



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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NEWS RELEASE

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SMTC POLICY COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGES AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDIES AS COMPLETED

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's (SMTC) Policy Committee has reviewed and acknowledged the University Hill Transportation Study and the F-M Road/Route 257 Pedestrian Accommodation Feasibility Study as completed. Additionally, the Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedoms funded projects have been added to the 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The University Hill Transportation Study was a multi-year study, requested by the City of Syracuse and the Metropolitan Development Association, which examined the University Hill area, located southeast of the Syracuse Central Business District. The Hill is home to over 16,000 residents, three major education institutions (Syracuse University, State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry and SUNY Upstate Medical University Hospital) four major hospitals/healthcare facilities (Crouse, Upstate Medical University/SUNY Health Science Center, Veteran's Administration and Hutchings Psychiatric Center). In addition, the Syracuse University Carrier Dome, a 50,000 seat stadium/arena, is located on the university campus. Given the mix of institutions, businesses, homes and events traffic is a major issue on University Hill. It affects each of those who work or live on University Hill on a daily basis.

Three major issues were addressed by the study: Interstate Access; Institutional Parking; and Transit, Walking and Biking. The SMTC and its partner agencies are continuing their cooperative efforts to address this problem. The plan identifies proposed improvements to meet the needs of University Hill for these three issues as it develops over the next 20 years. A major aim of the initiative was to ensure the economic viability of the institutions located in the study area while minimizing impacts to surrounding neighborhoods.

At the request of the Town of Manlius, the SMTC completed the F-M Road/Route 257 Pedestrian Accommodation Feasibility Study to determine the feasibility of installing a pedestrian facility or accommodation along Fayetteville-Manlius Road/Route 257 between the villages of Fayetteville and Manlius. The study also addressed the cost of such accommodations and gauged local public sentiment on their appropriateness for the corridor.

Extensive public involvement was essential to the success of both studies. Study Advisory Committees (SAC) or Working Groups were created for the studies in order to provide overall policy and technical guidance; coordination with stakeholders in the affected areas; and informing and soliciting comments/suggestions from the general public through a series of public information meetings.

In 2007, the SMTC initiated several tasks related to a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. Coinciding with the plan, federal transportation legislation mandated that projects selected to receive Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC, Section 5316) and New Freedom (Section 5317) funding must be derived from a competitive selection process. In order to continue the allocation and dispersal of JARC and New Freedom Federal Transit Administration funding in the SMTC area, staff, in conjunction with a working group, developed a transit funding application to be utilized for project solicitation. The application was distributed to over sixty organizations in the area. The Coordinated Plan Review Team selected two Central New York Regional Transportation Authority proposals to receive JARC and New Freedom program funds.

To view the University Hill Transportation Study, the F-M Road/Route 257 Pedestrian Accommodation Feasibility Study, or the TIP, visit the SMTC website at www.smtcmpo.org or call the SMTC office at (315)422-5716.

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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