

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the February 20, 2025 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Mary Robison – Vice Chair
Bren Daiss
David Roth
Odean Dyer
Mark Olson
Kevan Busa
Amanda Mazzoni
Ryan Smith
Leah Ellender
Kathryn Ryan

Organization

City of Syracuse, Administration
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
NYS Department of Transportation
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
Onondaga County Legislature
City of Syracuse, DPW
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
Empire State Development
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Onondaga County Department of Planning

Also Attending

Katrina Bergan
Heather Snow

NYS Department of Transportation
Oswego County

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Lori Irvine, Andrew Frasier, Thomas Bardenett, Jade Nguyen, Danielle Krol, Joseph DiStefano and Kevin Kosakowski.

BUSINESS MEETING

Vice Chairperson Robison called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Vice Chairperson Robison indicated that there were no additions or changes to the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairperson Robison inquired if there were any changes to the October 1, 2024, minutes.

Hearing none, Vice Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Mr. Dyer moved, and Mr. Roth 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 January 2025 UPWP Status Report:

For General Administration, the SMTC staff drafted a new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that will be discussed later on today's agenda. February Planning, Policy, and CPC meetings are scheduled, and a Legal Notice was published for the meetings and documents.

For Public Participation, a FOAT meeting was held at the end of January, which was well attended. The draft UPWP is currently out for public comment and the SMTC website has been updated regularly.

The 2025 NYSAMPO Conference at the Syracuse Downtown Marriott will be held on May 13th and 14th. All member agencies and their staff can attend for free. The registration will go live next week and Mr. D'Agostino encourages everyone to attend.

A SAC meeting was held in January for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and staff presented additional Atlas layouts, initial draft of the financial plan, and the draft Chapter 4 (Needs Assessment). This project is on target for completion and on-budget. The Regional Travel Demand Model has been thoroughly updated and will be used for any modeling task related to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

SMTC staff are updating a new route map for Centro which should be completed within the next few months. Staff are also updating the Freight Profile. A new Onondaga County Highway Map for 2025 has been created and printed. A copy was provided to each committee member attending today's meeting. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that if anyone needs additional copies to please contact him directly.

SMTC staff attended the quarterly meeting of the Oswego County Transportation Advisory Committee on January 10th and will be creating a presentation for the upcoming Onondaga County Planning Symposium in March.

SMTC staff participated in two meetings and reviewed draft actions for the City's Vision Zero Action Plan. The Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Program is currently on hold. SMTC staff are waiting for the next steps from the County for the Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan.

The Micron Development Area Transportation System Assessment planning study is on pause until April 2025 due to budgetary constraints.

SMTC staff responded to questions from potential project sponsors helping to clarify placement criteria and potential meeting requests for the Community Streets Program. SMTC staff are coordinating with City staff and Adapt CNY volunteers to organize a review session of the submitted applications.

The Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Connections project, Downtown Parking Signage and Wayfinding project, and the Pavement Prioritization Program are complete and on today's agenda. The Bridge and Pavement Condition Management system report is underway.

SMTC staff are in the middle of reviewing and preparing the NPMRDS information gathered for the Congestion Management Process 2024 Update and will be incorporating into a draft document. The document should be completed soon.

A list of anticipated future road network projects to include in the future year base model has been finalized, and the model has been updated accordingly for the Village of Liverpool Modeling Update and Analysis. This project is expected to be presented at the next Planning and Policy Committee meetings. SMTC staff are reviewing capacity analysis results and finalizing a draft tech memo that will be sent to Onondaga County Department of Transportation for the Greater Liverpool Traffic Study. This project is also expected to be presented at the next Planning and Policy Committee meetings.

SMTC staff updated the preferred concept plan based on SAC comments for the North Syracuse Van Mara and Grove Street Traffic Calming and Safety Analysis. The draft concept identifies opportunities to improve the intersection at South Bay Road, Maxwell Avenue, Grove Street, and Van Mara Drive. A public meeting will occur as part of a Village Board meeting agenda item.

A kick-off meeting was held with the consultant team on January 8th, and the first of a set of recurring biweekly coordination calls was held on January 22nd for the Reconnecting Communities Grant Coordination & Management Assistance project. The City is working with the consultant team to finalize the contract. The consultant team is beginning to create the public engagement plan. Staff and consultants also participated in a meeting of the I-81 Community Grid Cooperative on January 23rd to inform that group about this study and collect some initial feedback. This project is moving along unencumbered.

SMTC staff conducted a Safe Routes to School workshop with the Chestnut Hill PTO and building Principals to identify project interest and further investigate issues and opportunities with active transportation to the school building. Surveys are being drafted to distribute to parents and students.

