



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

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 29, 2024

10:00 a.m.

**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Lower-Level Conference Room
Corey Dunham, Vice Chairperson**

AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - October 19, 2023
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
 - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. 2024-2025 UPWP Adoption & 2023-2024 UPWP Year End
 - B. Metropolitan Planning Area Adjustment
 - C. City of Syracuse Pavement Prioritization
 - D. CNYRTA Public Outreach (Exploring Tomorrow's Transit)
 - E. Bridge NY Application Review
 - F. Election of New Policy Committee Chairperson
- 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 February 29, 2024 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Corey Dunham, Vice Chair
Christopher Tuff
David Smith
David Bottar
Jimmy Monto
Timothy Burtis
Dan Kolinski
Robert Simpson
Odean Dyer

Organization

City of Syracuse, Mayor
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
NYS Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
City of Syracuse Common Council
Onondaga County Legislature
Empire State Development
CenterState CEO
Onondaga County Executive

Also Attending

David Roth
Betsy Parmley
Bren Daiss

NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Andrew Frasier, Meghan Vitale, Alex McRoberts, Kevin Kosakowski, Joey DiStefano, and Lori Irvine.

BUSINESS MEETING

Vice Chairperson Dunham called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there were no additions or changes to the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairperson Dunham inquired if there were any changes to the October 19, 2023, minutes.

Hearing none, Vice Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Simpson moved, and Mr. Smith seconded the approval of the minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairperson Dunham introduced/welcomed Councilor Jimmy Monto from the Syracuse Common Council. Councilor Monto is now the Chairperson of the Public Transportation Committee.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. **UPWP Status Report**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he will review this topic later in the agenda (5A).

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

I-81 Project Update

Ms. Parmley indicated that the lawsuit was dismissed on February 2nd and the Federal case has no significant impact on the project.

Contract 1 in Cicero is well underway. Ms. Parmley mentioned that the tall pile of dirt at the construction site is for ground improvements to compress the earth as the Business Loop 81 North to Route 1-81 flyover ramp is being built. In just over 390 days of construction, there has been over 70 million dollars' worth of work.

Contract 2, the southern interchange is moving quickly. In just 200 days of construction there has been nearly 60 million dollars' worth of work.

Contract 3, which is the Inner Harbor is currently being advertised and will be in construction this spring.

Contracts 4 & 5 will be advertised this March & April and will be in construction this fall. Ms. Parmley indicated that by this fall, nearly one billion dollars of work will be in construction in Central New York for this project.

Ms. Parmley indicated that Phase 2 (contracts 6, 7, and 8) design will begin soon with the entire project on schedule and due to be complete by the end of 2028.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any other questions.

This was an informational item only.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **2024-2025 UPWP Adoption & 2023-2024 UPWP Year End**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the SMTC staff has developed the 2024-2025 UPWP.

A letter was sent to member agencies on November 27, 2023, acting as a call letter for UPWP Project Proposals.

A draft of the 2024-2025 UPWP was created programming 100% of our allocation plus unspent carryover monies.

Mr. D'Agostino outlined its approach to funding and programming for the 2024-2025 UPWP in light of funding needs and allocation limitations. To fully accomplish the program as envisioned, the NYSAMPO is contributing \$50,000 a year for two years to cover the costs of the 2025 NYSAMPO conference.

Mr. D'Agostino provided an overview / year end summary of the existing 2023-2024 program year as well as further details on the proposed 2024-2025 UPWP.

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the Unified Planning Work Plan is the annual work items undertaken by the SMTC in support of the area's Long Range Transportation Plan, also known as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. It details the use of all FHWA and FTA planning funds in the SMTC area.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that there were three significant projects that were completed this past year (CNYRTA Public Outreach, Coldbrook Creek Trail City of Syracuse, and the Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System).

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned there were several recurring and mandated projects such as Public Participation & Outreach, Census Data, Data Collection, Geographic Information Systems, Bridge and Pavement, MPO Area Regional Planning Initiatives, Long-Range Transportation Plan, City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support, City Sidewalk Planning Study, Travel Demand Modeling and Transportation Improvement Plan Development and Maintenance in which the SMTC had a 100% obligation rate.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that there are six projects close to completion (Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan, Syracuse Safe Routes to School Study, Westvale Plaza Revitalization, Nedrow Route 11 Corridor Study, and Financing Local Mobility Study). These projects will be ready by the next Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there was a solicitation of projects that went out to member agencies, municipalities and Onondaga Nation informing them of the funding opportunity then a virtual meeting was held followed by a written draft that went out for public comment and presented to the SMTC Planning Committee on February 15th.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned there are four carryover projects that will go into next program year starting April 1st. They are County Planning Assistance, Community Streets Program, Brewerton Trail Network in Cicero, and the Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Connection and lastly there are ten new projects for the new UPWP which are the Congestion Management Process 2024 Update, Downtown Parking Signage and Wayfinding, Village of Liverpool Modeling Update and Analysis, North Syracuse Traffic Calming, Greater Liverpool Traffic Study, Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan, Reconnecting Communities Grant Coordination, Safe Routes to School for Onondaga County Suburban School Districts Support, West Monroe Route 49 Corridor Study, and Route 57 Complete Streets Study in Clay for Onondaga County.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the SMTC Operating Budget is a little over 2 million dollars with an allocation of 1.7 million dollars and a deficit of 290 thousand dollars. There is 29 thousand dollars of old unspent money and 261 thousand dollars from this program year that ends March 31st. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that this will be the largest program year to date.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Vice Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Kolinski seconded the motion that the Policy Committee adopt the 2024-2025 UPWP.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Metropolitan Planning Area Adjustment

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that the SMTC convened a Working Group in Fall 2023 comprised of member agency representatives to discuss and review modifications to the Urban Area as a result of the 2020 Census. A revised Urban Area, following discussion with the SMTC Planning and Policy Committees was subsequently provided to New York State for transmittal to the Federal Highway Administration. As part of the Working Group discussion, the existing Metropolitan Planning Area, which forms the area within which the SMTC’s planning and programming efforts are undertaken, was identified for modification. The revised planning area removes the small portion of the Town of Granby that is no longer classified as urban.

