



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 9, 2024

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, 2024
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
 - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Scope of Work Approval
 - B. TIP Amendments
 - C. Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan
 - D. Westvale Plaza Revitalization
 - E. Syracuse Safe Routes to School Procedural Manual
 - F. Westside Trail – City of Syracuse
 - G. Nedrow Rt. 11 Corridor Study
 - H. Financing Local Mobility
- 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 • Empire State 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 9, 2024 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Megan Costa, Chair
Bren Daiss
David Roth
Jared Shepard
Mary Robison, Vice Chair
Odean Dyer
Mark Olson
Owen Kerney
Sara Sherlock
Aaron McKeon
Dereth Glance
Ryan Smith

Organization

Onondaga County Department of Planning
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
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Empire State Development

Also Attending

Heather Snow
Katrina Bergan
Melissa Davis
Tara Spraker

Oswego County
NYS Department of Transportation
Empire State Development
CNY Regional Transportation Authority

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Alex McRoberts, Meghan Vitale, Andrew Frasier, Joey DiStefano, Danielle Krol, Michael Alexander, Jade Nguyen, Tom Bardenett, Kevin Kosakowski, and Lori Irvine.

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Costa called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any changes to the February 15, 2024, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Dyer moved, and Mr. Olson 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 April 2024 UPWP Status Report:

The new program year has kicked off. Project billing codes were established, and new project scoping has begun. All carryover projects (Dome Traffic Management and Events Strategic Plan, Westvale Plaza Revitalization, Westside Trail Study, Syracuse Safe Routes to School Procedural Manual, Nedrow Route 11 Corridor Study, and Financing Local Mobility) will be presented later in the agenda. The annual web site hosting was renewed and processed. Two recent court decisions ruled that FHWA lacked authority to regulate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions through the federal national performance measure for states and MPOs to measure and set targets for on-road GHG emissions. As such, states and MPOs are no longer required to submit GHG targets.

A new traffic count assistance consultant has been chosen and SMTC staff are in the process of completing the contract process for a start date of July 2024. SMTC staff has also begun preliminary planning for the upcoming task of completing pedestrian counts for the Downtown Committee.

SMTC acquired an updated list of traffic camera locations from the New York State Department of Transportation and Onondaga County Department of Transportation. These locations will be added to the ArcGIS Online ITS interactive map in the near future. Staff attended a training session for Geotab. The Geotab online platform called Altitude allows users to query and download truck related data such as stop locations, origins and destinations, and routes traveled. Staff have updated the City's pavement web app with data from 2023. Work on the final report is underway. Staff are preparing for pavement rating for the 2024 season. Summer Interns have been secured to begin later this month for the Syracuse Sidewalk Planning Study. Staff met with Syracuse DPW to discuss commitment from their staff to also provide assistance. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that SMTC is updating to cellular based iPads rather than using the older GPS units.

Staff worked on numerous initiatives related to the expected economic growth related to Micron and a select link analysis was completed for the proposed Great Northern Mall redevelopment. A summary of the AM and PM peak hour results and various maps were prepared and provided to the New York State Department of Transportation including modifications to the Route 481 interchange system. Bi-weekly project discussions took place throughout the month on the Route 31 Transit Study. Staff received and are reviewing the draft Existing Conditions memorandum. Additionally, staff are responding to the consultant's request for receipt of various Travel Demand Model outputs.

Staff continue to work on initial drafts of the Introduction and Context Setting chapters of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, along with an initial set of new Transportation Atlas maps and figures. These will be reviewed with the Study Advisory Committee at the May 14th meeting. Staff presented to the Greater Syracuse Works on April 2nd and to the Valley TNT on April 10th. Staff are planning for a number of outreach events in May including tabling at the Regional and Farmer's Markets, additional TNT meetings and presentations to some high school classes.

Staff met with the NYSAMPO consultant to discuss CLEAR training needs for MPOs and

member agencies. Staff discussed developing a reference guide for local governments about safety projects and funding. The planning for the May 2025 NYSAMPO Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Syracuse is underway.

Staff met with County Planning and discussed their Safe Streets for All grant as well as other planning items taking priority in the coming year. Staff participated in a kick-off meeting for the City's Complete Streets Design Guide and Vision Zero Action Plan on April 15th. Staff met with the selected project sponsors for the Community Streets program to discuss adjustments to their initial designs, requirements for implementation, and next steps. Staff have begun drafting traffic control plans needed for the City's liability waiver process and projects will be presented to their local TNT sector meeting prior to installation later this summer.

A public open house was held on April 11th at the Village of Manlius Auditorium for the Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Connections Study which was very well attended with a good amount of positive feedback. The consultant team is in the process of summarizing public comments received during and following the meeting. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the consultant, Creighton Manning, has recently been bought out by GAI Consultants, Inc. Staff has begun compiling the latest (2023) NPMRDS dataset that will be reviewed and analyzed for the Congestion Management Process document update.

