

## **Appendix I**

### **SAFETEA-LU Action and Resolution**

## **Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council**

### **Action Plan for Addressing SAFETEA-LU Requirements in the Long-Range Transportation Plan 2007 Update**

**February 2007**

The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2004 Update for the Syracuse Metropolitan area was adopted by the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) Policy Committee on June 30, 2004 via SMTC Resolution No. 2004-03.

Since that time, a new transportation bill was signed into law by President Bush on August 10, 2005: the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). This new legislation puts forth a new set of requirements that must be adhered to in the development of the SMTC's LRTP 2007 Update.

As the LRTP 2004 Update is minorly deficient in meeting SAFETEA-LU requirements, the LRTP 2007 Update, which is currently being developed, will have to address these new requirements. To bring the LRTP 2007 Update into compliance with SAFETEA-LU requirements, the SMTC proposes the action plans found on the following pages.

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<p>Safety and security of the transportation system are separate planning factors that are to be considered during the metropolitan planning process</p>	<p>The factors that must be considered in the planning process were increased by splitting safety and security into separate factors:</p> <p>“(B) increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users.            (C) increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users.”</p>	<p><b><u>SAFETY</u></b>  <b>The SMTC addresses safety within its LRTP 2007 Update.</b></p> <p><b>SMTC staff currently participates in the NYSMPOs Safety Working Group, which has identified several goals and objectives to advance safety initiatives including providing input on the development of the State’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).</b></p> <p><b>SMTC participated in the NHI Safety Conscious Planning Course, as well as in a statewide “Shared Cost Initiative” that will include the development of a standardized safety audit priority list, and development of statewide accident rates for non-state highways.</b></p> <p><b>The NYSDOT, in conjunction with SMTC and its member agencies, developed a strategic plan for deployment of ITS for the Syracuse Metropolitan Area (primarily Onondaga County). This includes ITS projects such as Variable Message Signs along I-690, I-81, etc. – to indicate weather conditions as well as upcoming traffic conditions to motorists.</b></p> <p><b><u>SECURITY</u></b>  <b>Transportation system security will be addressed as a separate factor in the SMTC’s LRTP 2007 Update.</b></p> <p><b>SMTC is coordinating with member agencies regarding their security plans. These plans will be identified as appropriate within the LRTP 2007 Update. As a medium sized MPO, the LRTP 2007 Update will merely reference security plans from SMTC member agencies where they exist in lieu of the creation of SMTC’s own security plan.</b></p>
<p>LRTP will be updated every four years (unless the MPO</p>	<p>Congress has attempted to bring into sync TIP development (which had been on a maximum</p>	<p><b>The SMTC MPA is a maintenance area and SMTC currently updates the LRTP every 3 years. In keeping with SAFETEA-</b></p>

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<p>chooses to do so more frequently) in non-attainment and maintenance areas. Attainment areas remain on a 5-year update cycle.</p>	<p>two-year cycle), long-range plan development (which had been on a three-year non-attainment, five-year attainment cycle) and air quality conformity (which is triggered either by TIP, long-range plan or air quality plan adoption). As part of this the law now states that the transportation plan shall prepare and update the plan every four years (or more frequently if the MPO elects to).</p>	<p><b>LU guidelines the SMTC plans to update the LRTP every four years and is actively working to tie the LRTP process with the TIP process in terms of schedule and format.</b></p>
<p>Include a discussion of potential environmental mitigation activities along with potential sites to carry out the activities to be included. The discussion is to be developed in consultation with Federal, State, and Tribal wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies.</p>	<p>Plan must include “a discussion of types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities...”</p>	<p><b>One of the goals of the SMTC’s LRTP 2004 Update is “to provide a clean and environmentally sound transportation system for current and future residents.” This will continue to be a goal of the LRTP 2007 Update. Several Action Plans have been implemented to date (see pg 26 of LRTP 2004 Update).</b></p> <p><b>SMTC’s LRTP 2007 Update is non-project specific. As such, detailed mitigation activities cannot be supplied at this time. Environmental mitigation activities must be tied to the capital project implementation process. However, the SMTC does consult with the NYSDEC and CNY Regional Planning and Development Board on a regular basis, and they are active members of the SMTC Committee structure. As such, these organizations will review the LRTP 2007 Update. In addition, as part of the LRTP 2007 Update, SMTC will identify areas within the MPO boundary that may be environmentally sensitive (a GIS map will be developed that provides this information). The SMTC is cognizant of these areas and will take special precautions if projects are taking place in these locations.</b></p> <p><b>The SMTC currently works with several regulatory agencies through the SMTC Committee Structure, including the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board and NYS</b></p>

