



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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NEWS RELEASE

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2003-2006 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IS ADOPTED FOR SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) has officially adopted the Syracuse Metropolitan Area's 2003-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The document was approved by the SMTC Policy Committee on June 20, 2003.

The 2003-2006 TIP is a staged three-year maintenance program of capital transportation improvement projects, together with a three-year estimate of transit capital and maintenance requirements. The TIP contains a listing of all Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration projects in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area that are expected to use Federal, State and local funds in the next three-year period. Also included is the *Conformity Analysis* that was conducted as part of the 2001-2006 TIP, 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, Long-Range Transportation Plan, and any pertinent amendments or updates.

The 2003-2006 TIP will now be submitted to the New York State Department of Transportation in Albany for inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Both the TIP and the STIP go into effect, beginning Oct. 1, 2003.

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“In 2006, with the accomplishments of projects in the 2003-2006 TIP, the Greater Syracuse Metropolitan Area can expect improved connectivity between modes, improved air quality and mobility, as well as improved infrastructure,” said Mary M. Rowlands, SMTC Director.

All projects on the TIP were subject to a systematic selection and review process. The SMTC conducted an extensive screening and project selection process for all projects submitted in response to an October 2002 “call letter” that sought project input from local municipalities, as well as Policy and Planning Committee member agencies. The process also allowed for public input. In addition to the community involvement on the municipal level, citizens and other interested agencies/organizations were encouraged to review the draft TIP and submit comments during the publicized 30-day public comment period (May 19, 2003 through June 17, 2003).

Those interested in receiving a copy of the final, adopted TIP should contact SMTC Communications/Public Information Specialist Wayne Westervelt at (315) 422-5716. Copies of the 2003-2006 TIP can also be requested on CD-ROM; viewed on the SMTC web site at <http://www.smtcmpo.org/tip.asp> and are available for viewing at the Onondaga County Main Branch Library on S. Salina Street (Galleries) in Downtown Syracuse, N.Y.

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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 and small portions of Madison and Oswego Counties. 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.

Log on to the SMTC web site for the latest in transportation planning in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area: www.smtcmpo.org