

An Introduction to the



S M T C



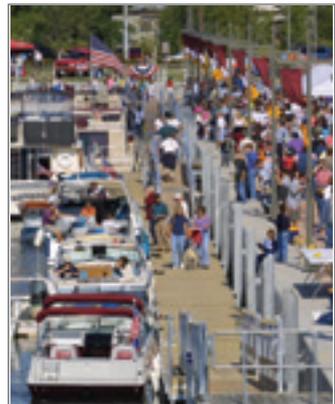
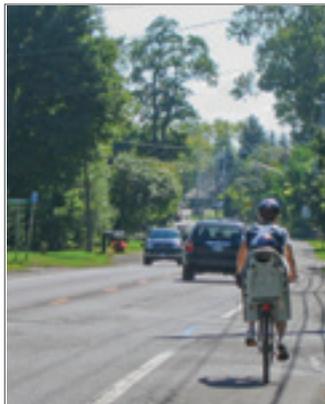
About the SMTC

The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) is a state-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), responsible for administering comprehensive, continuous, and cooperative transportation planning. The SMTC's planning jurisdiction, called the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), covers Onondaga County and small portions of Madison and Oswego counties.

As the MPO for the Greater Syracuse Metropolitan Area, the SMTC, as directed through federal metropolitan transportation planning policy, acts as a clearinghouse where long-term and immediate transportation planning decisions are made for the region. These decisions are made through a committee structure that uses models of consensus building and cooperative decision making. The SMTC has adopted a committee structure that consists of a Policy, Planning and Executive Committee. Served by the SMTC staff, these committees act as a conduit to the transportation planning activities of the SMTC.

The SMTC also provides an opportunity for citizens to participate in the discussion of specific transportation issues, and encourages the public to get involved through workshops and other opportunities. The SMTC's notable projects include studies to gauge citizen desires, technical corridor reviews, and multimedia educational tools.

The SMTC planning process is critical because it provides access to federal transportation funding. This funding goes toward projects involving public transportation, bicycling, pedestrians, freight shipping, highways, and more. In short, the SMTC's funding is available for almost any transportation project.



Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)



SMTC Policy Committee

U.S. Department of Transportation

- Federal Aviation Administration*
- Federal Highway Administration*
- Federal Transit Administration*

New York State

- Department of Environmental Conservation
- Department of Transportation
- Thruway Authority
- Empire State Development

Onondaga County

- Office of the Executive
- Legislature
- Planning Board

Madison County

- Board of Supervisors*

Oswego County

- Legislature*

City of Syracuse

- Office of the Mayor
- Common Council
- Planning Commission

CNY Regional Transportation Authority

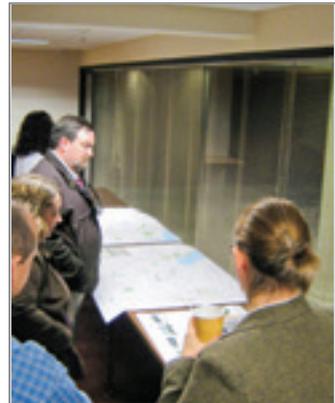
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board

CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity

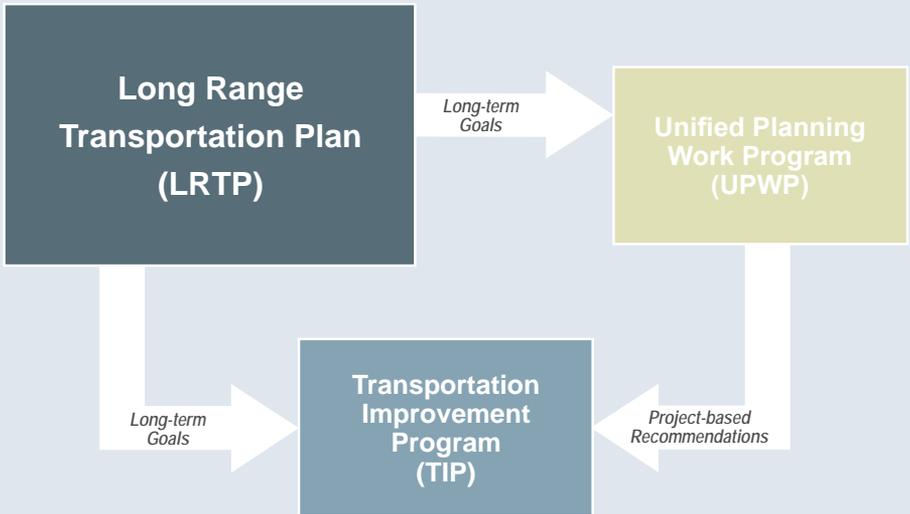
Onondaga Nation*

* = Non-Voting Advisory Agency

The SMTC is a collection of federal, state, regional, county, and city representatives as shown above. The Policy Committee consists of elected and appointed officials, or their designee, to ensure that transportation planning in the area occurs in a mutually beneficial fashion.



Guiding Documents



Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

- Created via a study advisory committee and approved by the Policy Committee
- Provides a 20 year or more blueprint to guide transportation development
- Contains a guiding vision, transportation goals, and objectives
- Updated every four years

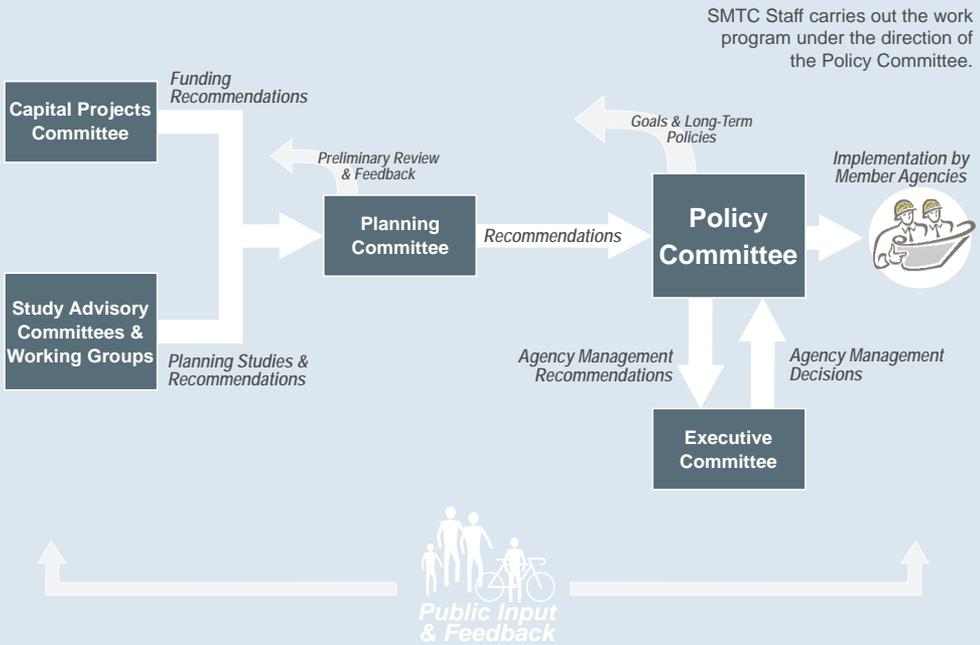
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- Identifies annual planning studies to be undertaken by the SMTC staff from proposals made by member agencies and municipalities
- Supports the long term goals of the LRTP
- Updated annually

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Catalogs all transportation capital projects in the MPA
- Allocates funding for capital projects
- Created to be fiscally constrained, whereby the total cost of projects does not exceed the area's available amount of funding
- Updated every four years and revised as needed

Committee Structure



See SMTC website (www.smtcmpo.org) for listing of Policy, Planning and Executive Committee membership.

