



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

100 Clinton Square
126 N. Salina Street, Suite 100
Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: (315) 422-5716
Fax: (315) 422-7753
www.smtcmpo.org

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 23, 2023

10:00 a.m.

**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Lower-Level Conference Room
126 N. Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202**

Megan Costa, Chairperson, Presiding

AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - February 15, 2023
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
 - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. TIP Amendments
 - B. I-81 TIP Amendment Process / Matrix Revisions
 - C. Coldbrook Creek Trail Study
 - D. Scope of Work Approval – Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle/Pedestrian Connections Study
- 6. Public Comment**
- 7. Adjourn**

The Metropolitan Planning Organization

Office of the Mayor • Syracuse Common Council • Syracuse Planning Commission • CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity • New York State Department of Transportation • New York State Department of Environmental Conservation • New York State Department of Economic Development • New York State Thruway Authority • Office of the County Executive • Onondaga County Legislature • Onondaga County Planning Board • Central New York Regional Transportation Authority • Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board • Federal Transit Administration • Federal Highway Administration

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the May 23, 2023 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Megan Costa, Chair
Chris Tuff
David Roth
Jonathan Link Logan
Mary Robison, Vice Chair
Chris Rauber
James Beebe
Allison Bodine
Sara Sherlock
David Bottar
Kevan Busa
Dereth Glance

Organization

Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
NYS Department of Transportation
CenterState CEO
City of Syracuse, Administration
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
Onondaga County Legislature
City of Syracuse, Division of Planning
NYS Thruway Authority
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
City of Syracuse, DPW
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Also Attending

Betsy Parmley
Ed Mueller
Tara Spraker
Bren Daiss
Kelly Gibson
Heather Snow

NYS Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
Onondaga Nation
Oswego County

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Tom Bardenett, Alexander McRoberts, Jason Deshaies, Joey DiStefano, Danielle Krol, Kevin Kosakowski, and Lori Irvine.

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Costa called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. at the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room then asked for introductions of each person in attendance indicating their name as well as their agency and title.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any changes to the February 15, 2023, minutes. Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion. Ms. Robison moved, and Ms. Bodine seconded the Approval of the Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. **UPWP Status Report**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated the following:

General Administration: The new program year began on April 1st which includes the implementation of a new budget and additional work items. Public Participation & Outreach: Several public events were held in April and May. Open houses were held at the Salt City Market and Liverpool Public Library for the Exploring Tomorrow's Transit initiative for Centro which were very successful along with a virtual workshop and other small tabling events. UPWP Previous Year Closeouts: Staff is working on wrapping up projects from last year which should be completed shortly. UPWP Maintenance & Development: There will be one Scope of Work for a new project that will be voted on later on the agenda. Federal Transportation Legislation Examination & Evaluation: SMTC staff is working with Joe Driscoll with the City on the Reconnecting Communities grant for \$500,000 and expects to contribute staff time and in-kind services. Mr. D'Agostino expressed that he hopes to work with County Planning on their Safe Streets for All initiative. Chairperson Costa indicated they are currently working on contracts and the RFP. 2023 NYSAMPO Conference Hosting: During the second week of May, the SMTC hosted the NYSAMPO Conference which was well attended by over 250 people. Mr. D'Agostino is looking for feedback from committee members that attended the conference. Census Data Compilation and/or Analysis: SMTC staff continue to work with the State on the boundary adjustment process and is waiting on the State to make the modifications. Geographic Information Systems – SMTC: Staff participated in a "Career Coaching" day at the Public Service Leadership Academy at Fowler, providing insight into careers in GIS. Staff also provided the same at SU. Staff is currently working to acquire GIS based employment data from ESRI which will be useful to update the model for Micron analysis. Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning: Final changes have been made to the bike map and have been submitted to the printer. The SMTC should have them in a few weeks. Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS): Staff continues to work towards completion of the 2022-2023 BPCMS Report and beginning to ramp up on the pavement rating that will occur this summer. MPO Area and Regional Planning Assistance: Staff worked with WSP, who is the consultant engineer for Micron, providing them with Travel Demand Modeling analysis for their Environmental Impact Statement. The information has been delivered but will need to be repeated once the I-81 information has been received. Rail, Truck & Transit Planning: As part of the NYSAMPO conference, approximately 20 people attended an in-person tour at the local Amazon facility. Traffic Safety: SMTC secured Cornell Local Roads Program to speak at the NYSAMPO conference on liability issues related to safety planning and becoming familiar with NYSDOT's CLEAR online platform. City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support: Final priority crosswalks around schools list was submitted to the City DPW in the format requested. The project is now complete. Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan: The Study Advisory Committee is currently meeting at Club 44 at the dome and the project is expected to be completed by the end of the program year. Syracuse Sidewalk Planning Study: Interns have been secured and started working today. They will continue sidewalk data collection efforts this summer. Syracuse Safe Routes to School Procedural Manual Phase 2: SMTC met with staff from the Syracuse City School District and plan on moving this project ahead this year. CNYRTA Public Outreach: The Exploring Tomorrow's Transit survey is officially closed. This project is on target and on time. Westvale Plaza Revitalization: Project is progressing on time. Coldbrook Creek Trail – City of Syracuse: Project will be presented on today's agenda as complete. Westside Trail – City of Syracuse: Staff held

the second SAC meeting on April 28th. This project is progressing on time. Nedrow Route 11 Corridor Study: Staff ran a public information meeting that was very well attended on April 27th. The project is progressing on target with approximately another year left until completion. Travel Demand Modeling: An update on modeling editing is currently occurring and the EIS work has been completed. Additionally, work continues on the SMTC regional model update and model conflation which merges the SMTC and NYSDOT 1-81 models and is funded by the State. Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Connection: The Scope of Work is on the agenda today. Brewerton Trail Network – Cicero: Staff are beginning to scope this project. TIP Development: There are 2 TIP Amendments on the agenda today along with modifying the TIP Amendment Process for the I-81 project per NYSDOT's request.

