



## **Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council**

### **Unified Planning Work Program Status Report**

#### **2025-2026 Program Year – 1st Half**

**May 2025**

##### **General Administration (Project Manager: James D’Agostino)**

**May:** The new program year was kicked off. Project assignments were made and preliminary efforts at project scopes have begun. Additionally, the SMTC hosted the NYSAMPO conference at the downtown Marriott in May. The event was a success.

**April:** Final printing of the 2025-2026 UPWP document was completed and delivered.

##### **Public Participation and Outreach (and Website) (Project Manager: James D’Agostino)**

**May:** The next virtual FOAT meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4 at 3:30 p.m., where attendees will hear about the City’s Vision Zero/Complete Streets Plan and have an opportunity to provide feedback on Veo services. The TIP was put out for required public comment and comments are coming in.

**April:** Public notice and/or meetings for the upcoming TIP are being planned. Web site renewal and maintenance occurred.

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

**May:** No significant activity to report.

**April:** No significant activity to report.

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

**May:** Efforts to wrap up remaining projects are progressing. All should be wrapped up by the end of June.

**April:** : Work towards wrapping up several projects from the last UPWP cycle occurred.

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

**May:** New project managers are engaging in their new studies and work is progressing.

**April:** Staffing assignments and scoping have begun on the new 2025-2026 UPWP.

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

**May:** The conference was held in downtown Syracuse with approximately 280 registrants. It was very successful.

**April:** Final conference preparations occurred, and arrangements made.

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

**May:** Staff continue to analyze *Census Transportation Planning Products* (CTPP) data for use in agency studies and projects.

**April:** Staff have been analyzing new *Census Transportation Planning Products* (CTPP) data for use in agency studies and projects.

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

**May:** Synchro file compilation has been completed. Staff will be looking next to finalize the draft count map to share with OCDOT.

**April:** Staff have requested from NYSDOT Main Office an update on count information for the count program. Staff have been working on the compilation of past synchro files into one synchro file for future reference.

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

**May:** Staff attended the NYSAMPO conference which included several sessions related to GIS including an update from ESRI about upcoming changes to ArcGIS Pro and an update from NYSDOT about the various datasets the MPOs have access to. Additionally, staff requested and received several updated GIS datasets from County Planning including the latest parcels and address points.

**April:** Due to ESRI's future retiring (March 2026) of ArcMap, all MPO staff will need to transition to ArcGIS Pro. Staff are currently looking into training options for the NYSAMPO GIS staff. A survey will be sent to the NYSAMPO GIS Working Group members in the near future for input. Additionally, analyst staff continue to update GIS datasets when new data becomes available from sources such as Replica and Miovision.

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

**May:** Staff continue to advise the City of Syracuse with their GIS governance buildout. Staff are working with Centro on an update to their system map.

**April:** Staff continue to advise the City of Syracuse with their GIS governance buildout. Staff are working with Centro on an update to their system map. Staff printed additional copies of the Onondaga County Highway Map for OCDOT.

### **Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)**

**May:** As part of the NYSAMPO Conference, the Bike/Ped and Safety Working Groups held a joint in-person meeting on May 12 where staff heard about and discussed automated enforcement in NYS, truck routing resources and heard updates from partner agencies. On Wednesday, June 4 at 3:30 p.m., SMTC will hold its next virtual FOAT meeting. The main speaker will be Neil Burke, Director of Special Projects for the City of Syracuse's Department of Public Works (DPW). Mr. Burke will be presenting the City's Vision Zero/Complete Streets plan. Additionally, Paul Colabufo, Operations Manager for Veo, will share updates for the 2025 season and provide an opportunity for attendees to offer feedback on the service.

**April:** Staff are working with the City of Syracuse to schedule a May/June 2025 FOAT meeting where the City's draft Vision Zero plan will be discussed. Staff will also assist the city in garnering feedback on the use of Veo within the City as part of the upcoming FOAT meeting. The NYSAMPO Bicycle/Pedestrian and Safety Working Groups will hold a joint in-person meeting during the May 2025 MPO Conference.

### **Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS) (Project Manager: Andrew Frasier)**

**May:** Staff are continuing work on this year's BPCMS report.

**April:** Staff are continuing work on this year's BPCMS report.

### **I-81 Project Involvement (Project Manager: James D'Agostino, Meghan Vitale, & Mario Colone)**

**May:** NYSDOT participated in the NYSAMPO conference and presented their project and recent efforts.

**April:** No significant activity to report.

### **MPO Area and Regional Planning Initiatives (Project Manager: James D'Agostino)**

**May:** Conversations with the CNYRPDB have begun on assisting on one of their Land Use projects / Comprehensive Planning efforts.

