



## Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

100 Clinton Square  
126 N. Salina Street, Suite 100  
Syracuse, New York 13202  
Phone (315) 422-5716  
Fax (315) 422-7753  
[www.smtcmpo.org](http://www.smtcmpo.org)

March 6, 2003

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Wayne A. Westervelt, Communications/Public Information  
(315) 422-5716; e-mail: [wwestervelt@smtcmpo.org](mailto:wwestervelt@smtcmpo.org)

# **Federal Agencies Commend and Certify SMTC for Sound Transportation Planning**

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** -- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently undertook a federal certification review of the transportation planning process conducted by the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC). Following their extensive three-day audit and evaluation, the FHWA and FTA reported that SMTC meets the federal requirements for a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and is in compliance with federal transportation planning regulations.

In accordance with federal transportation planning regulations, the FHWA and FTA must review and evaluate the metropolitan planning process in each Transportation Management Area (an MPO containing more than 200,000 persons) at least once every three years. The primary purpose of the federal audit is to ensure that certain planning requirements are being satisfactorily implemented.

According to FHWA and FTA, "the SMTC transportation planning process is a very credible endeavor." The Federal transportation agencies highlighted several examples of good planning practices conducted by the SMTC, including the UPWP tracking system and concept, the TIP Guidebook, the Public Opinion Survey as part of the *2004 Plan Update*, the congestion and bridge/pavement management systems, and the freight planning activities.

"We congratulate the SMTC for the cooperative nature of its process, as well as the technical capabilities," said Joseph Rich of the FHWA. "We believe that the SMTC member agencies are committed to a transportation planning process that assures its customers – those who live, work and travel in the greater Syracuse area – a safe, efficient, balanced and environmentally sound transportation system."

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The FHWA/FTA Certification Review Final Report is available to the public and can be accessed via the SMTC web site at <http://www.smtcmpo.org/finalreps.asp> The report contains numerous commendations for existing practice, as well as recommendations for consideration in furthering program excellence.

For more information about SMTC and/or the federal certification review, please contact SMTC Communications/Public Information Specialist Wayne Westervelt at (315) 422-5716.

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## **What is the SMTC?**

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. The SMTC is comprised of elected and appointed officials, representing local, state and federal governments or agencies having interest in or responsibility for transportation planning and programming.

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