



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 19, 2023

10:00 a.m.

**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Lower-Level Conference Room
Brian Schultz, Chairperson**

AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - June 1, 2023
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
 - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. TIP Amendments
 - B. Safety Targets
 - C. Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System
 - D. Syracuse Sidewalk Planning Study
 - E. Urban Area Boundary Adjustment
- 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 October 19, 2023 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Corey Dunham, Vice Chair
Tara Spraker
David Smith
David Bottar
Jennifer Schultz
John DeSantis
Sara Sherlock
Ryan Smith
Dan Kwasnowski
Kevan Busa
Dereth Glance

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
NYS Thruway Authority
Empire State Development
Onondaga County Planning Board
City of Syracuse – Planning
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Also Attending

David Roth
Bren Daiss
Kelly Gibson
Heather Snow
Donna Scanlon

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

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Andrew Frasier, Meghan Vitale, Jason Deshaies, Alex McRoberts, Kevin Kosakowski, 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 June 1, 2023, minutes. Hearing none, Vice Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. David Smith moved, and Ms. Spraker seconded the approval of the minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. **UPWP Status Report**

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following from the September 2023 UPWP Status Report:

The SMTC had two new scopes of work approved and the projects have begun. Several public meetings were held for Centro's Exploring Tomorrow's Transit (ETT). SMTC staff has finalized the ETT survey results report and a video presenting the findings was made available on the SMTC website. SMTC staff has been coordinating with NYSDOT (Main Office and Region) to refine the urbanized area, which will be discussed later in the agenda. Staff has reviewed and finalized all the GIS work completed by the Interns and compiled data for the City Sidewalk Study with an update to be presented later in the agenda. The final draft of the 2022-2023 Bridge & Pavement Study is complete and will be presented later on the agenda.

The Bike/Ped map distribution is complete for this calendar year and will resume in the Spring. An invitation was sent out to committee members for the upcoming kick-off SAC meeting for the Long-Range Transportation Plan on October 23rd. Mr. D'Agostino encouraged all agencies to attend and indicated the primary agenda item will be to review the MPA boundary and possible modifications. SMTC staff drafted a scope of work for a Complete Streets Design/Vision Zero Action Plan for the City of Syracuse's use. Vice Chairperson Dunham confirmed that proposals have been received for review. SMTC staff has met with the County, City, and CenterState CEO to discuss modeling modifications of sociodemographic information as it relates to Micron and the expansion of housing and employment. The next SAC meeting for the Dome Traffic Study is scheduled for the end of October. The consultant is working on finalizing the Operations Plan with project completion targeted by the end of the calendar year. Staff have mapped out focus routes and are in the process of scheduling a walk audit with a couple of SAC members, students, and parents from Grant Middle School for the Syracuse Safe Routes to School Study.

Staff held a third SAC meeting on September 7th for the Westvale Plaza Revitalization. Draft concepts were presented, and a second public engagement is planned for November. The Westside Trail project is on target. SMTC staff has been working with the City of Syracuse and Adapt CNY on ideas for temporary street modifications which will be presented to the City Common Council soon for their Community Streets Program. The next public meeting for the Nedrow Route 11 Corridor Study is scheduled for later this month. The third SAC meeting was held on September 25. The materials included concept plans for redeveloping portions of Route 11 in Nedrow as well as a few underutilized land uses. The Scope of Work for the Engagement & Outreach – Financing Local Mobility program was approved, and the kick-off meeting was held with the Onondaga County Planning Department. The project will result in an educational presentation for local governments on ways to make a generic environmental impact statement, as well as other options that can help finance roadways and multi-modal improvements. The Travel Demand Model update is basically complete and ready for any needed requests. The consultant contract is in place for the Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Connection with a kick-off and SAC meeting being scheduled. The Brewerton Trail Network in Cicero's scope was approved, and the first SAC meeting was held.

An RFP went out and two proposals were received for the Route 31 transit corridor visioning effort. An initial proposal review meeting with several member agency staff took place on September 29. Interviews were held October 12, and a consultant was recommended for the Executive Committee approval. The TIP is being maintained as appropriate with all funding obligated. The TAP & CMAQ announcement letter was recently sent out to local governments and committee agencies for solicitation of projects.

This is an information item only.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions, there were none.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

I-81 Project Update

Mr. David Smith gave a brief I-81 project update:

Phase 1/Contract 1 – since early this year, work continues on the reconstruction of the I-81/I-481 Northern Interchange.

Phase 1/Contract 2 – Work on the Southern Interchange of I-481/I-81 as well as adding a third lane to the I-481 bridges over CSX and Exit 3 work, NYS 5 and NY 92 is also included in this contract.

Phase 1/Contract 3 – The contract for work on the reconstruction of I-81 in the Inner Harbor and the Bear, Court, and Spencer Street Bridges is currently out for bid and should be awarded over the winter with significant construction beginning in the spring.

Phase 1/Contract 4 and 5 – There is no work being done on these two contracts as they are subject to the lawsuit.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Mr. D'Agostino asked for an update on the lawsuit and Mr. Smith indicated that initial arguments on the appeal are scheduled for next month.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

This was an informational item only.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. TIP Amendments

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there are eight TIP amendments proposed for modification to the 2023-2027 TIP and statewide TIP.