Consultants continued to develop preliminary concepts for the Complete Streets Planning Set-Aside study (Rt. 57/Onondaga County Department of Transportation). SMTC staff discussed the need to potentially adjust the contract schedule with the consultant. Also, conversations to extend the corridor to the village line is taking place due to the availability of money.

SMTC staff prepared meeting notes from its first SAC meeting for the West Monroe Route 49 Corridor Study. New information was presented at the SAC meeting which could impact future development potential along the Route 49 corridor. Staff are currently preparing a series of pointed questions for various stakeholders. Staff will use this information to help with developing a future growth scenario to run through the Synchro model. Data collection counts are ordered for this project.

The Capital Projects Committee has met several times to discuss the 2026-2030 TIP. Further meetings will take place in the coming months to create a fiscally constrained capital program. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that for the first time, there is no solicitation for new capital projects as there is no money available. The current projects are being adjusted by changing the cost and/or schedule.

Vice Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

This is an informational only item.

B. Federal Funding Discussion

Mr. D'Agostino wanted to discuss the topic of Federal Funding. Mr. D'Agostino indicated he doesn't know all the answers but indicated that what he does know is that actions that are passed by Executive Order will impact some of the projects that the SMTTC is involved with. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that some efforts have already been stripped from the upcoming Work Plan, which will be discussed later in the agenda.

Just prior to attending today's meeting, Mr. D'Agostino received an email indicating that all Federal Highway and Federal Transit STIP amendments are being paused until reviewed by the Office of General Council in Washington D.C. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that this could certainly slow down the progress of certain projects in a substantial way. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he will share any updates that he receives.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Robison asked if there were any other questions.

There were none.

This is an informational only item

4. OLD BUSINESS

I-81 Project Update

Mr. Roth gave committee members the following update:

Contract 1 (Northern Interchange) – The new South Bay Road bridge over I-81 will be completed this year. Only northbound traffic will be allowed on the bridge during construction. Detours will direct southbound traffic north on South Bay Road, to south on Thompson Road, to south on Northern Boulevard, to north on Interstate 481 to Circle Drive back to South Bay Road. Emergency responders will be able to cross going either direction.

Contract 2 (Southern Interchange) – This project is on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Roth indicated that the CSX bridge on I-481 in DeWitt will be completed by late summer next year.

Contract 3 (Inner Harbor) – The Bear and Spencer Street bridges will be re-built this year and the North Clinton Street on and off ramps off I-81 will be operational after the construction season.

Contract 4 (New I-690 Crouse exit) – This is the preliminary work on I-690. There are currently lane closures to the outside lanes then during the summer it will switch to the inside lanes.

Contract 5 (New Roundabout at Van Buren Street) – There was a delay in letting

and the new date is March 20th. This was to receive more competitive bids.

Contract 6 (West Street) – This is the first contract of Phase 2 which is the I-690 reconstruction project. A Letter of Intent to the contractor will be issued possibly later today. The final request for proposal is due by the end of the federal fiscal year.

Mr. Roth also mentioned he is also concerned about the new TIP amendment process.

This is an informational only item.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **2025-2026 UPWP**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated a letter was sent to member agencies and municipalities on December 9, 2024, acting as a call letter for UPWP Project Proposals. Additionally, a virtual meeting for prospective sponsors was held January 6, 2025.

A draft of the 2025-2026 UPWP was created programming 100% of our anticipated allocation.

Mr. D'Agostino outlined the approach to funding and programming for the 2025-2026 UPWP in light of funding needs and allocation limitations. To fully accomplish the program as envisioned, the NYSAMPO is contributing their second \$50,000 (first \$50,000 provided last year) to cover the costs of the 2025 NYSAMPO conference.

Mr. D'Agostino also provided a year end summary of the existing 2024-2025 program year as well as further details on the proposed 2025-2026 UPWP at the meeting.

Vice Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Mr. Olson moved, and Mr. Roth seconded the motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the 2025-2026 UPWP.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. **TIP Amendments**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there are two TIP amendments (1 new, 1 removal) proposed for modification to the 2023-2027 TIP and statewide TIP.

Addition or deletion of project:

- o PIN 395095 (SOLVAY-GEDDES CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR PROJECT, TN OF GEDDES & VIL OF SOLVAY, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor Town of Geddes. Total cost \$6,250,000. The Town was awarded \$5,000,000 Congressional directed spending to design and construct a complete street, connective corridor along various roads linking the Village of Solvay and City of

Syracuse to support ongoing revitalization efforts within the community. Engineering and Design phases in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 24/25, with Construction programmed in FFY 26/27. \$1,250,000 Match provided by the Town.

o PIN 350200 (MEDIAN BARRIER UPGRADE, I81 NB OVER RT 80 TO 2 MI N EXIT 24, TN OF TULLY, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). NYSDOT is proposing to remove this project from the current TIP as activities will be addressed under PIN 380668: Safety Appurtenance Program in FFY 24/25.