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		<p><b>Department of Environmental Conservation, (both of which are voting members represented through this committee structure). In addition, the SMTC has continually sought participation from the Onondaga Nation. The SMTC also intends to complete outreach to relevant federal, state, and local agencies [including the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Various divisions/programs of the NYS DEC (SMTC’s MPO boundary falls into NYSDEC Region 7 which has the following programs: Environmental Permits, Environmental Remediation, Fisheries, Forestry, Water and Wastewater, Wildlife) – Region 7 of the NYS DEC is an SMTC member agency; NYS Department of State; Environmental Protection Agency; and Army Corps of Engineers, as appropriate.]</b></p> <p><b>In addition, NYSDOT Region 3’s “Regional Strategy – October 2006” outlines ongoing and future efforts relating to environmental practices and policies that Region 3 is involved in.</b></p>
<p>Transit operators are to be included in the cooperative development of funding estimates for the financial plan section of the LRTP.</p>	<p>Development of estimates of funds that will be available to support plan implementation must be a cooperative effort among MPO, State and transit operators.</p>	<p><b>The SMTC complies with the SAFETEA-LU provision by working closely with transit operators to identify transit needs and funding estimates for the LRTP. The Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CENTRO) participates as a voting member on our Planning, Policy and Executive Committees.</b></p> <p><b>Chapter 8 (Financial Plan) of the LRTP includes estimated transit fund allocations and projected expenditures for the SMTC area.</b></p>
<p>MPOs are required to consult, as appropriate, with State and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources and environmental protection, conservation and</p>	<p>Expands environmental planning factor to include: “(E)...promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;”</p>	<p><b>In the LRTP 2004 Update, SMTC addresses land use via the Community Land Use Goal: “To promote the development of an efficient urban area and a sense of community through transportation planning.” Each of the 4 objectives under this goal support this. This goal and its objectives will be carried forward under the LRTP 2007 Update.</b></p>

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<p>historic preservation concerning the development of a long-range transportation plan.</p>	<p>The discussion of potential environmental activities”...shall be developed in consultation with Federal, State, and tribal wildlife, land management and regulatory agencies.</p>	<p><b>Through various projects and outreach efforts undertaken within the UPWP, the SMTC consults with appropriate state and local agencies. The SMTC continually strives to connect the goals of state and local development patterns through its planning efforts.</b></p> <p><b>During the development of the LRTP 2004 Update and through the LRTP 2007 Update, the SMTC consulted with State, local municipalities and economic development agencies regarding land use patterns and plans. Additionally, there are representatives from the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency, NYS DEC, Empire State Development Corporation, CNY Regional Planning and Development Board, and Onondaga County Planning Board that are represented through the SMTC Committee Structure.</b></p> <p><b>The SMTC also intends to seek the participation of the following federal, state and local agencies as appropriate: the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Various divisions/programs of the NYS DEC (SMTC’s MPO boundary falls into NYSDEC Region 7 which has the following programs: Environmental Permits, Environmental Remediation, Fisheries, Forestry, Water and Wastewater, Wildlife) – Region 7 of the NYS DEC is an SMTC member agency; NYS Department of State; Environmental Protection Agency; and Army Corps of Engineers. The SMTC will also continue to seek the participation of the Onondaga Nation. As part of the SMTC’s transportation forecasting efforts, the SMTC worked closely with various agencies in an effort to predict changes in travel patterns and the utilization of the transportation system’s relationship between regional development, demographics, and transportation supply. This information is being used in the development of the LRTP 2007 Update.</b></p>

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<p>Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways, bicycle transportation facilities, and the disabled are specifically added as parties to be provided with the opportunity to participate in the planning process.</p>	<p>List now includes:          "...representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled..."</p>	<p><b>The SMTC continually incorporates Environmental Justice within its planning process. As part of the recently completed Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the SMTC completed considerable outreach to the bicycle/pedestrian community and various community organizations.</b></p> <p><b>In coordination with the CNYRTA, the SMTC is also in the process of preparing a coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan that will address the transportation needs of the disabled.</b></p>
<p>The MPO is to develop a participation plan in consultation with interested parties that provides reasonable opportunities for all parties to comment.</p>	<p>MPOs must develop and use a participation plan that is "...developed in consultation with all interested parties "to comment on the content of the transportation plan."</p> <p>The intent is to afford parties who participate in the MPO planning process a specific opportunity to comment on the plan prior to its approval.</p>	<p><b>The SMTC already has a formal public participation plan in place. The SMTC is updating this plan as necessary to enhance its community outreach and adhere to SAFETEA-LU requirements. In addition, the SMTC develops public involvement plans for each of the location-specific studies on the UPWP. This plan is reviewed and agreed upon by Study Advisory Committee members.</b></p> <p><b>The LRTP 2007 Update had a significant public participation element from Summer 2005 through Summer 2006 that included wide-range outreach to diverse community organizations as detailed within the document.</b></p> <p><b>The draft LRTP 2007 Update will be sent to interested parties for review and comment. The final LRTP 2007 draft will be available for public comment for a 30-day period (at the SMTC and through the public library system) and presented to the Policy and Planning Committees.</b></p> <p><b>In addition to SMTC member agency review, the SMTC also intends to seek comments on the LRTP 2007 Update from the following federal, state, and local agencies as appropriate: the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Various divisions/programs of the NYS DEC (SMTC's MPO</b></p>

