



## **Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council**

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### **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 27, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**

**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council  
Lower-Level Conference Room  
Corey Dunham, Chairperson**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
  - October 29, 2024
- 3. Communications and Reports**
  - A. UPWP Status Report
  - B. Federal Funding Discussion
- 4. Old Business**
  - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
  - A. 2025-2026 UPWP
  - B. TIP Amendments
  - C. Performance Measure Targets Amendment
  - D. Downtown Parking Signage and Wayfinding
  - E. Greater Fayetteville Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Connection
  - F. Pavement Prioritization Program
- 6. Public Comment**
- 7. Adjourn**

## **The Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Office of the Mayor • Syracuse Common Council • Syracuse Planning Commission • CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity • New York State Department of Transportation • New York State Department of Environmental Conservation • Empire State Development • New York State Thruway Authority • Office of the County Executive • Onondaga County Legislature • Onondaga County Planning Board • Central New York Regional Transportation Authority • Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board • Federal Transit Administration • Federal Highway Administration

# **SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES of the February 27, 2025 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Voting Members**

Corey Dunham, Chair  
Chris Tuff  
David Smith  
David Bottar  
Odean Dyer  
Cristian Toellner  
Sara Sherlock  
Jared Shepard  
Stephanie Webb  
Ryan Smith  
Timothy Burtis

### **Organization**

City of Syracuse, Office of the Mayor  
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  
Empire State Development  
Onondaga County Legislature

### **Also Attending**

David Roth  
Tara Spraker  
Bren Daiss  
Kelly Gibson

NYS Department of Transportation  
CNY Regional Transportation Authority  
CNY Regional Transportation Authority  
Onondaga Nation

### **SMTC Staff**

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Danielle Krol, Andrew Frasier, Tom Bardenett, Meghan Vitale and Lori Irvine.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

Chairperson Dunham called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 October 29, 2024, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Dyer moved, and Mr. David Smith 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:

SMTC staff has drafted a new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) along with its budget that will be discussed in detail later in the agenda. February Planning, Policy and CPC meetings were scheduled, and a Legal Notice was published for the meetings and documents.

A Forum on Active Transportation (FOAT) meeting was held at the end of January, which was well attended. The draft UPWP public comment period closed February 25, and the SMTC website has been updated regularly under Public Participation.

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.

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 have been ordered for this project.

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 participated in a panel discussion at the FOCUS Greater Syracuse Citizens Academy on February 12<sup>th</sup> for MPO Area and Regional Planning Assistance and participated in a stakeholders meeting for Centro's "Better Bus" effort on February 6<sup>th</sup>. SMTC staff also 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.

A SAC meeting was held in January for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Staff are continuing to refine the future project costs and revenue estimates for the Atlas. Staff have also completed an assessment of transit-supportive density for future development in the region. Both these efforts will be presented at the next SAC meeting that is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 continuing to progress with 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 continue to participate in monthly meetings for the Thriving Community Technical Assistance program along with participating in two meetings. SMTC staff also reviewed draft actions for the City's Vision Zero Action Plan.

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

SMTC staff met with the City staff and Adapt CNY volunteers, along with representatives from County Health, to review the submitted applications for the Community Streets Program. One proposal was selected for funding.

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.

SMTC staff continues to document transportation related existing conditions for the Village of Liverpool and surrounding area. Additionally, staff began coding the first few scenarios into the regional model, as requested by the Village of Liverpool. The model runs will be completed and submitted to the Village by the end of March. Staff have provided Onondaga County Department of Transportation (OCDOT) with a draft memo summarizing the Greater Liverpool Traffic Study – Technical Analysis. Pending comments from OCDOT, this task will be complete. SMTC staff is also waiting for Onondaga County to issue an RFP for the Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan – Project Coordination.

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. Public outreach will occur as part of a Village Board meeting agenda on March 27.

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.

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 are taking place due to the availability of money.

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, which needs to be complete and adopted by June 25, 2025. 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.

Chairperson Dunham 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 SMTC 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.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he will share any updates that he receives.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any other questions.

There were none.

This is an informational only item

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**I-81 Project Update**

Mr. David Smith gave committee members the following update:

Contract 1 (Northern Interchange) – The new South Bay Road bridge over I-81 will be substantially 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 substantially completed by the end of the year. Mr. Smith indicated that the CSX bridge on I-481 in DeWitt will be completed in 2026.

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. Mr. Smith mentioned that remnants of the Oswego Canal were found and will possibly be repurposed elsewhere.

Contract 4 (New I-690 Crouse exit) – Significant work is underway 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) – The contract will be re-let in March.

Contract 6 (West Street) – This is the first contract of Phase 2. This design-build contract is for the major part of work at the interchange of I-690 and I-81. A Letter of Intent has been issued and request for proposal process will take about a year. Work should commence in the Spring of 2026.

Mr. Smith indicated that Contracts 7 & 8 are currently in design.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

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.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Bottar moved, and Mr. Tuff seconded the motion 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.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. David Smith moved, and Ms. Sherlock seconded the motion 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. Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Ms. Sherlock moved, and Mr. David Smith seconded the motion 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 SMTC, gave a brief presentation.

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

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Dyer moved, and Mr. David Smith seconded the motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Downtown Parking: Wayfinding and Signage Guide.

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.

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

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Bottar moved, and Mr. Burtis seconded the motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Villages of Minoa, Fayetteville, and Manlius, Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections Study.

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.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

This is an informational item only.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Sherlock from NYS Thruway took this opportunity to thank everyone for their cooperation during the time that their administrative offices were being relocated due to a recent fire in the building. Ms. Sherlock indicated that everyone is up and running now.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the next Policy Meeting will probably be held sometime in late May or early June to adopt a TIP.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Dyer moved, and Mr. David Smith seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

The motion passed unanimously.