

DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Spring 2024



On Street parking in Armory Square, in Downtown Syracuse.



2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program adopted

On February 29, 2024, the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's (SMTC) Policy Committee adopted the 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designated by the New York State Governor, the SMTC is responsible for carrying out the continuous, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Syracuse Metropolitan Area. The UPWP incorporates into one document all transportation planning activities, conducted from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, within the Syracuse Metropolitan Area.

The SMTC issued a call letter for project proposals in the fall of 2023. Six new projects, as well as the management of two studies contracted out by member agencies, were selected for inclusion in the 2024-2025 UPWP. Additionally, six major projects from the previous program year will be carried over for completion. The UPWP also lists numerous recurring activities performed by SMTC staff such as data collection, travel demand modeling, and long-range planning. Summary details of each new study is below:

Congestion Management Process 2024 Update

A Congestion Management Process (CMP) is required to be created in metropolitan area's with an urban population greater than 200,000

More info about the UPWP:

smtcmpo.org/all-publications/upwp/

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL



Unified Planning Work Program
UPWP 2024-2025

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2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program adopted

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(categorized as a Transportation Management Area). The prior CMP was adopted by the SMTC Policy Committee in 2019.

Downtown Parking Signage and Wayfinding

To create an easier wayfinding experience for visitors driving into Downtown Syracuse, the study will develop optimal placements of uniform parking signage to direct drivers to public and private parking facilities.

Village of Liverpool Modeling Update and Analysis

SMTC staff will examine existing transportation conditions and plan for future transportation conditions through the use of the SMTC's travel demand model, taking into account changes to the land-use and transportation system that have occurred.

North Syracuse Van Mara & Grove St Traffic Calming and Safety Analysis

The study will identify traffic calming measures that will balance between anticipated growth in the village and broader area and the safety of residents that live on the study streets.

Greater Liverpool Traffic Study - Technical Analysis

To evaluate existing capacity related issues in the Greater Liverpool Area and identify solutions that may be available to resolve them in a 5-year timeframe, as applicable.

West Monroe Route 49 Corridor Study

A corridor study of New York State Route 49 in the Village of Central Square and Town of West Monroe will aim to increase safety, mobility, and economic viability along the corridor.

Safe Routes to School Support (Onondaga County)

This effort will engage and educate school and municipal leaders about Safe Routes to School (SRTS) opportunities and assist interested groups in developing a SRTS plan. The focus will be on suburban districts in Onondaga County, since the SMTC is currently wrapping-up a similar effort for the City of Syracuse.

Project Management Assistance: Safe Streets for All and Reconnecting Communities

Both Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse have been awarded funding through competitive Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) programs. The County was awarded \$450,000 to prepare a Safe Streets for All Action Plan. The City was awarded \$500,000 as part of the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, to study the creation of safe pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation connections along multiple east-west routes in the Southside of Syracuse. For both of these efforts, SMTC staff will assist with the preparation of a scope of services, request for proposals, and management of the selected consultant team, and will also support the project by providing data and assisting with public engagement activities.

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Directions is a publication of the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC). Formed in 1966 as a result of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962, and the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, the SMTC serves as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Syracuse metropolitan area, and provides a forum for cooperative decision making in developing transportation plans and programs. Its committees are comprised of elected and appointed officials, representing local, state, and federal governments or agencies (member agencies) having an interest in or responsibility for transportation planning and programming.



ETT Discussion Meeting at Bob Cecile Community Center, September 2023.



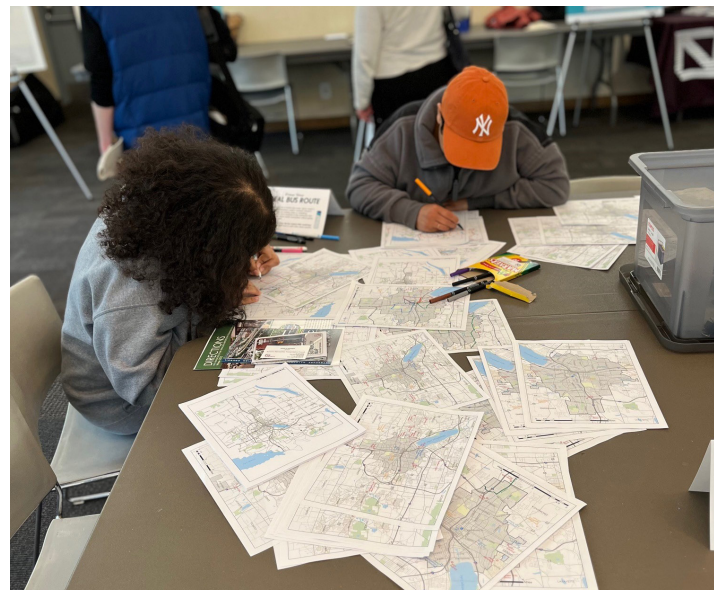
Exploring Tomorrow's Transit Final Report now available