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		<p><b>boundary falls into NYSDEC Region 7 which has the following programs: Environmental Permits, Environmental Remediation, Fisheries, Forestry, Water and Wastewater, Wildlife) – Region 7 of the NYS DEC is an SMTC member agency; NYS Department of State; Environmental Protection Agency; and Army Corps of Engineers. The SMTC will also continue to seek comments from the Onondaga Nation.</b></p>
<p>To carry out the participation plan, public meetings are to be: conducted at convenient and accessible locations, at convenient and accessible times; employ visualization techniques to describe plans; and make public information available in an electronically accessible format, such as on the web.</p>	<p>MPOs shall publish or otherwise make readily available for public review, transportation plans, “including (to the maximum extent practical) in electronically accessible formats....such as the World Wide Web...”</p>	<p><b>An online survey was developed and posted on the SMTC website which was also available at each public outreach meeting.</b></p> <p><b>SMTC utilizes visualization techniques at the planning project level. As the SMTC’s LRTP is non-project specific, it is difficult to utilize visualization techniques in the same manner. However, SMTC utilizes numerous maps, graphs and charts to assist in describing various points within the Plan.</b></p> <p><b>In addition, the SMTC will participate in a proposed statewide Shared Cost Initiative (SCI) program that will include training in visualization techniques for MPO staff.</b></p> <p><b>SMTC continues to hold public meetings and follow the guidelines set forth in the 2007 LRTP Update Public Involvement Plan.</b></p> <p><b>The SMTC has received accolades from the FHWA on the content of our website. This website comprehensively presents the body of work of the SMTC and is freely accessible to all.</b></p>
<p>The Plan is to be published and made electronically, such as on the web.</p>	<p>MPOs shall also “make public information available in electronically accessible format and means, such as the World Wide Web, as appropriate.</p>	<p><b>SMTC already complies. Final plans and reports such as the LRTP, TIP, and UPWP studies are electronically available on the SMTC website (www.smtcmpo.org) for public review.</b></p>



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<p>Congress has removed the requirement for “congestion management system that provides for effective management” and replaced it with a requirement for a “congestion management <u>process</u> that provides for effective management and <u>operation</u>”.</p>	<p>Requirement for a “congestion management <u>process</u> that provides for effective management and <u>operation</u>”.</p>	<p><b>The SMTC participated in a Shared Cost Initiative with the NYSMPOs to develop a Menu of Options for the Congestion Management Process. The SMTC will revisit the way the CMS (now called CMP) is completed in the coming program year.</b></p>

**RESOLUTION**  
**SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**

**March 12, 2007**

**WHEREAS,** The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) contains several planning factors/guidelines for Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) consideration within a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP); and

**WHEREAS,** Those SAFETEA-LU LRTP guidelines include:

- Safety and security are now separate planning factors that must be considered during the metropolitan planning process;
- The LRTP can now be updated every 4 years (as opposed to every 3 years);
- LRTP must now include a discussion of types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities;
- Transit operators are to be included in the cooperative development of funding estimates for the financial plan portion of the LRTP;
- The environmental planning factor is now expanded to include "...promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns". In addition, the discussion of potential environmental activities should be developed in consultation with Federal, State, and tribal wildlife, land management and regulatory agencies;
- Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways, bike transportation facilities and the disabled were added as parties to be provided with the opportunity to participate in the planning process;
- The MPO is to develop a public participation plan in consultation with interested parties that provides opportunity for all to comment;
- Public meetings must be held at convenient and accessible locations/times, include visualization techniques to describe the LRTP, and make public info available electronically, such as on the web;
- A Congestion Management Process (previously referred to as a Congestion Management System) is now required; and

**WHEREAS,** To bring the LRTP in compliance with SAFETEA-LU legislation, the LRTP 2007 Update must be adopted and adhere to those planning factors/guidelines referenced above by July 2007; and

**WHEREAS,** If the MPO cannot meet the July 2007 deadline, a one year extension may be granted assuming a good faith effort is put in place prior to July 2007 to bring the LRTP in line with SAFETEA-LU requirements; and

**WHEREAS,** Anticipating the occurrence of the LRTP 2007 Update approval schedule to go beyond July 2007, the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration and the New York State Department of Transportation has prepared an Action Plan for addressing the SAFETEA-LU requirements in the LRTP 2007 Update; and

**WHEREAS,** The Action Plan specifies particular approaches that the SMTC will utilize to proceed towards SAFETEA-LU compliancy in the LRTP 2007 Update, thereby providing a good faith effort on behalf on the MPO; and

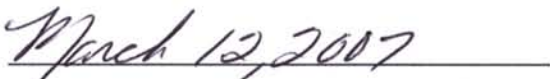
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the SMTC Policy Committee adopts the above action, thereby approving the LRTP 2007 Update Action Plan.



Dale A. Sweetland  
Chairperson  
SMTC Policy Committee



Carl Ford  
Secretary  
SMTC Policy Committee



Date



Date