

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the October 29, 2024 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Corey Dunham, Chair
Tara Spraker
David Smith
David Bottar
Odean Dyer
Jake Dishaw
Sara Sherlock
Jonathan Link Logan
Leah Ellender
Councilor Jimmy Monto
Ryan Smith

Organization

City of Syracuse, Mayor's Office
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
NYS Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
Onondaga County Executive
City of Syracuse – Planning Commission
NYS Thruway Authority
CenterState CEO
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
City of Syracuse Common Council
Empire State Development

Also Attending

David Roth
Betsy Parmley
Kristen Fragale

NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation
Oswego County

SMTC Staff

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

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Dunham called the meeting to order at 10:31 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 June 14, 2024, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. David Smith moved, and Ms. Spraker seconded the approval of the minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. **UPWP Status Report**

Mr. D'Agostino gave the following update on the October UPWP Status Report:

A Unified Planning Work Program amendment was processed and approved for the agency operating budget at the SMTC Executive Committee meeting this month to offset a differential in the programmed amount versus the actual amount of funding available. The SMTC website has been updated to include an ongoing project section that includes updates on current projects as well as information on archived projects. There was a hardcopy multipage SMTC newsletter that was recently mailed out highlighting many recent accomplishments of the agency. The 2025 NYSAMPO Conference is scheduled, and member agencies are welcome to attend at no charge. The dates are May 13th and May 14th, 2025.

SMTC staff finished the Downtown Pedestrian Movement Count project and provided the data gathered to the Downtown Committee as well as other project related traffic counts. SMTC staff will present the draft final Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System report later on the agenda. The pavement rating continues for next year's report. The Syracuse Sidewalk Planning Study is complete and will be presented later in the agenda. SMTC staff are looking into working with the City of Syracuse to transition the study into a maintenance program. The SMTC staff will present a summary regarding the Community Streets Program later in the agenda and discuss the preparations for next year. The Brewerton Trail Network Technical Analysis is complete, and the draft technical memo will be discussed later on the agenda.

A Study Advisory Committee meeting for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan was held on October 2nd. This project is on target for completion in a little less than a year with the Transportation Atlas on target for completion prior to that. Updating of the draft Freight Profile is underway for the Rail, Truck & Transit Planning. Data analysis for those categories is being added to the Long-Range Transportation Plan/Metropolitan Transportation Plan. SMTC staff participated in a meeting with the Port Authority and various stakeholders in Syracuse this month. The model documentation is complete for the Travel Demand Modeling project and is currently being prepped for use in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan including base and future use. The model is also being used for in-house projects and SMTC staff are currently working with NYSDOT regarding the use of the model for the Micron project.

For the City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support, SMTC has participated in the Vision Zero Action Plan and Thriving Communities Technical Assistance grant program both which require a substantial amount of SMTC in-kind staff time. SMTC staff traveled to Washington D.C. along with staff from the City of Syracuse and CenterState CEO to participate in a "convening" of communities that are participating in the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance grant program which was a worthwhile endeavor and the travel expenses to be reimbursed by the federal government. The Micron Development Areas Transportation System Assessment SAC meeting that was scheduled for October 9th at the Town of Clay Offices was cancelled due to a bad accident that caused a power outage in the area. A virtual meeting has been scheduled for November 15th. Draft visuals and a draft memo from the consultant team will be shared at the meeting. After the meeting, the project will be put on hold until April 1st due to the SMTC budget constraint.

The Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Connections draft document was presented at an informal “informed speaker” event in Manlius and the expectation is to have the draft final report presented at the next SMTC Policy Committee meeting later this year. Analyst staff have been updating the Congestion Management Process 2024 document as required and is on target to be completed this program year.

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

The next Study Advisory Committee meeting for the Village of Liverpool Modeling Update and Analysis is being planned and initial model runs are being developed to be presented at the meeting. SMTC and Onondaga County Department of Transportation (OCDOT) staff met in early October to review the historical data analysis for the Greater Liverpool Traffic Study – Technical Analysis. The study shows a decrease in traffic volume over time. The OCDOT staff shared previous Synchro models and SMTC staff are compiling all data into one completely new model.

The Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan – Project Coordination is currently on hold until Onondaga County Planning releases a Request for Proposal so next stages can continue. SMTC previously provided Onondaga County Planning with a scope of work. Mr. D’Agostino indicated that he is concerned that the money will fall back to the federal government if action does not happen soon. SMTC staff helped create responses to some of the questions received by the City of Syracuse on their Request for Proposals for the Reconnecting Communities Grant Coordination & Management Assistance. A total of five proposals were received and SMTC staff are expected to assist the City of Syracuse with a review of the proposals.