Staff have begun scoping for the Downtown Parking Signage and Wayfinding project. The draft technical memo #1 for the Brewerton Trail Network Technical Analysis is complete. Analyst staff has begun reviewing the modeling effort that was completed for the Village of Liverpool in 2009. Mr. D'Agostino along with SMTC Senior Transportation Analyst, Jason Deshaies attended a kick-off meeting on May 1st with the Village of Liverpool. Use of data sources such as NPMRDS, Geotab, and Replica may prove to be useful for this analysis. The Greater Liverpool Traffic Study has not been initiated yet. The North Syracuse Van Mara and Grove Street Traffic Calming and Safety Analysis has not begun yet. SMTC has written the internal scope for the Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan and will be presented at the SMTC Planning Committee meeting in May and will then work on the second scope which will detail essential tasks for inclusion in an Onondaga County Request for Proposals. Staff held a scoping meeting with City of Syracuse staff on April 16th regarding the Reconnecting Communities Grant and are now working on a draft scope for SMTC's role in this effort. SMTC staff started reviewing background information on the study proposal and related issues in preparation for a scoping meeting for the West Monroe Route 49 Corridor Study. The Route 57 Complete Streets Study consultant contract is in the process of being signed with work expected to begin later this month.

The Capital Projects Committee (CPC) met on April 18th to discuss project schedules, costs, and amendment needs. Updates are expected to begin in late May/early June to the Capital Program which will be kicking off very soon.

Mr. D'Agostino 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**

I-81 Project Update

Mr. Roth gave the following update:

Contract 1 – The Northern interchange is well underway. Bridges are beginning to be built and noise barriers have been installed. The contract is on schedule to be completed the end of 2025.

Contract 2 – The Southern interchange is well underway. The visual barrier near Loretto was installed and the bridge and roadway construction around Brighton Avenue is underway. The closure on Seneca Turnpike was recently announced due to the partial demolition of the Rt. 81 bridge over Seneca Turnpike.

Contract 3 – The Northwest portion of Rt. 81. The award for the contract is still pending but work with the utilities is underway.

Contract 4 – Crouse & Irving interchange of I-690. The let of the contract is May 16th with the award expected at the end of June.

Contract 5 – The Southern portion of Rt. 81. This is for the prep work for the demolition of the viaduct. This contract includes building a roundabout at VanBuren St. and the Colvin St. on-ramp. Mr. Roth indicated that the New York State Department of Transportation is consulting with the Federal Highway Administration as to how to get the money moving from the 180-million-dollar Reconnecting Communities Grant that was awarded to the city and state.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa indicated that this is an informational only item.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Scope of Work Approval**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated beginning in the current 2024-2025 UPWP, SMTC staff are providing consultant management and project coordination for two planning efforts:

- City of Syracuse Reconnecting Communities Project Coordination; and Onondaga County Safe Streets for all Action Plan Project Coordination.

Committee members received a draft Scope of Work for each planning effort that denotes the specific activities SMTC staff will undertake and/or participate in.

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

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to approve the two scopes of work.

Mr. Olson moved, and Mr. Kerney seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. TIP Amendments

Mr. D’Agostino indicated three TIP amendments (2 new, 1 change in scope) are proposed for modification to the 2023-2027 TIP and statewide TIP.

Change in scope:

o PIN 375686 (PAVING, MILTON AVE, COGSWELL AVE TO CAMILLUS LINE, VIL OF SOLVAY, ONONDAGACO).

Sponsor Village of Solvay (Solvay). The Village is proposing to convert the current project into 2 separate phases. The first phase will utilize the current Construction and Inspection funds programmed in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 23/24 on the TIP. The scope of work changes to Milton Ave from Darrow Ave to Cogswell Ave.

Addition of project:

o PIN 375743 (PAVING, MILTON AVE, PHASE 2, CAMILLUS LINE TO DARROW AVE, VIL OF SOLVAY, ONONDAGA CO).

Sponsor Solvay. The Village is proposing to program Detailed Design (\$136,000 Flex federal) in FFY 23/24 and Construction and Inspection in FFY 24/25 at \$1,704,000 local funds and \$170,000 local funds, respectively. Compensating offsets provided by outside Metropolitan Planning Area funds and Solvay.

o Following the 2023 Section 5310 solicitation administered by the New York State Department of Transportation, three applicants in Onondaga County are recommended for receipt of funding. The applicants and funding amounts are listed below. Funding will be programmed in FFY 23/24.

Onondaga County Department of Adult & Long-Term Care Services – operational assistance to several non-profit agencies (\$393,716 federal, \$787,432 total)

Catholic Charities of CNY – purchase 1 accessible vehicle (\$87,859 federal, \$109,824 total)

Loretto Independent Living Services – purchase 6 accessible vehicles (\$517,512 federal, \$646,890 total)

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

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the TIP amendments.

Mr. Roth moved, and Mr. McKeon seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan

Mr. D’Agostino mentioned that the SMTC contracted with a team of consultants led by Stantec to complete the Dome Traffic Management and Events Strategic Plan. This study effort resulted in four work products: Literature Review, Existing Conditions

Summary, Strategic Plan, and Operations Plan. The Operations Plan is the culmination of work from this study and provides detailed intersection-level diagrams showing recommendations for special event operations, based on event type, and expected attendance.