The SMTC has wrapped-up the Exploring Tomorrow's Transit (ETT) public engagement effort, and a final report is now available on our website. The ETT outreach began with an informational video on our website in January 2023, along with a public engagement survey that was open from January to May 2023. Over 1,049 people responded to the survey! We also held public meetings in April/May 2023, followed by a second round of meetings in September 2023. Through all of this, we continued to hear from both current bus riders and non-riders that their highest priority for our transit system is to increase the frequency of service. Many people also expressed that they would walk a bit farther to reach a bus route with high frequency service (10 minutes or less between buses throughout the day). People also asked for more service at key education, retail, and employment destinations such as Syracuse University, Downtown, and DestinyUSA. Community members said they were excited about new transit options in our community such as Bus Rapid Transit, expansion of the

Veo bike and scooter share system, and on-demand bus service. Centro will use this feedback in their long-term service planning for the Syracuse area.

Read the ETT Final Report:

www.smtcmopo.org/centroett/



Participants at the Open House at Liverpool Public Library complete the "Draw Your Ideal Bus Route" exercise, May 2023.

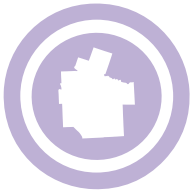


SMTC kicks-off 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan process. We want your input!

One of the core functions of every metropolitan planning organization, or MPO, is to maintain the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Federal legislation stipulates that the MTP must articulate a 20+ year vision for the future of the region's transportation system. The SMTC is required to update our region's MTP (formerly titled the Long Range Transportation Plan, or LRTP) at least once every 5 years, with our next plan due to be adopted by the end of September 2025. The MTP describes the current state of our surface transportation system, examines anticipated trends, and lays out a vision for the future of our region's transportation system. Since kicking-off our new MTP effort in fall 2023, SMTC staff have been compiling data on the current and expected future conditions of our community, economy, environment,

and transportation system. We have also reviewed numerous existing plans from other local municipalities as well as County and State agencies to draft a set of goals and objectives to guide our MTP. But we also need your input! Check out the MTP page of our website at www.smtcmpo.org/mtp2050. There, you'll find a brief video that describes the MTP process and a link to our MTP public engagement survey. Make sure to sign-up for our email list and follow us on social media (Facebook and Instagram) for the latest updates on the MTP process.