Policy Committee

- Establishes goals and long-term policies
- Approves and adopts the UPWP, TIP, and LRTP
- Reviews and acknowledges completion of planning studies

Planning Committee

- Monitors progress of planning studies
- Approves scope of work for planning studies
- Established by the Policy Committee and composed of professional/technical representatives

Executive Committee

- Manages administration within the SMTC
- Coordinates with the SMTC Director, who manages SMTC staff
- Consists of Planning Committee members

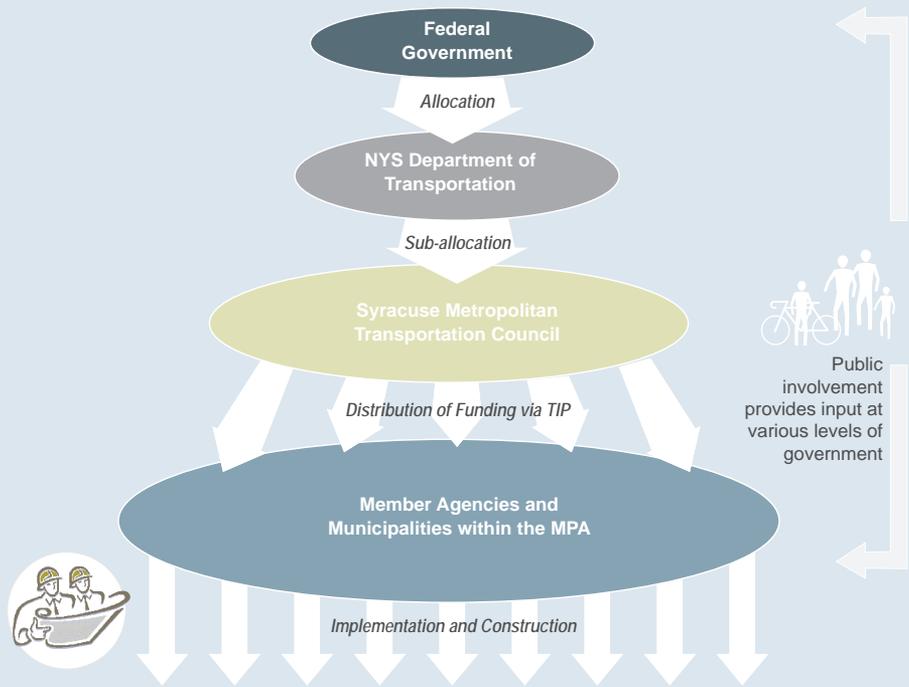
Capital Projects Committee

- Managed by SMTC Staff
- Reviews, prioritizes, and recommends projects to be funded with federal transportation dollars to the Planning Committee

Study Advisory Committees and Working Groups

- Managed by SMTC Staff
- Provides guidance throughout planning studies

Allocation Process



The SMTC is a planning agency, and therefore does not implement any projects nor undertake any construction. However, the SMTC does distribute the funding to make these projects possible. Federal transportation bills since the 1990s have required that transportation funds be allocated through MPOs. The SMTC fills this role for the Syracuse region, ensuring that federal transportation dollars are available to member agencies and local municipalities.

The TIP contains the list of capital projects. For a project to be considered for addition to the TIP, it must meet various eligibility requirements including but not limited to 1) alignment with the long term goals of the region, as determined by the Long Range Transportation Plan or 2) being a recommendation from one of the planning studies of the Unified Planning Work Program.

SMTC Planning Studies

The SMTC conducts a variety of planning studies as part of the Unified Planning Work Program. Topics addressed through these planning studies include:

- Impacts of land use and development on the transportation system
- Safety
- Bicycle, pedestrian, and transit needs
- Traffic operations, including road diets, examinations of one-way to two-way conversions, and signal timing optimization
- Congestion
- Parking
- Bridge and pavement conditions

Get Involved

Public involvement is crucial to a successful transportation planning process. The SMTC encourages you to stay informed and get involved! You can:

- Check out our website for public notices, meeting dates, and reports.
- Call or email the SMTC to submit a comment, talk with staff, or sign up for our newsletter, *Directions*.
- Attend a public meeting for a study that interests you.

Contact Us



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