

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the August 1, 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Mary Robison, Chair
David Bottar, Vice Chair
David Roth
Marty Voss
Chris Tuff
Troy Waffner

Organization

City of Syracuse
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
NYS Department of Transportation
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
Onondaga County Department of Planning

Also Attending

Katrina Bergan
Betsy Parmley
Tara Spraker
Bren Daiss
Megan Costa

NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
Onondaga County Department of Planning

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, and Lori Irvine

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Robison called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any changes to the June 6, 2024, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Mr. Roth moved, and Mr. Voss seconded the Approval of the Minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the financial statements presented were through the end of June, which was the end of the first quarter of the budget year. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that the budget is currently 2% in the black but expects that will change due to some significant consultant invoices to occur in the next several months. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned the possibility of needing a small amendment brought forth to the Executive Committee in the future to keep the SMTC budget in the black.

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

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

B. UPWP STATUS REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following from the July 2024 UPWP Status Report:

Six scopes of work were approved by the SMTC Planning Committee through the mail on July 17th:

1. The Village of Liverpool Modeling Update and Analysis - The first Study Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for August 9th. This scope is similar to the modeling effort that was completed in 2009 but with the addition of a more thorough existing conditions analysis using newly available data.
2. The North Syracuse Van Mara and Grove Street Traffic Calming and Safety Analysis. Staff continue to summarize existing conditions.
3. The Greater Liverpool Traffic Study – Staff have had multiple calls with the County Department of Transportation and Miovision about the use of the traffic count data from the Miovision cameras. Staff are currently compiling available data for the study area.
4. Safe Routes to School – Onondaga County Suburban School Districts Support - Initial mapping of existing conditions and enrollment data in County school districts is currently underway and a draft Public Involvement Plan is being created for an anticipated kickoff meeting.
5. The West Monroe Route 49 Corridor Study -SMTC staff conducted a site visit to become familiar with the corridor and summarizing multiple traffic count/volume maps.
6. The Downtown Parking Signage and Wayfinding - SMTC staff continue to work on preliminary mapping and data gathering efforts, including reviewing relevant plans, projects, and developments. SMTC interns have documented existing signage at key intersections throughout Downtown Syracuse.

SMTC worked in coordination with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Main Office on several issues including eSTIP, SPR funding, and SCI funding.

The SMTC website has been actively updated for numerous items along with enhancements to allow for several sub-websites relevant to projects. A public meeting for the 3 Villages Bike/Pedestrian Connection Study will be held on August 8th at the Village of Manlius Auditorium.

The 2025 NYSAMPO Conference that the SMTC is hosting has been officially scheduled at the Downtown Marriott in Syracuse.

SMTC staff is continuing the collection and compilation of pedestrian movement counts downtown. Staff is also analyzing the capabilities of the County and State's Miovision camera technology to assist in obtaining traffic count data for current and future use, which has been very helpful. The SMTC Summer interns are wrapping up several data collection and GIS efforts this month. The most current Replica data from their 2023 model is being downloaded and added to the SMTC GIS server.

SMTC staff received the necessary pavement data from the New York State Department of Transportation and are currently processing for inclusion in the final report. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the pavement rating is well underway with the Syracuse pavement rating expected to be completed by the end of next week and the County pavement rating completed later this summer.

A Study Advisory Committee meeting (SAC) for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was held on July 17th where an updated draft of Chapter 2 (Context Setting) and an initial draft of Chapter 3 (Goals & Objectives) and Demographics and Mobility Atlas layouts were shared with the SAC. SMTC Staff also discussed various elements of the Needs Assessment including employment cluster locations and accessibility, and Justice 40 and transportation insecurity analysis. The next SAC meeting is scheduled for October 2nd. Public outreach in July included tabling at the Downtown Farmers Market and presentation/discussion with two groups at the Q Center (youth and young adults). The MTP survey has reached over 300 respondents to date.

Various graphic refinements were made, and additional research continued into supply chain and technological improvements for the draft Freight Plan. Staff participated in the final Freight Plan advisory group meeting. The statewide Freight Plan is anticipated for approval sometime in August.