Keep up to date with the MTP:
www.smtcmpo.org/mtp2050



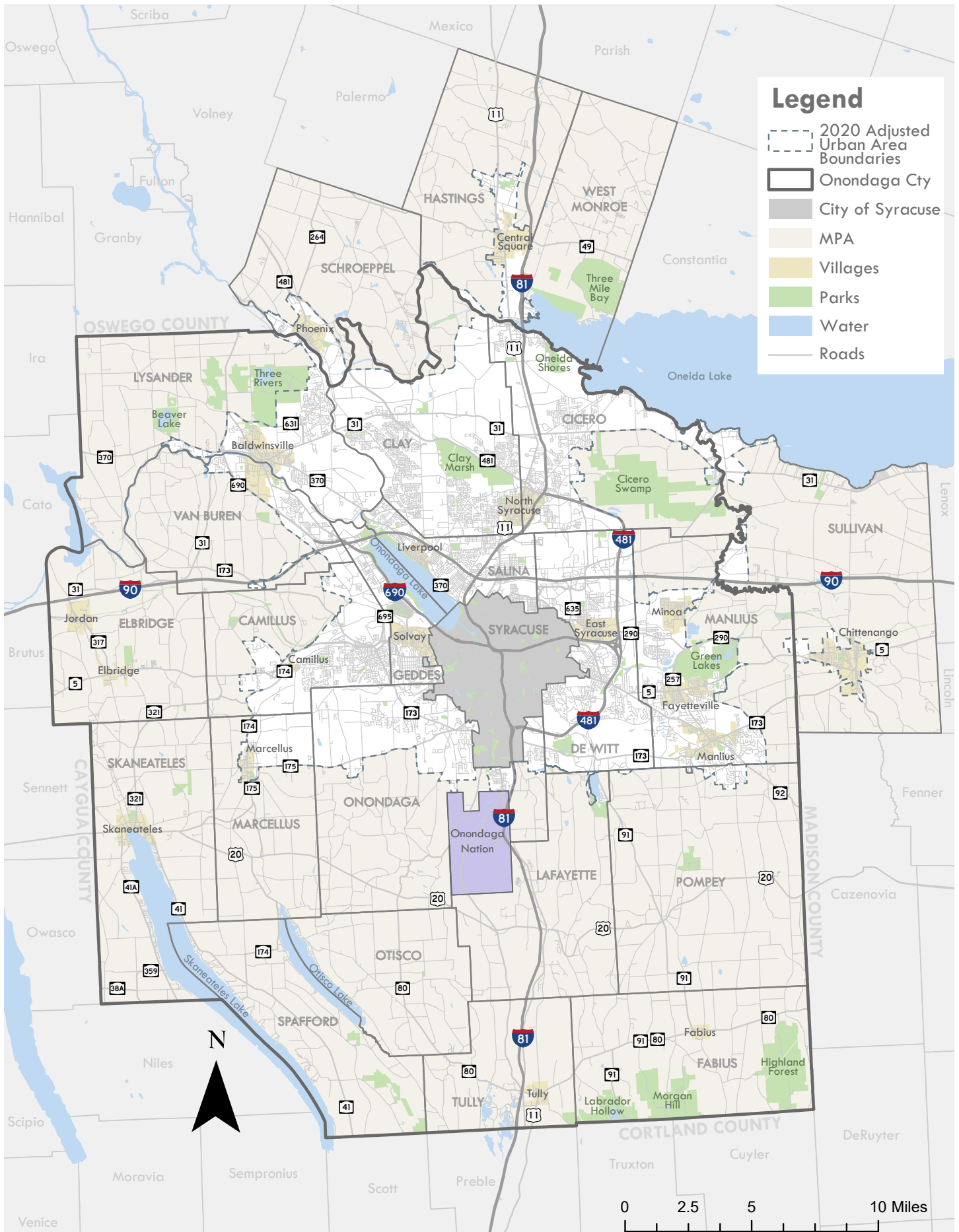
MPA Boundary Updated to reflect 2020 Census

The recent release of the 2020 Decennial Census data also brought the release of new Census urban area boundaries throughout the country. MPOs, including SMTC, are required to review our Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary when the Census releases new urban area boundaries. The MPA is the geographic area in which the MPO conducts transportation planning studies and programs federal transportation capital funds. The MPA is required to contain, at a minimum, the existing Census urban area plus the contiguous area expected to become urbanized over the next 20 years. SMTC staff met with a working group of our member agencies to examine the 2020 urban area boundary and evaluate how this impacts

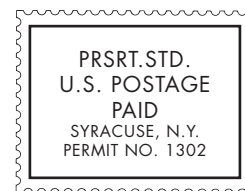
our MPA. The northern edge of the 2020 Syracuse urban area contracted slightly compared to the 2010 boundary. Previously, a very small area of the Town of Granby had been included in the urban area and, therefore, in the SMTC's MPA. However, this portion of Granby is not included in the 2020 urban area. The SMTC Policy Committee approved a new MPA at the February 29, 2024 meeting, which removed this portion of the Granby. No other changes were made to the MPA. The approved MPA contains all of Onondaga County, the Town of Sullivan in Madison County, and the towns of Hastings, Schroepfel, and West Monroe in Oswego County.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETING:

Villages of Minoa, Fayetteville, and Manlius Bicycle & Pedestrian Connection Study
April 11, 2024 (6:00 - 8:00 pm) at the Manlius Village Auditorium (1 Arkie Albanese Ave, Manlius, NY)



The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's (SMTC) metropolitan planning area (MPA), adopted on February 29, 2024.



**The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
is currently in the process of creating a new
2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO

This plan describes the current state of our surface transportation system, examines anticipated trends, and lays out a vision for the future of our region's transportation system.



LEARN MORE & TAKE OUR SURVEY

Tell us where you encounter issues in the transportation system now and your suggestions for improving the system in the future. This feedback will help us identify priorities for transportation investment over the next **25 years**.