The revised Metropolitan Planning Area will include all of Onondaga County and the entire towns Hastings, Schroepfel and West Monroe in Oswego County, and the entire Town of Sullivan in Madison County.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Vice Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Dyer moved, and Mr. Tuff seconded the approval of the Metropolitan Planning Area Adjustment.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. City of Syracuse Pavement Prioritization

Mr. D’Agostino indicated in recent years, on behalf of the City of Syracuse, the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council has conducted an analysis of the City’s road network to provide insight into prioritizing certain roads for pavement maintenance. This process leads to the development of a Priority Score, which can help guide City staff on pavement decisions.

The Priority Score has traditionally included several infrastructure-related variables, such as pavement rating (collected in 2023), traffic volumes, functional classification, and others. This year, at the request of the City, the SMTC also included demographic information from the Census Bureau to include an equity component in the development of the Priority Score.

Mr. Frasier, Sr. Transportation Analyst at the SMTC provided a brief presentation.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

This was an informational item only.

D. CNYRTA Public Outreach (Exploring Tomorrow’s Transit)

Mr. D’Agostino indicated the SMTC designed and implemented a public outreach effort on behalf of CNYRTA (Centro) called “Exploring Tomorrow’s Transit” (ETT). Elements of this effort were:

- Project website
- Background information presentation video
- Community engagement survey
- Pop-ups / tabling events
- Open Houses
- Community discussion meetings

Over 1,000 people engaged with this effort, mostly through the survey. Results from the survey and feedback from the two rounds of public meetings clearly indicated that increased frequency of transit service is the most-desired improvement. Participants also expressed interest in on-demand service and excitement for the implementation of BRT. The final report summarizes all of the feedback that was gathered.

Ms. Vitale, Principal Transportation Planner at the SMTC provided a brief presentation.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any other questions.

Hearing none, Vice Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Tuff moved, and Mr. Smith seconded the acknowledgement of the completion of the CNYRTA Public Outreach study.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Bridge NY Application Review

Mr. D’Agostino indicated The New York State Department of Transportation announced the latest round of Bridge NY funding in November 2023. Commensurate with the State’s announcement, the SMTC staff provided a letter to all member agencies, municipalities and the Onondaga Nation informing them of the funding opportunity.

Bridge applications were due to the SMTC on January 26, 2024. Applications were received from the following municipalities, with both the Federal requested funds and total costs indicated:

Onondaga County
 Peck Rd: \$1.937M Federal, \$2.039M Total
 Valley Dr: \$1.816M Federal, \$1.912M Total

City of Syracuse
 W Brighton Ave: \$1.702M Federal, \$1.791M Total
 W Kirkpatrick St: \$2.397M Federal, \$2.524M Total

Town of Hastings
 Nellis Dr: \$1.425M Federal, \$1.500M Total

Town of LaFayette

Walberger Rd: \$4.183M Federal, \$4.403M Total

Village of Fayetteville

Franklin St: \$1.543M Federal, \$1.624M Total

Village of Skaneateles

W Elizabeth St: \$2.158M Federal, \$2.272M Total

Applications were distributed electronically to a review group, which consisted of representatives from the City of Syracuse Engineering Department, Onondaga County Department of Transportation, and the New York State Department of Transportation, in addition to SMTC staff. To assist with discussions, review group members were provided with an evaluation matrix that asked them to score each application for the following factors: deliverability risk, infrastructure need, and economic competitiveness. City and County members did not evaluate their own applications.

The application review group met on February 6, 2024. SMTC staff compiled the scores received and shared a ranking of the top 3 applications by each review member. Based on a combination of qualitative and quantitative discussion about each application, in addition to the allotment of available federal funds within the SMTC planning area, the review group prioritized the following four applications to present to the SMTC Planning and Policy Committee for concurrence. In no particular order, Onondaga County (Peck Rd), City of Syracuse (W Brighton Ave), Village of Fayetteville, and the Village of Skaneateles.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Vice Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Kolinski moved, and Mr. Tuff seconded the motion that the Policy Committee agrees with the prioritized list for funding.

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Election of New Policy Committee Chairperson

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that in pursuant to the SMTC's Memorandum of Understanding and By-Laws, the Policy, Planning and Executive Committees are due to elect, by consensus of each Committee, a new slate of officers.

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 Vice Chairperson Corey Dunham has agreed to take over the Chairperson position with Mr. Tuff agreeing to be the Vice Chairperson.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Bottar moved, and Mr. Dyer seconded the motion of Vice Chairperson Corey Dunham as Chairperson and Mr. Christopher Tuff as Vice Chairperson to the SMTC Policy Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chairperson Dunham called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Tuff moved, and Mr. Dyer seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 a.m.