SMTC staff research continues involving youth and active transportation for the Safe Routes to School – Onondaga County Suburban School Districts Support study. The initial outreach to potential case studies have been conducted. SMTC staff, in collaboration with the consultant team, have scheduled the first public meeting for the Complete Streets Planning Set-Aside project at Liverpool High School on November 19th. The consultant is currently preparing materials (presentation and boards) for the public meeting. Additionally, a project website, which included an interactive map, was launched. Oswego County has stepped up to be the local contact for the West Monroe Route 49 Corridor Study. This project is now back on schedule.

Lastly, there are various TIP amendments on today’s agenda. SMTC has received their planning targets for the next round of TIP funding. SMTC staff is working with member agencies to develop new cost estimates and schedule updates.

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

This is an informational only item.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

I-81 Project Update

Ms. Parmley indicated that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is now fully under construction in four contracts. Contract 5 in Phase 1 is yet to be awarded.

Ms. Parmley mentioned that the contractors are currently trying to get into conditions for snow and ice removal so the roads can be maintained properly with the size of the snowplows. NYSDOT is also working with the City of Syracuse since there is work currently being done throughout the city.

Contract 1 (Northern Interchange) is on track and should be completed at the end of 2025.

Contract 2 (Southern Interchange) the work should be completed at the end of 2025. The roundabout is partially in operation and Ms. Parmley encouraged committee attendees to drive through it. Ms. Parmley indicated there was a fire in a steel plant that caused delays in the fabrication and delivery of steel.

Contract 3 (Inner Harbor) is on track to be completed in October 2026. This contract also includes work over CSX and the Inner Harbor. Demolition work is actively taking place on the Spencer Street bridge. As part of an environmental commitment, noise decibels must stay below 70 after 9:00 p.m. There is an independent company monitoring it and they have been able to adhere to the commitment.

Contract 4 (New I-690 Crouse Exit) sheeting is currently going in. As part of the environmental process, NYSDOT had to go through a SHPO review due to the possibility of finding the old Erie Canal wall and other artifacts. In doing so, part of the old Erie Canal wall was uncovered and rocks from the wall are currently being stored for future use. This contract is on track for completion mid-2027.

Ms. Parmley indicated NYSDOT is working very closely with the City of Syracuse on wrapping up the design for Phase 2 (Almond St.). The local hire program is going great and NYSDOT is meeting their goals of 15% on each contract.

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

This is an informational only item.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **TIP Amendments**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there are eight TIP amendments for Policy Committee consideration, mainly additions of new projects to the 2023-2027 TIP and statewide TIP.

Addition or deletion of project:

o Following the latest TAP-CMAQ solicitation administered by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), four projects in the SMTC area were identified by Governor Hochul for funding award in June 2024. Projects are listed below, including their total cost to be programmed on the TIP and Statewide TIP and when the

Construction phase is anticipated. Preliminary Engineering phases are not listed but are a component of the Total cost.

□ PIN 395087 (VILLAGE OF SOLVAY EMPIRE STATE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AND BELLE ISLE RD REPAIR, VIL OF SOLVAY, ONONDAGA CO). Sponsor Village of Solvay. (Solvay) Total cost \$1,004,000 (\$803,000 TAP Federal, \$201,000 match). Construction programmed in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 26/27.

□ PIN 395088 (INNER HARBOR AREA SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO). Sponsor City of Syracuse (Syracuse). Total cost \$3,933,000 (\$3,146,000 TAP Federal, \$787,000 match). Construction programmed in FFY 26/27.

□ PIN 395089 (NEW SHARED USE PATH ON WEST SIDE TRAIL, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO). Sponsor Syracuse. Total cost \$4,930,000 (\$3,944,000 TAP Federal, \$986,000 match). Construction programmed in FFY 26/27.

□ PIN 395093 (CNYRTA ZERO EMISSION HYDROGEN FUEL CELL ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT). Sponsor Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (Centro). Total cost \$6,250,000 (\$5,000,000 CMAQ Federal, \$1,250,000 match). Funds programmed in FFY 24/25.

o Following the latest BridgeNY program solicitation, in July 2024 four projects were selected for funding. Projects will be added to the TIP/STIP once full schedules are established.

□ W BRIGHTON AVE BRIDGE OVER ONONDAGA CREEK, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO. Sponsor Syracuse. \$1,792,000 Total (\$1,702,000 Federal).

