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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SMTC Invites Public to Review and Comment on 2001-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) has officially begun a 30-day public comment period for the draft 2001-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The 2001-2006 TIP for the SMTC study area (all of Onondaga County and a small portion of Oswego County) is comprised of a staged five-year program of capital transportation improvement projects together with a five-year estimate of transit capital and maintenance requirements. The TIP contains all Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) transportation projects in the SMTC Metropolitan Area that are expected to use federal, state and local funds in the next five-year period. Also included is the **Conformity Analysis**, which successfully determines that the SMTC is in conformity with the applicable New York State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality in its adoption of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Long-Range Transportation Plan, and any pertinent amendments or updates.

The public comment period for the draft 2001-2006 TIP will commence on April 10, 2001. **Comments received on or before May 10, 2001, will be considered for the final 2001-2006 TIP**, to be presented to the SMTC Policy Committee for official endorsement on May 14, 2001.

“The proactive cooperation of the SMTC member agencies and the SMTC Central Staff will continue to contribute to better transportation infrastructure and mobility in the community,” said Mary M. Rowlands, SMTC Director. “In 2006, with the accomplishments of projects in the 2001-2006 TIP, the Greater Syracuse Metropolitan Area can expect improved connectivity between modes, improved air quality and mobility, as well as improved infrastructure.”

For those interested in reviewing the draft 2001-2006 TIP, and/or making any comments regarding the TIP and its content, please contact SMTC Communications/Public Information Specialist Wayne Westervelt at (315) 422-5716. **Copies of the draft 2001-2006 TIP can be requested directly or reviewed at the SMTC office, 126 N. Salina St., Suite 100, Syracuse, N.Y.** The public comment period is open through May 10, 2001.

The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council was formed in 1966 as a result of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 and Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964. Serving as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Syracuse Metropolitan Area, the SMTC provides the forum for cooperative decision-making in developing transportation plans and programs for Onondaga County. Its committees are comprised of elected and appointed officials, representing local, State and Federal governments or agencies (e.g., CNY Regional Transportation Authority, CNY Regional Planning and Development Board, City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York State Department of Transportation, etc.) having interest in or responsibility for transportation planning and programming.

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