve and execute the agreement. Motion carried.

D. CENTRO SURVEYS – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino stated that we completed three reports for Centro: Rider, Non-Rider, and Employer. Ms. Vitale gave an overview of the reports.

Mr. Driscoll inquired about Centro service to the airport as he has heard there is difficulty getting service to the airport. Ms. Vitale stated only a very small number, 12, wanted service to the airport. Mr. Lee stated that they have investigated requests to the airport and have found, in the past, that they are primarily the individuals that work there and ridership has been very, very low. He stated that airport passengers are reluctant to take luggage and ride on a bus. It is being looked at due to the construction. They had service to the airport and stopped it. Mr. Mankiewicz inquired if there was a low hanging fruit that this would be the first or second thing to look at. Ms. Vitale stated that rider comments wanted more nights and weekends. Non-riders noted the frequency and closer service to home. Mr. Driscoll inquired if ridership bears that out on weekend and nights – if the demand was higher. Ms. Vitale stated that it hard to know because those routes are not there. She noted the same comment in the Work Link study. Mr. McKeon reviewed the Work Link study and the ridership levels. There are people that desperately need to get to a third shift. He noted jobs in the Carrier Circle area. Mr. Mankiewicz inquired if the survey was done before or after Uber and Lyft started operating. Ms. Vitale stated the ride services started in July. Mr. Lee stated it is hard to tell if ride services are attributing to the ridership. Discussion followed about Centro working with Uber and Lyft for service.

Mr. Mankiewicz moved and Mr. Driscoll seconded a motion to acknowledge the completion of the reports. Motion carried.

E. BPCMS – PAVEMENT – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. D’Agostino stated that we have separated the Pavement portion of the report from the Bridge section due to a change in rating of bridges. Mr. Frasier gave an overview of the report.

Mr. Driscoll inquired as to how many Federal Aid-Eligible (FAE) roads are in the City. Mr. Frasier stated 115 roads are FAE. Mr. Frechette stated that number includes all the major roads.

Mr. Bottar moved and Mr. Coley seconded a motion to acknowledge the completion of the report. Motion carried.

F. SKANEATELES MULTIUSE CORRIDOR STUDY CENTRO SURVEYS – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. D’Agostino stated this study was completed at the request of the Town of Skaneateles. Mr. Alexander gave an overview of the study.

Ms. Costa inquired what option the Town is leaning toward. Mr. Alexander reviewed the politics of the village and the town and their participation in the study. Ms. Costa stated with the CMAQ solicitation this would be a possible project. Mr. D’Agostino stated that the municipalities are aware of the funding opportunity.

Mr. Coley moved and Mr. Kolinski seconded a motion to acknowledge the completion of the report. Motion carried.

G. FAYETTEVILLE ROUTE 5 TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE ANALYSIS – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. D’Agostino stated that this study was completed at the request of the Village of Fayetteville. Ms. Vitale gave an overview of the project.

Mr. Costa moved and Mr. Smith seconded a motion to acknowledge the completion of the report. Motion carried.

H. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. D’Agostino stated that it is time to elect officers. Mr. Schultz has agreed to stay on as Chairperson and Mr. Voss will continue as Vice Chairperson. No nominations were received from the floor.

Mr. Bottar moved and Mr. Smith seconded a motion to approve the slate of officers. Motion carried.

I. FEDERAL CERTIFICATION

Mr. D’Agostino reviewed the process and stated that copies of our Certification, conducted in November 2017, had been provided.

Mr. D’Agostino stated that there are some recommendations. There are also some commendations. Ms. Chua, FHWA, and Ms. Ward, FTA, presented the Certification. Ms. Chau stated the MPO was recertified with conditions. She highlighted the federal process. Ms. Ward reviewed what they looked at: looked at materials and internal analysis; looked at comments from the public and committee members. They provided recommendations and commendations. They also reviewed previous certification reports.

It was noted that what we do as an MPO matters to the region. Ms. Chau stated that what we do here is recognized. She referred to page 20.

Findings include: Corrective actions, Recommendations and Commendations. Best practices and national initiatives.

Ms. Chau reviewed the Commendations (page 7). She noted the Transportation Atlas and the decisions making about the TIP and investments. There has been a significant increase in projects delivered. She mentioned the Connective Corridor. She thanked the Region for the Administrator’s Roundtable on the Freight Economy. She noted ITS Training, as well as Safety Planning for developing Bicycle and Pedestrian education.

Corrective Actions: LRTP Financial Plan – there are still areas that do not give sufficient detail, including identifying all financial sources. Fiscal constraint was not clear. The corrective action is due by December 2018. The UPWP does not provide a detailed closeout on activities and expenditures. Due by June 2018. Mr. D’Agostino stated that the UPWP corrective action has been addressed and was sent out. The LRTP item is in progress.

No action is required of the committee.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.