

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the November 7, 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Mary Robison - Chair
David Roth
Marty Voss
Chris Tuff
Troy Waffner
John Kivlehan

Organization

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

Also Attending

Katrina Bergan
Rich Sawczak
Bren Daiss
Tara Spraker

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

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino and Lori Irvine

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Robison called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that if time allows, he has an addition, otherwise it will be discussed during next month's meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any changes to the October 3, 2024, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Mr. Tuff moved, and Mr. Roth 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 for the month of September, which is the halfway point of the SMTC program year. Mr. D'Agostino indicated the SMTC is currently at three percent in the black but needs to be six percent or over in the black when the program year ends to accommodate for the claw back of the SMTC operating budget. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he is on target and should be

able to reach that goal with no issue.

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 October UPWP Status Report:

A Unified Planning Work Program Amendment was processed for the agency operating budget of approximately \$60,000 to offset a differential in the programmed amount versus the actual amount of funding available. The SMTC website was recently updated to include a new section for current projects. A hardcopy multipage newsletter was printed and mailed out highlighting many recent accomplishments of the agency. The 2025 NYSAMPO Conference has been booked at the Syracuse Marriott on May 13th and 14th.

The final compilation is complete for the Downtown Pedestrian Movement Count project. SMTC staff will be meeting with the Downtown Committee next week to provide them with the data and wrap up the project for completion. The draft final Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System Report was adopted at the SMTC Policy Committee last week and SMTC staff completed all the 2024 ratings prior to snowfall, which was the goal. A Study Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 2nd for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan which is on target for completion along with the Atlas prior to that.

SMTC staff are updating the Freight Profile for the Rail, Truck & Transit Planning and updating is underway on the freight sections of the transportation plan. SMTC staff met with the Port Authority and discussed its function and how it impacts the community. The Travel Demand Modeling is complete, and outputs were provided to the New York State Department of Transportation to help assist with the air quality EIS for the Micron project.

SMTC is participating in the City of Syracuse's Vision Zero Action Plan and Thriving Communities Technical Assistance grant award, both requiring a lot of SMTC in-kind service. SMTC staff traveled to Washington D.C., along with staff from the City and CenterState CEO to participate in a "convening" of communities that are participating in the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance grant program which was paid for by the Federal Highway Administration. The October 8th SAC meeting for the Micron Development Area Transportation System Assessment program was cancelled due to a car accident near the town hall that took out the power to the building. A virtual meeting has been scheduled for November 15th when a display of draft visuals will be presented. The project will then be paused until April 1st due to budgetary constraints.

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.

C. TIP 23-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the TIP 23-34 Report was not a required document but created by Mr. Colone as an information item only to committee members.

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

No action was required by the Committee.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. TIP Amendments

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that there are nine TIP Amendments for consideration.

Change in cost and/or schedule:

- PIN 304364 (SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, RT 11 @ RT 49 INTERSECTION, VIL OF CENTRAL SQ, OSW CO). ▪ Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). NYSDOT is proposing to delay the Detailed Design and Right of Way Acquisition phases from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 24/25 to FFY 25/26 and fund said phases with State Dedicated Funds (SDF).
- PIN 307628 (BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, RT 20 OVER BUTTERNUT CRK, ONON CO). ▪ Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to delay the Detailed Design phase from FFY 24/25 to FFY 25/26 and fund with SDF.
- PIN 310425 (BRIDGE REHAB, RT 298 OVER BARGE CANAL, SYRACUSE, ONON CO). ▪ Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to delay the Detailed Design phase from FFY 24/25 to FFY 25/26 and fund with SDF.
- PIN 328723 (ONONDAGA LAKE PARKWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, OLD LIVERPOOL TO I-81 RAMP, TN OF SALINA, ONON CO) ▪ Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to delay the Detailed Design and Right of Way Acquisition phases from FFY 24/25 to FFY 25/26 and fund with SDF.
- PIN 350188 (BRIDGE REHAB, HIAWATHA BLVD, OVER I-81, SYRACUSE, ONON CO). ▪ Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to delay the Detailed Design phase from FFY 24/25 to FFY 25/26 and fund with SDF.
- PIN 350199 (BRIDGE REHAB, I-81, OVER ONEIDA RIVER/BARGE CANAL, ONON/OSW).
 - Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to delay the Detailed Design phase from FFY 24/25 to FFY 25/26 and fund with SDF.

- PIN 380668 (SAFETY APPURTENANCE PROGRAM (SAFETAP), ONON CO). ▪ Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to increase the Construction phase by \$2,688,000 NHPP federal and the Inspection phase by \$403,000 NHPP federal in FFY 24/25. Compensating offset provided by PINs 307628, 310425, 328723, 350188, and 350199.
- PIN 350653 (MBC, RT 695 AND RT 5, TNS OF CAMILLUS & GEDDES, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to program \$440,000 NHPP federal funds to the Detailed Design phase in FFY 24/25, post obligation. Compensating offset provided by PIN 350199 and available planning targets.
- PIN 301713 (BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, RT 49 OVER BIG BAY CRK, W MONROE, OSWEGO CO).
 - Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to program \$560,000 Flex federal funds to the Detailed Design phase in FFY 24/25, post obligation. Compensating offset provided by PIN 360370 (\$166,000 Flex) and funds from outside the Metropolitan Planning Area (\$394,000 Flex).

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

B. PROPOSED 2025 SMTC STAFFING SALARY PLAN

Mr. D’Agostino explained that the SMTC Executive Committee reviews and sets the SMTC Salary Plan. It was determined by the Executive Committee that this would be an annual review. The Salary Plan was last reviewed and adjusted in December 2023.

Please note that SMTC staff do NOT receive any step increments or annual cost of living adjustments. The only annual adjustments are merit based, normally from 0-5% based on performance and kept within the adopted Salary Plan by position. Adoption of this plan in and of itself does not automatically adjust any staff members’ salary unless they are at the extreme low end of a salary band.

Market forces and employee retention require an examination of the current salary structure to continue to deliver the quality work program expected of the agency. This modification closely mirrors Onondaga County Planning 2024 salaries for similar positions. Please note Onondaga County positions have a 2025 adjustment above and beyond those listed herein. This plan proposes adjusting ours to the 2024 level which will be below the County level by the time it takes effect.

Given the modifications being considered, this proposal has been discussed and vetted with the SMTC Host Agency’s CNYRPDB Executive Director, the SMTC Executive Committee Chair, and the SMTC Policy Committee Chair for their concurrence before bringing it forward to the committee.

Please note that the 2025 SMTC Operating Budget can absorb these modifications at the current proposed staffing levels.

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Mr. Roth 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.