Vice Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Mr. Roth moved, and Mr. Dyer seconded the motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee approve the TIP Amendments.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Performance Measure Targets Amendment

Mr. D'Agostino explained that as required by the federal surface transportation authorization, the SMTC has the option to either adopt the performance measure targets established by the State or develop our own. The State recently adopted 1) revised 4-year National Highway System pavement performance measure targets in October 2024 and, 2) annual safety targets in August 2024.

NHS relevant performance measures include:

- Interstate pavement (percent Good, percent Poor), and
- Non-interstate NHS pavement (percent Good, percent Poor).

Safety specific performance measures include:

- Number of fatalities,
- Rates of fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),
- Number of serious injuries,
- Rate of serious injuries per 100 Million VMT, and
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.

Mr. D'Agostino provided an overview of the proposed Performance Measure Targets.

Vice Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Ms. Daiss moved, and Mr. Dyer seconded the motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the Performance Measure Targets. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Downtown Parking Signage and Wayfinding

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Downtown Parking: Wayfinding and Signage Guide was initiated as part of the 2024-2025 UPWP on behalf of the Downtown Committee. Over 18,000 parking spaces can be found throughout Downtown Syracuse, with well over half available for public use, including on-street and off-street parking facilities. While the supply of parking spaces may be sufficient, visitors to the district often comment that finding parking is difficult. Some of this disconnect may be due to a lack of standardized signage identifying what spaces are available to whom. To address these concerns, the Guide aims to:

- Identify preferred parking locations for key Downtown neighborhoods and attractions, based on Downtown Committee recommendations,
- Encourage the use of standardized signage at publicly available parking lots and garages,
- Provide legible wayfinding signage designs to direct visitors to preferred parking locations,
- Map all available parking facilities within Downtown Syracuse for motorists and cyclists, and
- Identify locations for the expansion of public bicycle parking.

Recommendations highlighted within the report include pursuing an overall wayfinding program previously laid out in the City of Syracuse Wayfinding Study (2014), a standardized signage program for publicly available facilities, a targeted parking wayfinding program for less prominent locations, and the expansion of bicycle parking options.

Mr. Bardenett, Senior Transportation Planner at the SMTC, gave a brief presentation.

Vice Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Ms. Bergan moved, and Mr. Olson seconded the motion that the Planning Committee recommend the Downtown Parking: Wayfinding and Signage Guide as complete to the SMTC Policy Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Connection

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Villages of Minoa, Fayetteville, and Manlius, Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections Study was initiated halfway through the 2023-2024 UPWP on behalf of the Village of Fayetteville. The Study is an evaluation of on-road bicycle and pedestrian network connections and facilities throughout the Greater Fayetteville area that connect the villages of Fayetteville, Manlius, and Minoa to each other and to various parks and trails in the area. The Study sought to find out:

- Where are the best places to make network connections?;
- What are the right treatments for these connections?; and
- Would people change their behavior if those sidewalks, bike lanes, or trails were built?

The study also considered the in-depth work recently completed in the area and examined some corridors which have not received as much attention.

In the end, the study suggests at least five specific improvements that the municipalities can consider based on their value to achieving the goals of improving connections and the strong support they received through the public involvement process.

Daniell Krol, Senior Transportation Planner at the SMTC gave a brief presentation.

Vice Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Vice Chairperson Robison called for a motion.

Mr. Olson moved, and Ms. Mazzoni seconded the motion that the Planning Committee recommend the Villages of Minoa, Fayetteville, and Manlius, Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections Study as completed to the SMTC Policy Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Pavement Prioritization Program

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that in recent years, on behalf of the City of Syracuse, the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council has conducted an analysis of the City's road network to provide insight into prioritizing certain roads for pavement maintenance. This process leads to the development of a Priority Score, which can help guide City staff on pavement decisions.

The Priority Score includes several infrastructure-related variables, such as pavement rating (collected in 2024), traffic volumes, functional classification, and others. It also includes demographic information from the Census Bureau to include an equity component as requested by the City.

The score is calculated for individual blocks. Street segments and Census Tracts are given a weighted score for planning purposes.

Andrew Frasier, Senior Transportation Analyst at the SMTC gave a brief presentation.

Vice Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

This is an informational item only.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. D'Agostino reminded committee members of the upcoming SMTC Policy Committee meeting scheduled for February 27, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. by Vice Chairperson Robison.