Change in cost

o PIN 382911 (PROCURE, (64) 40FT CNG FUELED CENTRO BUSES, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (Centro). Centro is proposing to increase the federal Section 5307 funds programmed to the project by approximately \$11,050,000 and decrease the State Dedicated Funds by approximately \$5,998,000 in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 23/24. Compensating offset provided by the authority's Section 5307 carryover balance.

Addition of project

o PIN 382981 (PURCHASE/INSTALLATION, GREYHAWK MOBILE HARDWARE & CELRADO VOICE OVER IP). □ Sponsor Centro. Centro is proposing to add the project in FFY 23/24 with \$1,620,000 State Dedicated Funds to improve overall communication with vehicle operators.

o PIN 304369 (SAFEY IMPROVEMENTS, RT 481, CICERO & VIL OF N SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). NYSDOT is proposing to add the project in FFY 23/24 with a total of \$9,320,000 (\$6,728,000 Federal) to widen the Rt 481 northbound off ramp at Circle Drive to accommodate an additional turn lane and, install concrete barrier on northbound Rt 481 between South Bay Rd and Route 11. Compensating offsets provided by outside Metropolitan Planning Area funds.

o PIN 328722 (RECON, RT 370, VILLAGE LINE TO CYPRESS, VIL OF LIVERPOOL, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to add the \$13,500,000 project (\$5,300,000 Federal) to restore pavement to good condition while also addressing ADA deficient curb ramps. Compensating offsets provided by outside Metropolitan Planning Area funds.

o Bridge NY awards. Four projects were selected for funding through the latest Bridge NY solicitation. □ PIN 375576 (TUTTLE RD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, TN OF CICERO, ONONDAGA CO). • Sponsor Onondaga County: \$1,210,000 Total (\$1,149,000 Federal). Project is currently programmed on the TIP/STIP with local funds only.

□ PIN 375721 (CO RT 272 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER DEAD CREEK, TN OF VAN BUREN, ONONDAGA CO). • Sponsor Onondaga County: \$1,437,000 Total (\$1,365,000 Federal).

□ PIN 375719 (RT 175 BRIDGE REHAB OVER ONONDAGA CREEK, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO). • Sponsor City of Syracuse: \$1,578,000 Total (\$1,499,000 Federal).

□ PIN 375727 (CLARK HOLLOW RD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER CASCADE CREEK, TN OF LAFAYETTE, ONONDAGA CO). • Sponsor Town of LaFayette: \$1,810,000 Total (\$1,719,000 Federal).

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

Vice Chairperson called for a motion that the Policy Committee approve the TIP amendments.

Ms. Spraker moved, and Ms. Schultz seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Safety Targets

Mr. D'Agostino explained that as required by the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the SMTC has the option to either adopt the performance measure targets established by the State or develop our own. The State recently adopted annual safety targets in August 2023.

Safety specific performance measures include:

- Number of fatalities,
- Rates of fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),
- Number of serious injuries,
- Rate of serious injuries per 100 Million VMT, and
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated the SMTC wished to support NYSDOT's 2024 targets and noted that both Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse have their own separate Vision Zero initiatives underway that aim to surpass state targets. Adoption of state targets does not preclude the County nor the city from advancing their Vision Zero approaches and goals.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Dunham called for a motion for the Policy Committee to adopt the Safety Performance Measure Targets.

Mr. David Smith moved, and Mr. Kwasnowski seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the goal of this reoccurring work item is to report, map, and analyze roadway bridge and federal-aid eligible pavement conditions in our Metropolitan Planning Area.

Mr. Frasier, Senior Transportation Analyst at the SMTC gave a detailed presentation.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

Vice Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the BPCMS report.

Mr. David Smith moved, and Ms. Schultz seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Syracuse Sidewalk Planning Study

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the goal of this project was a comprehensive inventory of all sidewalks in the City of Syracuse. This included:

- Existence
- Condition factors
- Ratings Score
- Accessibility

And other factors on a parcel level for all parcels in the City.

Mr. Frasier provided an update that detailed the multi-year effort to date as well as the remaining effort to complete the project and the next steps after completion for data maintenance and asset management by the City.

Vice Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Dunham indicated that this is an informational item only.

E. Urban Area Boundary Adjustment

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that occurring after each decennial Census, the Census Bureau releases a list of qualifying urban areas and related boundary files. Once the Census defined urban areas are available, MPOs and the State Department of Transportation have the opportunity to review the boundary and make adjustments for transportation planning purposes.

SMTC Staff, in close collaboration with NYSDOT Main Office and Region personnel developed an adjusted Urban Area following suggested federal and state guidance. Boundary adjustments are sent from NYSDOT Main Office to the FHWA New York State Division for approval. The deadline for federal approval is December 29, 2023.

Mr. Jason Deshaies, Senior Transportation Analyst at the SMTC gave a detailed presentation.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee concur with the boundary adjustment process & outcome.

Mr. David Smith moved, and Ms. Schultz seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that a Call-Letter for proposed projects will be going out within the next 30 days for the next program year beginning on April 1, 2024.

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

Ms. Glance moved, and Ms. Schultz seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m.