



**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Unified Planning Work Program Status Report
2024-2025 Program Year – 2nd Half
November 2024**

General Administration (Project Manager: James D’Agostino)

November: Staff have begun planning for the new UPWP cycle 2025-2026 and are awaiting budgetary constraints. It is anticipated that a call letter will be issued for new planning studies.

October: A Unified Planning Work Program Amendment was processed for the agency operating budget at approximately \$60,000 to offset a differential in the programmed amount versus actual amount of funding available. This information as draft at time of adoption and estimates were overly optimistic.

Public Participation & Website Update (Project Manager: James D’Agostino)

November: Planning for the next FOAT meeting is underway. The website has been updated to include a sub web for the Route 57 Complete Street Study.

October: A hardcopy multipage newsletter was printed and mailed out highlighting many recent accomplishments of the agency. A copy of it is here: <https://smtcmpo.org/all-publications/newsletter/>.

Federal Transportation Legislation Examination & Evaluation (Project Manager: Mario Colone)

November: SMTC is in receipt of updated safety targets and adjusted 4-yr NHS pavement targets established by Main Office NYSDOT.

October: No significant activity to report.

UPWP Previous Year Closeouts (Project Manager: James D’Agostino)

June: All carryover projects not itemized separately have been completed. At this time, *further updates will not be made.*

UPWP Maintenance & Development (Project Manager: James D’Agostino)

November: Staff have begun planning for the new UPWP cycle 2025-2026 and are awaiting budgetary constraints. Existing projects are being examined for their carryover components to the new UPWP cycle.

October: Initial planning for the next year’s program are being made including brainstorming appropriate new studies given the current growth climate of the region.

2025 NYSAMPO Conference (SCI Billing) – (Project Manager: James D’Agostino)

November: No significant activity to report.

October: A conference planning group has been created and initial planning has begun on this effort.

Census Data Compilation and/or Analysis (Project Manager: Andrew Frasier & Joey DiStefano)

November: Staff continue to monitor Census news for additional information regarding data releases. Census data is used extensively in staff projects.

October: Staff continue to monitor Census news for additional information regarding data releases. Census data is used extensively in staff projects.

Data Collection, Compilation &/or Analysis (Project Manager: Kevin Kosakowski)

November: Staff have created and provided Main Office NYSDOT with the next list of counts to be counted for Year 9 of the program.

October: Finished up the Downtown Pedestrian Movement Count project and provided the data gathered to the Downtown Committee. Working on further iterations of the online city/county count program map for eventual beta testing.

Geographic Information Systems - SMTC (Project Manager: Jason Deshaies)

November: Analyst staff attended a NYSAMPO GIS Working Group meeting which included several presentations from MPO staff as well as an update from NYSDOT regarding their roadway inventory GIS services. Additionally, NYSDOT finished updating the FHWA adjusted urban area GIS file and is downloadable on the NYS GIS Clearinghouse.

October: Staff continues to maintain and update various GIS datasets that are being used for several ongoing projects. Additionally, several staff attended a webinar hosted by NYSDOT that introduced a new Mobility Viewer web mapping application. The Mobility Viewer features spatial and quantitative analysis capabilities, allowing users to delve into mobility demand data and model traveler needs.

Geographic Information Systems – Member Agency Assistance (Project Manager: Andrew Frasier)

November: Staff are working on an update of Centro’s system map to reflect changes that have occurred since 2019. Staff are also coordinating with the City of Syracuse on GIS data needs.

October: Staff are continuing to work with the City of Syracuse on a number of data requests, and to promote the City’s Open Data Day. Staff have begun meeting with Centro to discuss an update to their System Map.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)

November: No significant activity to report.

October: No significant activity to report.

Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS) (Project Manager: Andrew Frasier)

November: The Policy Committee acknowledged the 2023-2024 BPCMS as complete. Pavement rating is complete for 2024. Staff will shortly obtain bridge ratings to begin analysis for the 2024-2025 report.

October: Staff presented the draft final BPCMS report to the SMTC’s Planning and Policy Committees. Pavement rating continues for next year’s report.

I-81 Project Development (Project Manager: James D’Agostino, Meghan Vitale, & Mario Colone)

November: No significant activity to report.