□ PECK RD BRIDGE OVER CHITTENANGO CREEK, MANLIUS, ONONDAGA CO. Sponsor Onondaga County Department of Transportation. \$2,039,000 Total (\$1,937,000 Federal).

□ W FRANKLIN ST BRIDGE OVER PARK POND OUTLET, FAYETTEVILLE, ONONDAGA CO. Sponsor Fayetteville. \$1,624,000 Total (\$1,543,000 Federal).

□ W ELIZABETH ST BRIDGE OVER SKANEATELES CREEK, VIL OF SKANEATELES, ONONDAGA CO. Sponsor Village of Skaneateles. \$2,272,000 Total (\$2,158,000 Federal).

o PIN 382002 (HYDROGEN FUEL CELL ELECTRIC VEHICLES, RELATED EQUIPMENT, FACILITY MODIFICATIONS AND WORKER TRAINING PROJECT). □ Sponsor Centro. Centro is a recipient of \$7,260,435 Section 5339 Federal funds through the Federal Transit Administration's 2024 Bus and Low- and No-Emission grant awards and they're proposing to add the project in FFY 24/25 with a Total cost of \$9,075,543.

o PIN TBD (15th WARD AND E ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor Syracuse. The City is proposing to add the new project to the program with \$30,000,000 Federal funds awarded through the USDOT's Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhoods program. Funds will be used for multimodal infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and shared use

paths in the street Right-of-Way at various locations in the 15th Ward/E. Adams Street Neighborhood. Construction programmed in FFY 25/26.

o PIN 375743 (PAVING, MILTON AVE PH 2, TOWN LINE TO DARROW AVE, VIL OF SOLVAY, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor Solvay. The village is proposing to remove the project from the current program as the State will provide funding to complete the entirety of the project under PIN 375686.

All dollar amounts are subject to change.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Councilor Monto moved, and Mr. Link Logan seconded the motion that the Policy Committee approves the TIP Amendments.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Syracuse Sidewalk Planning Study

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the goal of this project was a comprehensive inventory of all sidewalks in the City of Syracuse. This included:

- Existence
- Condition factors
- Ratings Score
- Accessibility

And other factors on a parcel level for all parcels in the City.

A brief presentation was given by SMTTC Senior Transportation Analyst, Andrew Frasier.

Discussion occurred.

This is an informational item only.

C. Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS)

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the goal of this reoccurring work item is to report, map and analyze roadway bridge and federal-aid eligible pavement conditions in our Metropolitan Planning Area.

A brief presentation was given by SMTTC Senior Transportation Analyst, Andrew Frasier.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the BPCMS report.

Mr. Dyer moved, and Mr. David Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Community Streets Program

Mr. D’Agostino indicated the Community Streets program was developed at the request of the City of Syracuse as a way for community organizations to propose and implement temporary changes to local streets within their neighborhoods. SMTC staff worked alongside City staff and volunteers from Adapt CNY to evaluate submissions from local community groups and determine which projects would be funded as part of a pilot year. The three selected projects included Alchemical Nursery (Near Westside), Ed Smith PTO (Eastside), and Hopeprint (Northside).

Alchemical Nursery utilized painted curb extensions and temporary crosswalks to enhance accessibility within the Near Westside neighborhood.

Due to ongoing utility work, Ed Smith PTO will be installing their project, which includes painted curb extensions near the K-8 school, in the spring of 2025.

Hopeprint created a temporary pedestrian plaza around a street mural. The plaza was activated through scheduled events three nights per week over the course of one month.

SMTC Senior Transportation Planner, Thomas Bardenett gave a brief presentation.

Discussion occurred.

No action is required. This is an informational item on an ongoing effort.

E. Brewerton Mobility Study

Mr. D’Agostino indicated that Cicero wants to link the Hamlet of Brewerton’s Riverfront Park, business district, and its historic resources to its outer neighborhoods, rural areas, and to Micron.

SMTC prepared specific bike and pedestrian facility recommendations to inform Cicero’s LWRP investments. As a first step, SMTC initiated discussions with Cicero, National Grid, Micron, and the Town of Clay about how to convert utility corridor service roads into shared-use pathways to connect Brewerton and Micron. SMTC identified a specific off-road route. To complete the network, SMTC also identified specific locations where to locate sidewalks, shared lane markings, bike lanes, stone dust trails, paved trails, intersection crossing improvements, and wayfinding signs.

SMTC Senior Transportation Planner, Michael Alexander gave a brief presentation.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham indicated that the Policy Committee acknowledged the completion of the Brewerton Mobility Study report.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. David Smith moved, and Councilor Monto seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

The motion passed unanimously.