



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 22, 2024

10:00 a.m.

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

AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - February 29, 2024
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
 - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. TIP Amendments
 - B. Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan
 - C. Westvale Plaza Revitalization
 - D. Syracuse Safe Routes to School Procedural Manual
 - E. Westside Trail – City of Syracuse
 - F. Nedrow Rt. 11 Corridor Study
 - G. 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 • 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 22, 2024 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Corey Dunham, Chair
Christopher Tuff
David Smith
Aaron McKeon
Hon. Jimmy Monto
Dan Kolinski
Odean Dyer
Don Jordan
Jake Dishaw
Sara Sherlock

Organization

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

Also Attending

David Roth
Betsy Parmley
Heather Snow
Kristen Fragale

NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation
Oswego County
Oswego County

SMTC Staff

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

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Dunham called the meeting to order at 10:01 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

Chairperson Dunham inquired if there were any changes to the February 29, 2024, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Dyer moved, and Hon. Monto 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. The Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan internal scope was approved by the SMTC Planning Committee on May 9. The second scope, which details essential tasks for inclusion in an Onondaga County Request for Proposals was provided to the County. Staff held a scoping meeting with City of Syracuse staff on April 16th regarding the Reconnecting Communities Grant and the scope for SMTC's role in this effort was approved in May by the Planning Committee.

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.

Ms. Parmley asked to be updated with the downtown parking, signage and wayfinding project.

This was an information item only and no action was required by the Committee.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

I-81 Project Update

Ms. Parmley gave the following update:

Contract 1 - (Northern Interchange in Cicero) - this contract is nearly half complete with full completion expected in 2025.

Contract 2 – (Southern Interchange – Brighton Ave. area as well as all the work on Rt. 481) – this contract is moving full steam ahead with substantial completion at the end 2025 although some work will be progressing into 2026 due to the complexity of the Rt. 481 bridge over CSX. The visual barrier in front of Loretto was also installed.

Contract 3 – (Inner Harbor – Bear St., Court St., and Spencer St.) – Making improvements to the southbound direction of I-81, building ramps to and from N. Clinton St. to the southbound direction and closing some of those ramps because they are tightly spaced whereas contract 7 finishes the job. This contract was awarded last week for \$218 million. Ms. Parmley indicated that NYSDOT has already met with the contractor twice and they are anxiously waiting to start on the Bear St. bridge. Advance utility work has already begun. An open house will be planned for early June and July. Completion of this contract is expected in October 2026.

Contract 4 – Last week was the bid letting for this contract and NYSDOT is currently evaluating the bids received.

Contract 5 – The final contract in Phase 1. This bid is currently being advertised and the letting will be June 27th. This is for work on Colvin St. to VanBuren St. The completion of contracts 4 & 5 are expected to be completed in mid- 2027.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any other questions.

This was an informational item only.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. TIP Amendments

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

Change in scope:

- PIN 375686 (PAVING, MILTON AVE, COGSWELL AVE TO CAMILLUS LINE, VIL OF SOLVAY, ONONDAGA CO). ■ 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:

- 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 25/26 at \$1,704,000 local funds and \$170,000 local funds, respectively. Compensating offsets provided by outside Metropolitan Planning Area funds and Solvay.
- 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Kolinski moved, and Mr. Smith seconded the motion that the Policy Committee approve the TIP Amendments.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan

Mr. D'Agostino indicated 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Tuff seconded the acknowledgement of the completion of this study.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Westvale Plaza Revitalization

Mr. D'Agostino indicated 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, Sr. Transportation Planner at the SMTC provided a brief presentation.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Kolinski moved, and Hon. Monto seconded the acknowledgement of the completion of this study.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any other questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Dyer moved, and Mr. McKeon seconded the acknowledgement of the completion of this study.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Westside Trail – City of Syracuse

Mr. D’Agostino indicated 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Hon. Monto moved, and Mr. Smith seconded the acknowledgement of the completion of this study.

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Nedrow Rt. 11 Corridor Study

Mr. D’Agostino indicated 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Jordan moved, and Mr. Smith seconded the acknowledgement of the completion of this study.

The motion passed unanimously.

G. Financing Local Mobility

Mr. D'Agostino indicated 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Jordan moved, and Mr. Dyer seconded the acknowledgement of the completion of this study.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. D'Agostino reminded committee members that

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Kolinski moved, and Mr. Smith seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m.