October: No significant activity to report.

MPO Area and Regional Planning Assistance (Project Manager: James D’Agostino)

November: Staff attended the Smart Growth CNY Summit hosted by the Syracuse Urbanism Collective on November 15. Session topics included transportation and regional development patterns.

October: No significant activity to report.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Project Manager: Meghan Vitale)

November: Staff continue to create additional Transportation Atlas layouts, focusing on safety, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and land use and environment. SMTC recently received updated

performance measures from NYSDOT, so will be working to finalize the MTP's System Performance Report. Work also continues on the financial component of the plan, with staff compiling a list of projects from the previous LRTP update that have been completed, which are currently in progress, and those that have not been initiated. Staff are in communication with the appropriate member agencies to review those project lists and coordinating this work with the upcoming TIP update. Staff have also begun considering revenue forecasting options.

October: A Study Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 2. In addition to reviewing the next set of layouts, the meeting included a work session to review a variety of datasets relevant to the Needs Assessment, including the results of the public survey which closed in mid-September. The SAC identified some needs by travel mode and by geography, specifically the need for more localized sidewalk and bicycle networks to connect to existing regional systems and the need for more transit service for longer and commuting trips. Staff are now reviewing future project lists from the 2020 LRTP and the current TIP and will be reaching out to individual member agencies to review that information and draft the financial plan for this MTP update. The next SAC meeting is scheduled for January 14.

Rail, Truck & Transit Planning (Project Manager: Mario Colone)

November: Staff attended an informational meeting in Syracuse hosted by the Port of New York & New Jersey. Useful contacts were made with freight industry professionals. Regarding the Freight Profile update, staff facilitated/attended a NYSAMPO Freight Working Group virtual meeting where NYSDOT presented an overview of a new online freight interface. Following the virtual meeting, staff will make use of the new tool for commodity relevant data for inclusion in the Freight Profile and Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Additionally, staff in collaboration with the NYSAMPO staff liaison discussed and assembled the next quarterly agenda for the NYSAMPO Transit Working Group.

October: Main Office NYSDOT provided an online freight interface to staff for review. The online tool was developed by a consultant to more easily access Transearch commodity flow data. Staff will soon query the tonnage and value information for inclusion in our work-in-progress Freight Profile.

Traffic Safety (Project Manager: Michael Alexander)

November: SMTC facilitated the November 20th Safety Working Group meeting on behalf of the NYS Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Staff have been attending various safety-related webinars.

October: SMTC staff have been attending walk/bike safety webinars. SMTC will help prepare for the next SWG call on November 20.

Travel Demand Modeling (Project Manager: Jason Deshaies)

November: Regional model output files for the various Micron and Great Northern Mall redevelopment scenarios were provided to NYSDOT to be used for completing air and noise quality assessments for their Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, staff attended a NYSAMPO Modeling Working Group meeting which included a presentation from AVAIL regarding the digital Freight Atlas they developed for NYSDOT.

October: RSG delivered the final version of the updated base models for 2020 and 2050, as well as several scenario models for the Micron and Great Northern Mall redevelopment projects. The package also included an updated version of the full model documentation that documents how the model was created and details about each component of the 4-step model. Future model improvements include adding new transportation projects that will be included in the MTP as well as enhanced transit and truck model components.

County Planning Assistance (Project Manager: James D'Agostino, Meghan Vitale & Mario Colone)

November: No significant activity to report.

October: No significant activity to report.

City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support (Project Manager: Meghan Vitale)

November: Staff provided feedback to the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Program on the draft scope of work that grant-funded effort. The consultant team submitted the final draft to FHWA in mid-November.

October: 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. Staff continue to work with the other Thriving Communities partners to finalize the Work Plan for this multi-year program.

Micron Development Area Transportation System Assessment (Project Manager: Mario Colone & Meghan Vitale)

November: On November 15, staff facilitated the third SAC project meeting. Suggested dwelling unit and employee density figures were discussed/presented for the 3 transit services under consideration (e.g., enhanced bus, Bus Rapid Transit, and Light Rail Transit). Example station area renderings were highlighted. Following the SAC meeting, the transit planning study is paused until April 1, 2025 for budgetary reasons.