**April:** No significant activity to report.

### **Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Project Manager: Meghan Vitale)**

**May:** A SAC meeting was held on May 22. A full draft of the Transportation Atlas was presented at the meeting, along with an updated draft of MTP Chapter 4 and an initial draft of Chapter 5. The Atlas will be presented at the Planning and Policy Committee meetings in June. A final SAC meeting is scheduled for June 16 to review a full, final draft of the MTP prior to the public review and comment period. Staff are aiming to have a draft ready for SAC review by June 9. We are on track to complete the necessary public and agency review over the summer and adopt the MTP in September.

**April:** A full draft of the Transportation Atlas is nearly complete, and we anticipate that it will be ready for SAC review at the next meeting, which is scheduled for May 22. SMTC staff met with CenterStateCEO staff in early April to discuss the goals of the MTP and the transit-supportive density analysis that had been presented at the March SAC meeting. Staff are writing Chapter 5 (Financial Plan), and reviewing previously drafted MTP chapters in light of recent Executive Orders. We are also planning for a final round of public engagement this summer.

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

**May:** At the 2025 NYSAMPO Conference, staff moderated the Integrating Transit Planning session. Presentations highlighted efforts at the statewide level seeking to identify service opportunities in rural areas and on-demand microtransit examples that provide mobility options for community residents. The NYSAMPO staff team presented the draft truck route resource study at a joint NYSAMPO Working Group meeting during the conference on May 12. The consultants are using feedback received to finalize the draft document.

**April:** Work efforts continued in the development of the agency's Freight Profile update such as commodity forecasting. Asset management mapping along the National Highway System and agency identified "freight corridors" will be updated in the coming weeks. Additionally, staff with assistance of the NYSAMPO staff consultant are working to wrap up a truck route resource study to disseminate as a draft to the NYSAMPO Freight Working Group and to also share with the Safety and Bicycle/Pedestrian Working Groups.

### **Traffic Safety (Project Manager: Michael Alexander)**

**May:** SMTC held a joint in-person meeting with the Safety Working Group (SWG) and the Bike/Pedestrian Working Group (B/PWG) at the New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning

Organizations (NYSAMPO) conference on May 12. The agenda included an overview of the traffic camera speed enforcement programs being undertaken by the City of Syracuse. Also, the agenda included an overview of a truck route resource study being developed with Cambridge Systematics and the Freight Working Group.

**April:** SMTC is preparing background materials for a scoping meeting with the New York State Department of Transportation, Onondaga County Department of Transportation, and the Onondaga County Department of Planning.

#### **Travel Demand Modeling (Project Manager: Jason Deshaies)**

**May:** Several comments were received on the draft technical memorandum that was provided to the Village of Liverpool modeling project advisory committee. Staff are currently reviewing the comments and updating the memo as needed. Due to these additional comments, which may require additional analysis, it is likely that this memo will not be finalized until summer.

**April:** Staff met with the Village of Liverpool to review the results of the alternatives modeling requested by the Village. Staff also presented various existing conditions information such as historical traffic and intersection turning movement count data, trip origin-destination data for travelers passing through the Village, and VMT trends. The draft technical memorandum is being reviewed by the project group and will be finalized in early May.

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

**May:** No significant updates.

**April:** No significant updates.

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

**May:** Staff participated in a "virtual site visit" with Thriving Communities Technical Assistance team members and other staff from the City of Syracuse, Centro, and the Land Bank on May 19.

**April:** Staff reviewed and submitted comments on the draft Vision Zero Action Plan and Complete Streets Safety Toolkit. For the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance, staff are continuing to coordinate with City and CenterStateCEO staff on developing a statement of work for the subgrant portion of the work, for which the city will be seeking consultant assistance.

#### **Micron Development Area Transportation System Assessment (Project Manager: Jason Deshaies & Meghan Vitale)**

**May:** Staff attended the Onondaga County Transportation Improvements Project DEIS kickoff meeting as a participating agency. An overview of the project was provided, additional information will follow.

