

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the March 7, 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Mary Robison, Chair
David Roth
Chris Rauber
Tara Spraker
Dan Kwasnowski
David Bottar

Organization

City of Syracuse
NYS Department of Transportation
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
Onondaga County Department of Planning
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board

Also Attending

Katrina Bergan
Rich Sawczak

NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino and Lori Irvine

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Robison called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any changes to the January 4, 2024, minutes.

Ms. Spraker indicated that she was present during the Executive Session of the agenda.

Ms. Irvine indicated that a correction would be made.

Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Mr. Roth moved, and Ms. Spraker seconded the Approval of the Minutes with the correction.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the financials are for the month of January. There is one sixth of the year left with the program year ending on March 31st. SMTC is currently 15% - 17% in the black with \$260,000 that was recently approved to roll over into the next program year. There are some consultant bills that are still expected to arrive and will still be within the anticipated budget area. Mr. D'Agostino indicated overall the SMTC budget looks fine.

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions. There were none.

This was an information item only and no action was required by the Committee.

B. UPWP STATUS REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following from the February 2024 UPWP Status Report:

Capital solicitations efforts for TAP/CMAQ, Bridge NY, and 5310 are well underway with SMTC staff planning a meeting with the state soon to review them. The Policy Committee approved the list of Bridge NY priority projects last week and Mr. Colone sent the approved list to Mr. Roth. The new UPWP was approved and is now on the SMTC website. The UPWP is going to print soon, and committee members should have a copy within a couple of weeks.

The March FOAT meeting (virtual) is scheduled in two weeks. Some SMTC staff attended a public workshop regarding the I-81 Community Grid project. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the budget studies that are wrapping up will have their public comment period in the next 30 days.

The updated Transportation Atlas is underway in support of the Long-Range Transportation Plan/Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Staff held a SAC meeting this week for the Long-Range Transportation Plan updating draft goals and objectives, priority funding initiatives and other major regional projects along with a draft Public Involvement Plan that should be kicked off soon.

Staff have been working with NYSDOT staff reviewing various new datasets including Data Axle which helps review employment data which is critical for modeling and the Long-Range Plan. SMTC staff has also been working with the City of Syracuse to provide some GIS files for their Open Data Portal. The current traffic count data assistance contract expires on June 30th with RFP submissions due by March 8th. SMTC staff reached out to NYSDOT Main Office for clarification and guidance on estimated cost of RRFB's (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons) that is included in the NYSDOT Quick Cost Estimator Reference Tool on their website for TAP, TEP, etc. applications.

The Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System was approved by the Policy Committee last week and work continues on the 2023-2024 Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System Report. The City of Syracuse's On-Call Planning Support for their Reconnecting Communities Grant was approved last week to become a project on the SMTC program next year similarly the Safe Streets for All project grant for the county. Efforts continue relating to EIS activities for County Planning Assistance including Micron Assistance. SMTC spent a lot of time going back and forth with OCIDA, WSP, and Micron regarding the assumptions for future land use, employment growth, etc. SMTC is very confident with the model that they provided. SMTC has provided a draft of the Operations Plan for the Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan to the SAC for their review and plans on bringing the final plan to the next SMTC Policy Committee Meeting. Staff will soon begin searching for interns to continue data collection during the summer for the Syracuse Sidewalk Planning Study. Mr. D'Agostino hopes to have four interns to start late May or early June. Staff is finalizing the Syracuse Safe Routes to School Procedural Manual to bring to the next Planning and Policy Committee. The CNYRTA Public Outreach project is now complete per the Policy Committee last week. The Westvale Plaza

Revitalization draft report is currently out for public comment and will be brought to the next Planning and Policy Committee. The Westside Trail project for the City of Syracuse is wrapping up and will also be presented at the next Planning and Policy Committee meeting. The Nedrow Route 11 Corridor Study draft report is going to be sent to the SAC and will be presented at the next Planning and Policy Committee meetings. The county added more information to the Engagement & Outreach – Financing Local Mobility project. The project should be completed next week and presented at the next Planning and Policy Committee meeting. The Brewerton Trail Network project in Cicero is a technical analysis item and should be complete by late summer. Mr. D’Agostino indicated that the SAC meeting for the Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Connection is today at the Village of Minoa Office. There will be a SAC meeting next week for the Micron Development Area Transportation System Assessment to discuss the Route 31 corridor with the consultant team giving a presentation regarding the generic concept.