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

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of this study.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Westvale Plaza Revitalization

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Westvale Plaza Area Pedestrian & Bicycle Mobility Assessment was initiated as part of the 2022-2023 UPWP on behalf of the Town of Geddes. The Assessment is an evaluation aimed at improving connections between residential neighborhoods and the commercial district along W Genesee St for people outside of personal vehicles. Based on goals laid out within the Town and Village's joint comprehensive plan, the Assessment explored ideas that would:

- Improve vehicle and pedestrian safety;
- Reduce local vehicle trips from nearby neighborhoods through the promotion of walking and cycling;
- Improve ridership at existing Centro bus stops;
- Increase connectivity to the regional trail network; and
- Contribute to Onondaga County's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Recommendations highlighted within the report include revising the Town and Village zoning codes to reflect stated goals from the Comp Plan, creating neighborhood greenways along Charles Ave / Montrose Ave, implementing a protected shared-use trail along Salisbury Rd, and considering the consolidation of Centro bus stops along W Genesee St.

Mr. Bardenett, Senior Transportation Planner at the SMTC, provided a brief presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge this study as complete.

Mr. Kerney moved, and Ms. Daiss seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Syracuse Safe Routes to School Procedural Manual

Mr. D’Agostino indicated the SMTC created a SRTS procedural guidebook suitable for schools and community groups (such as a Parent Teacher Organizations and/or Tomorrow’s Neighborhoods Today groups) to use for future SRTS efforts that incorporates background research, data gathering and a local case study example. A white paper for the project was completed in 2022 and once the Syracuse City School District (SCSD) was able to engage again post-Covid, the SMTC moved forward with a SRTS Guidebook.

Using Grant Middle School as the local case study, the planning guide provides a framework for undertaking a SRTS project, including how to engage stakeholders, collect data, identify preferred route(s) to a school building, and identify desired enhancements along the route(s) to school to increase safety and promote more walking and biking. Enhancements such as crosswalk improvements, sidewalk repairs, and intersection modifications were considered.

Ms. Krol, Senior Transportation Planner at the SMTC, provided a brief presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend the Policy Committee acknowledge the study as complete.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Westside Trail – City of Syracuse

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that this Study was initiated as part of the 2022-2023 UPWP on behalf of the City of Syracuse, and stems from a recommendation outlined in the SMTC’s 2020 South Geddes and West Fayette Street Complete Streets Review (Complete Streets Review).

Public feedback obtained through that study indicated a strong desire for a multi-use trail that runs parallel to the railroad tracks on the north side of West Fayette Street, through Lipe Art Park, heading west over South Geddes Street to connect to westside neighborhoods. The Westside Trail Study examined the potential of this connection, as well as additional non-motorized connections within the Westside neighborhoods of Tipperary Hill, Skunk City, and the Near West Side, and beyond, primarily to downtown Syracuse, the Western Lights Plaza area and the Westvale Plaza area. Study recommendations range from pedestrian improvements to neighborhood greenway treatments, bike facilities and shared-use paths to create a Westside area bicycle and pedestrian network.

Ms. Krol, Senior Transportation Planner at the SMTC, provided a brief presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of this study.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

G. Nedrow Rt. 11 Corridor Study

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the SMTC prepared a mobility study for Route 11 within the hamlet of Nedrow. The study was done at the request of County Planning. The purpose of the study is to identify mobility improvement opportunities for all road users, including drivers, walkers, bicyclists, bus riders, etc.

Route 11 is four lanes wide and is one mile in length through Nedrow. The study considers a 3-lane alternative with a two-way-left turn lane, bike lanes, sidewalk and crosswalk improvements, and other street scape improvements.

SMTC conducted a full-build assessment for the community, which included developing two conceptual plans for the redevelopment of underutilized properties along the corridor. SMTC calculated future traffic growth and conducted a capacity assessment for three signalized intersections and found that all signals are anticipated to operate well within acceptable limits (LOS B or better) under the three-lane full build alternative.

SMTC met frequently with an active study committee and held two well-attended public meetings. In addition, SMTC posted the report online for a public review period and incorporated all comments into the draft report.

Mr. Alexander, Senior Transportation Planner at the SMTC, provided a brief presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of this study.

Ms. Sherlock moved, and Ms. Daiss seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Financing Local Mobility

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the SMTC conducted and organized a research presentation on behalf of OCDOP (formerly SOCPA) called 'Financing Local Mobility' (FLM). Elements of this effort were:

- Project website
- Recorded presentation video
- Background research
- Outreach to FHWA and case study representatives
- Compiling and creating easy reference materials

The project website contains all project elements including the nearly 40-minute recorded research presentation on planning and financing multi-modal facilities. The presentation was separated into chapters for accessibility. Additionally, supplemental materials were either created or compiled and added to the project website for quick, easy reference.

Mr. DiStefano, Transportation Planner II at the SMTC, provided a brief presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of this study.

Mr. Kerney moved, and Mr. Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that there will be a brief Planning and Policy Committee meeting in June as it relates to Micron. The New York State Department of Transportation is proposing an interchange north of Route 31 which will require a significant TIP amendment. This interchange will help service the growth in and around the area of Micron.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m. by Chairperson Costa.