**April:** With the new program underway, staff held a re-kickoff meeting with the Route 31 Transit Corridor Assessment consultant. Several additional visualizations centered around suggested station areas will be created over the next several months to show the scale of development that would be necessary in support of enhanced transit along the corridor.

**City of Syracuse Reconnecting Communities Grant Coordination and Management Assistance (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)**

**May:** City and SMTC staff hosted an in-person site visit for the consultant team, visiting each of the study area corridors, including their connections to the Onondaga Creekwalk. Initial impressions and ideas relating to demonstration projects, intermediate adjustments, and long-term visions were discussed. The consultant team is coordinating with MLK Elementary School on designing a demonstration project near the school. SMTC staff have consulted on the traffic calming aspects of the design and the need for the installation to occur.

**April:** Staff reviewed the draft public engagement plan and initial meeting materials, providing notes and requested edits to the consultant team. The consultant team hosted a table at BluePrint15's second annual Easter egg hunt as its first public engagement opportunity. SMTC staff discussed upcoming demonstration project needs and requirements with DPW staff to help inform discussions as the desired installation dates approach.

**Community Streets Program (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)**

**May:** The Syracuse Urbanism Collective, along with SMTC staff and Adapt CNY volunteers, attended a pre-development meeting hosted by the City of Syracuse, which allowed relevant agencies to ask questions and voice any concerns relating to the upcoming project installation. No major concerns were raised, and the project is on track for installation in the early summer.

**April:** SMTC staff assisted the Urbanism Collective in outreach efforts to nearby property owners and discussed related concerns. SMTC staff met with City staff to discuss concerns and begin organizing a "pre-development" meeting between the project sponsor and relevant city agencies. Staff continued to monitor utility work and pavement projects impacting streets on the City's Eastside to determine potential installation windows for the Ed Smith PTO project.

**North Syracuse Van Mara Dr & Grove St Traffic Calming and Safety Analysis (Project Manager: Mike Alexander)**

**May:** SMTC incorporated comments from community members, member agencies, the North Syracuse Fire Department, and the North Syracuse Department of Public Works in updates to Technical Memorandum #1 (TM#1) and Technical Memorandum #2 (TM#2). SMTC staff prepared a one-page summary sheet and a draft presentation for upcoming Planning Committee and Policy Committee meetings.

**April:** SMTC posted drafts of Technical Memorandum #1 and Technical Memorandum #2 on its website for a public review and comment period. SMTC received several comments from community members and the North Syracuse Fire Department. SMTC updated several draft concepts and figures to reflect substantive comments. SMTC also updated the draft technical memos with the figures and addressed substantive comments in Technical Memo #2. SMTC staff prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the Planning Committee and Policy Committee. Those meetings will likely occur in June.

**Complete Streets Planning (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)**

**May:** Staff met with the consultant in late May to discuss an updated schedule and deliverables now that the Study Area has extended further south to the Village line.

**April:** The consultant has begun to gather existing conditions data for the extended study area (Route 57 between John Glenn Boulevard and the Village of Liverpool line). Additionally, the adjusted contract has been executed.

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

**May:** SMTC staff conducted a walk audit with six students at Chestnut Hill Middle to collect data and foster conversation about safely walking to school. Additionally, staff conducted a survey of students' trips to/from school, collecting 118 responses. SMTC staff are now writing and organizing the final report to be discussed at the SAC on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**April:** SMTC staff are coordinating with cast study school – Chestnut Hill Elementary and Middle – to conduct a walk audit with school staff, PTO members, and middle school students to foster communication between planners, staff, parents, and students, as well as gather data on the issues and opportunities surrounding walking and biking to school

**Onondaga County Safe Streets For All Action Plan – Project Coordination (Project Manager: Mario Colone)**

**May:** Staff participated in a discussion with Onondaga County and FHWA (NY Division Office and Headquarters) regarding the County's SS4A grant. SMTC staff are available to support the SS4A Action Plan development should assistance be requested.

**April:** No activity to report.

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

**May:** SMTC developed a SYNCHRO model for the Route 49 corridor that analyzes operations for four signalized intersections and five unsignalized intersections. SMTC analyzed existing operations and compared them with four future growth scenarios for a 25-year period. SMTC identified which turning movements fail and at what point they fail for analysis and comparison purposes. SMTC is summarizing this information to review with the study advisory committee (SAC) at an upcoming meeting (date TBD).