Five applications were received and reviewed for the Community Streets Program by the City of Syracuse, SMTC Staff and Adapt CNY. A selection of three projects will be advanced in the spring and summer for temporary urban enhancement modifications. For Travel Demand Modeling, a lot of Micron regional transportation mitigation scenario modeling was completed and delivered to the Micron EIS team and work is almost complete for the Onondaga Lake Parkway transportation alternatives as requested by the NYSDOT and should be delivered next week.

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that there are several TIP amendments on today’s agenda.

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

This was an information item only and no action was required by the Committee.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **TIP Amendments**

Mr. D’Agostino indicated there are four TIP Amendments for consideration. The amendments are necessitated by changes to cost and/or schedule on the existing capital program (TIP).

The TIP Amendments are for Onondaga County (2) and the New York State Department of Transportation (2).

Change in cost

PIN 350193 (BRIDGE, NEW & REPLACE, I-690 OVER CROUSE & LODI, ONON CO).

Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). Per the latest engineer’s estimate, the NYSDOT is proposing to increase Construction phase in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 23/24 by \$69,814,000 total funds. Compensating offset provided by funds from outside the area.

Mr. Roth gave a detailed explanation.

Change to schedule

PIN 350184 (BRIDGE REHAB, I-81, RAMPS TO HIAWATHA & CR 137, SYRACUSE, ONON CO).

Sponsor NYSDOT. The NYSDOT is proposing to advance Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 26/27 to FFY 25/26 and fund with \$9,000,000 and \$900,000 of State Dedicated Funds (SDF) respectively. Compensating offset is not necessary.

PIN 375576 (TUTTLE RD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, TN OF CICERO, ONON CO).

Sponsor Onondaga County Department of Transportation (OCDOT). The OCDOT is proposing to delay Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 23/24 to FFY 24/25 and fund with \$853,000 and \$223,000 of BFP federal funds respectively. Compensating offset is not necessary.

PIN 375691 (BRIDGE REHAB, N MANLIUS RD OVER LIMESTONE CRK, TN OF MANLIUS, ONON CO).

Sponsor Onondaga County Department of Transportation (OCDOT). The OCDOT is proposing to delay Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 23/24 to FFY 24/25 and fund with \$1,191,000 and \$167,000 of BFP federal funds respectively. Compensating offset provided by funds from outside the area.

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Mr. Rauber moved, and Mr. Roth seconded the Approval of the TIP Amendments.

The motion carried unanimously.

*Mr. D'Agostino advised the committee that he will be sending out a notification regarding the approved TIP amendment for NYSDOT to the Policy Committee.

B. Election of Officers

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that in pursuant to the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's (SMTC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and By-Laws, the Policy, Planning and Executive Committees are due to elect, by consensus of each Committee, a new slate of officers. The term of office is two (2) years from appointment.

The New York State Department of Transportation shall serve as the Secretary of the Policy Committee and the Executive Committee, and the Central Staff Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Planning Committee.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that current Chairperson Robison has agreed to continue as Chairperson and Mr. Bottar has agreed to continue as Vice Chairperson unless someone else would like to be nominated.

No one else wanted to be nominated.

Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Ms. Spraker moved, and Mr. Kwasnowski seconded the election of Chairperson Robison as Chairperson and Mr. Bottar as Vice Chairperson of the SMTC Executive Committee.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Route 57 Complete Streets Consultant Selection

Mr. D'Agostino explained that this is a special pot of funds for Complete Streets that needs to be spent and accounted for separately.

The effort is scoped as a consultant project. An RFP went out and 5 proposals were received. Mr. D'Agostino asked committee members for volunteers to be a part of the consultant selection committee. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that Mr. Colone will be sending the selection committee copies of each proposal and next steps for the selection process.

This was an informational item only.

D. Proposed Title Changes to Existing Staffing Plan

Mr. D'Agostino proposed a title name change from the current titles of Junior Transportation Planner to Transportation Planner I and Transportation Planner to Transportation Planner II to the SMTC Position and Salary Structure as the name change sounds better in the current competitive recruiting market.

There were no objections to this change.

**Chairperson Robison mentioned the TIP amendment was approved in January by the Executive Committee for an additional \$500,000.00 for the city's West Genesee Street project to meet ADA regulations on the sidewalks as they crossed driveways. Chairperson Robison indicated that they are over budget as the consultant needs to do additional work that wasn't originally planned for. Chairperson Robison asked if there is any NHPP funding available to cover this additional cost. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he would find out and let Chairperson Robison know.

6. Public Comment

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed, Chairperson Robison adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.