October: The October 8th SAC meeting was cancelled. The third SAC meeting is now scheduled for November 15th as a virtual meeting. The meeting will focus on housing typologies, draft site plans, concepts, and example station area renderings depicting representative densities application to various transit options at and along the Route 31 corridor.

Syracuse Sidewalk Planning Study (Project Manager: Andrew Frasier)

November: No significant activities to report.

October: Staff presented a technical memorandum to the Planning and Policy Committee in October. Staff will coordinate with the City of Syracuse staff to determine the future of the data collected. This project is considered complete at this time and no further updates will be provided.

Community Streets Program (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)

November: SMTC staff updated the Community Streets website with materials for the 2025 program year, including a revamped guidebook and additional information for each step of the process. The application window officially opened on November 15th and will remain open until January 15th. Notification efforts will be coordinated among the SMTC, Adapt CNY, and the City of Syracuse.

October: SMTC staff continue to coordinate with City staff and Adapt CNY volunteers on adjustments to the program in preparation for a second program year. Project sponsors from the pilot year presented their experiences with the program at the October Forum on Active Transportation (FOAT).

Brewerton Trail Network Technical Analysis (Project Manager: Mike Alexander)

November: SMTC posted both technical memos on its website. *No further updates will be provided.*

October: SMTC presented the draft technical memos to the Planning Committee on October 1st and to the Policy Committee on October 29th. The technical memos will be available for review on SMTC's website.

Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Connections (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)

November: The initial draft report and appendices were provided to the SAC for review and comment. SMTC asked that all comments be provided by November 22. Should SAC comments be provided, the consultant will revise the draft document prior to submitting their final materials for contract closeout.

October: Consultant provided a draft document for in-house review. Once SMTC comments/edits are accounted for, the draft will be sent to the Study Advisory Committee for their review and comment. The expectation is to have a draft final report available for SMTC committee acknowledgment by December.

Congestion Management Process 2024 Update (Project Manager: Kevin Kosakowski & Jason Deshaies)

November: Analyst staff has been reviewing the NPMRDS information to determine the top road segments for the performance measures of interest and is in the process of compiling those lists so that further analysis and write ups can occur within the draft report. Meanwhile, staff have been gathering crash information for those top road segments as well, which will be summarized in the final document.

October: Analyst staff has been working to process and analyze the NPMRDS data for the identified CMP network for further discussion in the eventual document. The road segments with the top 10 highest values for each of the congestion performance measures have been reviewed and finalized. This CMP will include separate lists for access highways and other non-limited access roadways since these facilities function very differently. Staff is currently formatting each of the lists to include various identifying attributes and maps are being created to show the locations of the most congested areas.

Downtown Parking Signage and Wayfinding (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)

November: Staff developed several design options for signage outside of publicly available parking facilities and identified potential sign locations for the focus facilities, as identified by the Downtown Committee. Staff reviewed recommendations for the 2014 Syracuse Wayfinding Study along with the I-81 project designs to identify where changes to the wayfinding recommendations may be required, including additional signs along newly extended roadways. The second SAC meeting was held on November 14th to discuss the initial recommendations. Staff will continue to finalize recommendations with an anticipated draft document early in 2025.

October: Based on conversations with the City Zoning Administration, staff have drafted potential signage designs near focus facilities. Staff continue to identify preferred locations for signage that does not create visual clutter and is easily identifiable for drivers. Staff have begun evaluating potential sites to expand bicycle parking within Downtown Syracuse.

Village of Liverpool Modeling Update and Analysis (Project Manager: Jason Deshaies)

November: Scenario modeling for this analysis is currently on hold as we collect more information from member agencies regarding future roadway projects in the Liverpool area. Staff continues to compile existing conditions information such as turning movement data, truck movements, and historical change in AADT.

October: Miovision turning movement data has been downloaded for intersections in and around the Village of Liverpool. This information as well as information from the Synchro model being created for the Greater Liverpool Traffic Study will be included in the existing conditions report for this study. The regional model version that will be used for this study has been finalized, scenario modeling will begin next month.

North Syracuse Van Mara and Grove Street Traffic Calming and Safety Analysis (Project Manager: Mike Alexander)

November: SMTC scheduled the first SAC meeting for Wednesday, December 11. Staff continues to coordinate with member agencies and village representatives. Staff are also preparing draft meeting materials. A draft of Technical Memo #1 is complete.