**April:** SMTC is developing a detailed SYNCHRO model for the Route 49 corridor. SMTC compiled turning movement counts for 11 intersections and driveways and modeled four signalized intersections and five unsignalized intersections. SMTC is also using the model to evaluate traffic impacts from potential future growth. SMTC completed an assessment of existing level of service operations and future growth level of service operations. SMTC will review these findings with the study advisory committee.

**Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities – Phase 2 (Project Manager: Andrew Frasier)**

**May:** This is a new project. Scoping will begin shortly.

**April:** This is a new project. Scoping will begin shortly.

**Bicycle Commuter Corridor Implementation (Project Manager: Mike Alexander)**

**May:** SMTC continues to prepare for a scoping meeting with the Onondaga County Department of Transportation, the Onondaga County Department of Planning, and the New York State Department of Transportation.

**April:** SMTC is starting to prepare notes for a scoping meeting (date TBD) with the Onondaga County Department of Transportation, the Onondaga County Department of Planning, and the New York State Department of Transportation.

**Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)**

**May:** SMTC staff have begun reviewing the project application and relevant materials, as outlined in the application. Internal scoping conversations will begin in the coming weeks.

**April:** No significant activity to report.

**OCDOT Operations and Safety Analysis (Project Manager: Kevin Kosakowski)**

**May:** Staff have begun scoping the project. Staff is looking to meet with OCDOT staff in the near future to discuss their desired outcomes of this project and to likely complete the needed traffic counts in June before school lets out.

**April:** Staff have recently been assigned this project and will become familiar with the request and begin scoping out the project in the near future.

**Intersecting Community Needs: Food Access & Transportation (Project Manager: Andrew Frasier)**

**May:** This is a new project. Scoping will begin shortly.

**April:** This is a new project. Scoping will begin shortly.

**Bear Trap Creek Connector (Project Manager: Joey DiStefano)**

**May:** SMTC staff held a coping meeting with the project sponsor to define purpose and scope of this project. Staff is currently writing the scope for this project.

**April:** SMTC staff has initiated internal scoping conversations regarding the Bear Trap Creek Connector study.

**Midler Ave and New Court Ave Multimodal Study (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)**

**May:** SMTC staff have begun reviewing the project application and identifying key questions as part of the internal scoping process.

**April:** No significant activity to report.

**Nottingham Rd Multimodal Improvements (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)**

**May:** Staff met with the City of Syracuse this month to discuss scope preparation for this project. The project's main driver is the lack of walkable/bikeable access to the plaza and Drumlin's area, located just outside the city boundary. Project limits are Nottingham Road between Broad Street and Westcliffe Rd (just south of Tecumseh Elementary School). The majority of Nottingham Road is owned by Onondaga County DOT. However, the City of Syracuse owns Nottingham Rd between Meadowbrook Dr and Spaid Ave. Between Spaid Ave and East Colvin Street, the western portion of Nottingham Rd is owned by the city, with eastern half owned by the county. Staff will reach out to Onondaga County DOT to discuss the project as we begin to develop the project scope.

**April:** This new project will examine Nottingham Road between Broad Street and Waring Road for safety improvements and consistency on behalf of the City of Syracuse. Staff will begin drafting a Scope of Work for the project in the first quarter of FY 2025-26.

### **Cicero Active Transportation Plan (Project Manager: Mike Alexander)**

**May:** SMTC continues to prepare background materials for a scoping meeting with the Town of Cicero.

**April:** SMTC is preparing background materials for a scoping meeting with the Town of Cicero.

### **TIP Development and Maintenance (Project Manager: Mario Colone)**

**May:** The full draft 2026-2030 TIP (document narrative, fiscal constraint table, and project listings) was released May 9, 2025, for a 30-day public comment period through June 9, 2025. The SMTC's social media channels were used to inform the public about the comment period, along with our website, and a legal notice in the Post-Standard newspaper and their website. Additionally, a virtual office hour is scheduled for May 29 for interested members of the public to ask questions about the TIP and the broader program of projects. The draft is slated for discussion at the upcoming June Planning and Policy Committee meetings.

**April:** The Capital Projects Committee (CPC) met on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> to progress development of the draft 2026-2030 program of projects. A full draft of FHWA funded projects was provided to the CPC for review and concurrence. That draft will likely constitute the project listing for public review and ultimately SMTC committee adoption.

### **Miscellaneous Activities and Special Technical Assistance (Project Manager: James D'Agostino)**

**May:** No significant updates.

**April:** No significant updates.