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

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

I-81 Project Update

Ms. Parmley gave the Committee a brief update on the I-81 Project indicating that the project is moving "full steam ahead" within the guidelines set by Judge Neri. Ms. Parmley indicated preliminary work for contract 1, the Northern Interchange of I-81 & I-481, has begun with major construction starting this summer. Contract 2, the Southern Interchange of I-81 & I-481 will be awarded at the end of June and Contract 3, the Inner Harbor awarded sometime this fall. Design-only work is progressing on Contracts 4 and 5.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. D'Agostino asked if the status of the appeal to the judge's decision was still active? Ms. Parmley replied that it was and indicated that the motion to re-argue the case in the State Supreme Court was denied and it is now fully in Appeals Court with activity expected this fall. Ms. Parmley also indicated the Federal case should be wrapped up by the end of this year and hopes that both cases will be concluded by the end of the year.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. TIP Amendments

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there are two I-81 Viaduct Project related TIP amendments that are proposed for modification to the 2023-2027 TIP and statewide TIP:

Change in schedule:

o PIN 350193 (BRIDGE, NEW AND REPLACE, I-690 OVER CROUSE & IRVING, CITY OF SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). NYSDOT is proposing to delay the Construction and Inspection phases from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 22/23 to FFY 23/24. Compensating offsets provided by outside Metropolitan Planning Area funds.

o PIN 350194 (BUSINESS LOOP 81, SOUTHERN SECTION, PHASE 1, CITY OF SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to delay the Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 22/23 to FFY 23/24. Compensating offsets provided by outside Metropolitan Planning Area funds.

Mr. Roth indicated that both TIP Amendments were just moving the projects from this

year to next.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend the Policy Committee approve the TIP amendments.

Mr. Roth moved, and Ms. Robison seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. I-81 TIP Amendment Process/Matrix Revisions

Mr. D'Agostino explained to committee members that there is an existing TIP Amendment Process and a Matrix outlining when specific amendments are brought to which committees (Executive, Planning and Policy). Committee members were given a copy of the existing matrix. Additionally, it was determined by the Policy Committee that all I-81 related TIP Actions would be brought to the Planning and Policy Committees given the importance of this project.

NYSDOT is proposing revisions to this matrix due to the size, scope and nature of the I-81 Viaduct Project contracts and their funding needs.

Discussions occurred at the meeting on:

- Existing TIP Matrix and Amendment Process (General)
- Existing I-81 Amendment Process
- NYSDOT Proposed Revisions
- Staff's Opinion on Proposed Revisions

Mr. Roth explained his concerns regarding the number of changes and the timing of staying on schedule if the current amendment process stays in place with this project.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the SMTC is the only MPO in the state of New York that has an Executive Committee in place that meets once a month and no one from the legislative branch of government and non-voting members are represented on this committee. Mr. D'Agostino feels that for a project as large as I-81, the SMTC Planning and Policy Committee should be included in the process. Mr. D'Agostino believes the main reason for the MPO's existence is for the local communities and local governments to have a significant role in the expenditure of federal transportation funding.

Mr. Bottar believes there should be a consistent process for all TIP Amendments across the board.

Discussion occurred.

Mr. Tuff asked if the Executive Committee could refuse to act on an item and push it on to the Planning and Policy Committee? Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Executive Committee may, if it chooses, defer any I-81 amendment back to the SMTC Planning/Policy Committees that it feels are appropriate.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any other questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the Planning Committee recommend the Policy Committee approve adjustments to the TIP Matrix for I-81 Viaduct Project considerations presented and discussed.

Mr. Roth moved, and Mr. Bottar seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

C. Coldbrook Creek Trail Study

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that this study was initiated as part of the 2022-2023 UPWP on behalf of the City of Syracuse. Responding to the concerns of residents regarding flooding along Coldbrook Creek, the City of Syracuse initiated an investigation into a potential sediment removal project. As an outgrowth of this investigation, the City requested the SMTC to identify opportunities along the existing “goat” path and local street that run alongside the creek to help:

- Increase pedestrian and bicycle trips to local amenities;
 - Reduce vehicle miles traveled and personal vehicle trips;
 - Provide more trails to connect the Valley neighborhood to nearby destinations; and
- Expand and connect the existing/planned regional trail network.

Mr. Bardenett provided a detailed presentation of this study.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.
Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the study.
Mr. Busa moved, and Mr. Rauber seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

D. Scope of Work Approval – Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle/Pedestrian Connections Study

Mr. D’Agostino indicated his staff is completing the Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle/Pedestrian Connections Study on behalf of the Village of Fayetteville. The study aims to explore ideas that will: evaluate and improve the bicycle and pedestrian network, connections, and access through the Greater Fayetteville area that link the villages of Fayetteville, Manlius, and Minoa to each other, as well as to neighboring parks and trails in the area - including the Empire State Trail system, Mill Run Park, and Green Lakes State Park.

Ms. Krol provided a detailed presentation of this study.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.
Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to approve the Scope of Work for the Fayetteville Area Bicycle/Pedestrian Connections Study.
Ms. Bodine moved, and Mr. Link Logan seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. by Chairperson Costa.