October: SMTC continues to document existing conditions and draft preliminary concept plans for internal review. SMTC spoke with the CHA Companies, the consultant team for the Village of North Syracuse, to discuss status updates on SMTC's planning efforts and CHA's design work for the Village TAP grant. SMTC will provide CHA with preliminary concepts to guide their design plans. SMTC will also set up the first SAC meeting soon to review the existing conditions and concept plans with the Village, County, CHA, and NYSDOT.

Greater Liverpool Traffic Study – Technical Analysis (Project Manager – Meghan Vitale)

November: Staff have compiled current and historical heavy vehicle data for the study area and are continuing to work on the Synchro model.

October: SMTC and OCDOT staff met in early October to review the historical data analysis, which generally shows a decrease in traffic volumes in the study area over time. OCDOT staff shared previous Synchro models, and SMTC staff are compiling all of this data into one complete new model. Staff will focus on creating coordination plans for two corridors in the study area and will also add some additional historical data for truck traffic in the study area.

Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan – Project Coordination (Project Manager – Mario Colone)

November: No activity to report.

October: No activity to report.

Safe Routes to School – Onondaga County Suburban School Districts Support (Project Manager – Danielle Krol & Joey DiStefano)

November: Staff met with Liverpool schools and are planning a comprehensive examination process that will best suit the school in question.

October: SMTC staff has begun conversations with potential case study schools to further assess feasibility. The best methods of public engagement are being identified. The report is being drafted as project progresses.

Reconnecting Communities Grant Coordination & Management Assistance (Project Manager: Meghan Vitale)

November: The City received five proposals in response to the Reconnecting Communities planning grant RFP. SMTC staff participated in the proposal review and the consultant interviews.

October: SMTC staff helped craft responses to some of the questions received by the City on their RFP. Responses to the City's RFP were due October 16. SMTC staff expect to assist with review of those proposals.

West Monroe Route 49 Corridor Study (Project Manager: Mike Alexander)

November: SMTC created a study advisory committee and coordinated with members to set the first meeting for Friday, December 6. Staff continue to develop existing conditions materials and meeting materials.

October: SMTC is working with Oswego County to reach out to local town and village officials to inform them about the study and seek their engagement on the study advisory committee. SMTC continues to draft existing conditions summaries. SMTC is working to set up a study advisory committee meeting soon.

Complete Streets Planning Set-Aside – no staff billing* (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)

November: On November 19, the staff/consultant team held the complete street’s study first public meeting. A formal introductory presentation was given followed by review/discussion at several stations. Public input received at the meeting, in addition to an online interactive map and electronic survey responses, will be reviewed, documented, and taken into consideration as preliminary opportunities are identified throughout the study corridor.

October: Staff, in collaboration with the consultant team, have scheduled the first public meeting for November 19th. The consultant is currently preparing materials (presentation and boards) for the public meeting. Additionally, a project website, which includes an interactive map and public survey was launched in late October. The survey will remain open through November.

TIP Development and Maintenance(Project Manager: Mario Colone)

November: Various adjustments were made to the TIP throughout the month. For transparency purposes, the Annual List of Obligations and Annual Federal Fiscal Year Report are posted to the SMTC’s website. As part of the recently initiated TIP/STIP update, existing project sponsors provided cost/schedule updates to numerous projects that will carry over to the next 5-yr capital program. Staff continue reviewing the updates to determine what, if any, solicitation for new projects may occur.

October: Numerous amendments were approved this month through the SMTC Planning and Policy Committee meetings. At the end of the prior Federal Fiscal Year (2023-2024), all funding programmed on the TIP was obligated. SMTC staff and the Capital Projects Committee initiated the next TIP update at the end of the month. Project sponsors were asked to submit cost and schedule updates for numerous projects that will carry over to the new TIP. Staff will review these carryover projects to ascertain what funding may be available to solicit new projects. A call for projects should be released in the November/December timeframe, as funding allows.

Miscellaneous Activities and Special Technical Assistance (Project Manager: James D’Agostino)

November: No significant activity to report.

October: No significant activity to report.