

SMTC Seeks Public Review and Comment on Public Participation Plan

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) has officially begun a 45-day public comment/review period for its draft **Public Participation Plan**.

Engaging the public early and often in the planning process is critical to the success of any transportation plan or program, and it is required by numerous state and federal laws. Such legislation underscores the need for public involvement, calling on Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) such as the SMTC to provide citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agencies, private providers of transportation and other interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment on transportation plans and programs. The SMTC recognizes that the active involvement of the entire community, in addition to the SMTC Policy, Planning and Study Advisory Committee (SAC) members, is paramount to good transportation planning. Public comments are valued because they can shape the direction of a particular transportation study or planning activity, and may help to identify new transportation projects that are important to citizens of the area.

The public review/comment period for the draft Public Participation Plan commences today, April 27, 2007. **Comments received on or before June 10, 2007 will be considered for the final document**, to be presented to the SMTC Policy Committee for adoption on June 12, 2007.

For those interested in reviewing the draft Public Participation Plan, copies are available at the Central Branch of the Onondaga County Public Library, The Galleries of Syracuse, 447 South Salina Street, Syracuse, and the SMTC offices, 100 Clinton Square, 126 N. Salina Street, Suite 100, Syracuse. Additionally, the document is available via the SMTC web site at www.smtcmpto.org. All comments shall be submitted in writing to jdeshaies@smtcmpto.org or via postal mail to: Jennifer Deshaies, SMTC, 100 Clinton Square, 126 N. Salina Street, Suite 100, Syracuse, NY 13202.

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