The NYSDOT requested SMTC's assistance regarding future truck traffic estimates considering the proposed Micron development and its regional impacts. SMTC Analyst Staff used the current travel demand model to compare existing truck trips and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to the future model outputs to calculate the percentage change. The results of this analysis were provided to NYSDOT.

There has been no significant activity to report regarding County Planning Assistance. SMTC staff will participate in the Vision Zero Action Plan advisory group meeting is scheduled for July 30th for the City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support.

Micron Development Area Transportation System Assessment consultant coordination occurred throughout the month. The next SAC meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks for a likely early October date and additional Focus Group meetings scheduled as well in August, pending availability. Consultants will soon begin sketching out preliminary project related visualizations with approximately 48 visualizations anticipated. SMTC staff worked with various entities on numerous initiatives related to the expected economic growth related to the Micron development.

After five years, the SMTC interns have completed the sidewalk inventory. SMTC staff will now work with the City of Syracuse on the next steps regarding the data and transitioning it into a maintenance plan. SMTC will present a White Paper at the next Planning and Policy Committee meeting sometime in October.

Two of the three Community Streets projects were installed in July, including Hopeprint (Northside) and Alchemical Nursery (Westside). SMTC staff continue to coordinate with City staff and Adapt CNY volunteers. The third and final project, sponsored by Ed Smith PTO, is tentatively scheduled for installation in early August. Staff will be putting together a White Paper for this project.

SMTC Staff are working on several concept plans and recommendation maps for the Brewerton Trail Network Technical Analysis. Staff are drafting tech memo #2 which will include all recommendations. A SAC meeting will occur in late August or early September.

Staff is moving the Congestion Management Process 2024 Update project along by continuing to update the previous report with the latest data and information being proved by both internal and external sources. Analyst staff is reviewing the NPMRDS data and preparing it for the identified CMP network in GIS. In the upcoming weeks, staff will identify the top congested location in the MPA based on the various performance measures.

SMTC provided a draft scope of services for inclusion in the County's RFP for the Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan – Project Coordination. SMTC is waiting to hear when the RFP will be published.

The City of Syracuse has drafted an RFP for the Reconnecting Communities Grant Coordination & Management Assistance and SMTC staff is currently reviewing.

A kickoff meeting for the Complete Streets Planning project (Route 57 in Liverpool) was held on June 26th. SMTC was asked to review our numerous transportation-related datasets and provide data, as available, for existing conditions documentation. A walk audit within the study corridor may occur in August/September.

In July, Governor Hochul announced awards through the state's BridgeNY program. In the SMTC area, four bridges, one each owned by Onondaga County, City of Syracuse, Village of Fayetteville, and the Village of Skaneateles were selected. Also, two culverts (City of Syracuse, Town of Salina) were selected as well. The bridge awards will be programmed with federal transportation dollars and as such, will need to be added to the TIP/STIP. Culvert awards are funded with 100% state funds. Additionally, after a several week eSTIP program outage, staff have gained access/entry back into the online platform following a new NYS Office of ITS procedure.

Chairperson Robison 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**

None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **TIP Amendments**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that there is one NYSDOT TIP Amendment for consideration related to change in cost:

- o PIN 350194 (BUSINESS LOOP 81, SOUTHERN SECTION, PHASE 1, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO). Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). Per the latest engineer's estimate, the NYSDOT is proposing to increase the Construction phase in Federal Fiscal Year(FFY) 23/24 by \$76,204,000 total funds. Compensating offset provided by funds from outside the area.

Ms. Parmley gave a brief update on the I-81 project then answered questions from committee members. Ms. Parmley indicated that NYSDOT has received the lowest bidder for Contract 5, which is from I-81 south to Business Loop 81 from Colvin Street to the Roundabout at Van Buren Street. This will include lowering roads and speeds and create traffic calming. The installation of retaining walls and noise barriers will also benefit the community. Ms. Parmley also indicated that there will also be a bridge replacement over Renwick Ave.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any other questions, there were none.

Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Mr. Voss moved, and Mr. Tuff seconded the Approval of the TIP Amendments.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Public Comment

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed, Chairperson Robison adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.