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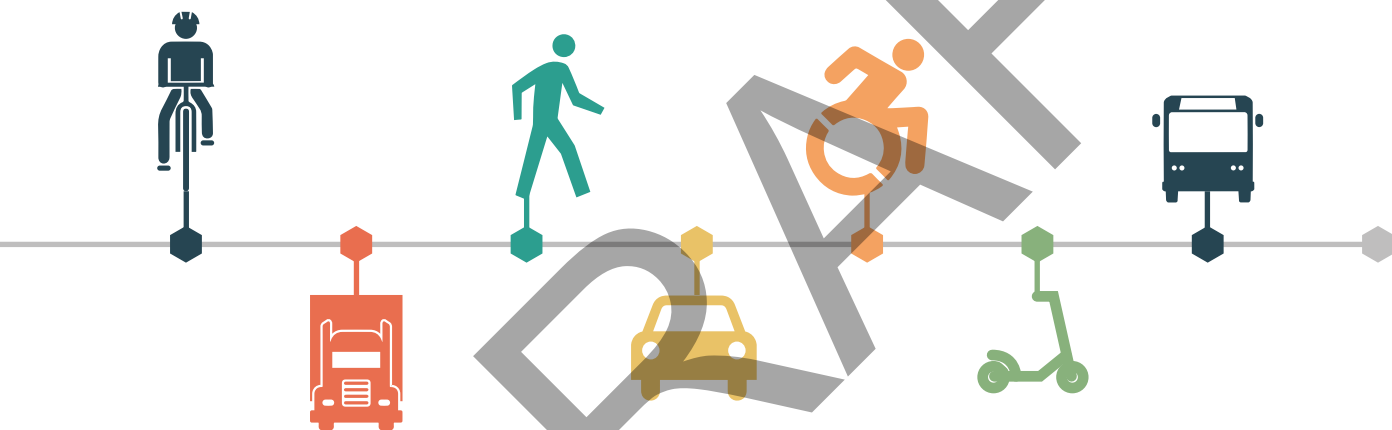
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

DRAFT

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Month 2025



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Table of Contents

Executive Summary

SMTC Policy Committee Resolution	VI
Executive Summary.....	IX

Introduction

About the SMTC	1
About the MTP	3

Context Setting

Our Community	5
Our Economy	18
Our Environment	22
Our Transportation System	25

Goals & Objectives

Evolution of Goals & Objectives	33
Engaging the Public on Long-Term Visions	36
Priority Funding Initiatives	40

4

Future Needs

A New Framework	43
Our Existing Needs: What We Heard	45
Connecting Future Growth to Mobility Options	48
Strategies to Achieve Our Goals	54
Impacts of Our Strategies	60

5

Financial Analysis

Requirement for a Financial Plan	65
Reasonably Expected Revenue	65
Anticipated Projects	68
Fiscal Constraint	75

6

Conclusion

Summary of the Plan	77
Linkage with Capital Programming	78
Updating the MTP	78

Figures and Tables

Figures

Figure 1.1: The SMTC Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)	2
Figure 2.1: Population of City of Syracuse and Onondaga County with Square Mileage of Urban Area, 1950 - 2020	5
Figure 2.2.: City and Towns in the SMTC MPA by Area and Population .	6
Figure 2.3: Population of the City and Remainder of MPA by Age	7
Figure 2.4: MPA Population Living in Poverty	12
Figure 2.5: Distressed Census Tracts and Areas of Transportation Insecurity in the MPA	14
Figure 2.6: Distressed Census Tracts and Areas of Transportation Insecurity in the City of Syracuse	15
Figure 2.7: Existing / Anticipated Employment Clusters and Top 25 Employers	20
Figure 2.8: Top 25 Employers in the SMTC MPA	21
Figure 2.9: Means of Transportation to Work	25
Figure 2.10: Commute Time by Number of Working Residents	25
Figure 2.11: Busiest Centro Corridors and Stops, 2023 Ridership	26
Figure 2.12: Proposed Bus Rapid Transit Routes	27
Figure 2.13: Sidewalk Mileage by Municipality in the MPA	29
Figure 2.14: Condition of All Bridges in MPA, by Deck Area	30
Figure 2.15: Pavement Condition, Federal Aid Eligible Roads	30
Figure 2.16: Programmed TIP Funds by Project Type, FFY 2018/2019 - FFY 2023/2024	30
Figure 4.1: Trip Distances within the MPA	43
Figure 4.2: Suburban Retail Plazas Near City Boundary	45
Figure 4.3: Issues and Opportunities, by General Topic of Response, from MTP Survey Results	46
Figure 4.4: Average Suggested Funding Allocation from MTP Survey, City and Non-City Residents	47
Figure 4.5: Top 5 Types of Transportation Investment Suggested on MTP Survey	48
Figure 4.6: Anticipated Household Growth, by Municipality	49
Figure 4.7: Anticipated Job Growth, by Municipality	49
Figure 4.8: 2050 Future Base Activity Unit Densities and Associated Transit Service Levels	50
Figure 4.9: Town Growth and Traditional Centers Along Rt 11	52
Figure 4.10: Town Growth and Traditional Centers Along W Genesee St / Erie Blvd E Corridor	53
Figure 5.1: Anticipated Future Revenue by Source	67
Figure 5.2: Anticipated Future Project Costs by Category	69



Tables

Table 2.1: Employment Clusters Current and Future Employees	21
Table 2.2: Participation in Climate Smart Communities, Clean Energy Communities, and Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems	23
Table 4.1: Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled in the Syracuse MPA	61
Table 4.2: Congestion on Primary Commuter and Freight Corridors ...	62
Table 4.3: Emissions Summary	63
Table 5.1: Expected Revenue for Transit and Highway Projects	66
Table 5.2: Anticipated Projects, Short-Term (2026-2030)	70
Table 5.3: Anticipated Projects, Mid-Term (2030-2040)	72
Table 5.4: Anticipated Projects, Long-Term (2030-2040)	74
Table 5.5: Fiscal Constraint	75

Appendices

Appendix A: About the SMTC and the MTP
Appendix B: System Performance Report
Appendix C: Summary of Transportation Related Goals and Objectives from Existing Regional Plans
Appendix D: Public Involvement Plan and Survey Results Summary
Appendix E: Study Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Minutes
Appendix F: Modeling Summary
Appendix G: Agency Consultation Contact List

Committee Resolution

Committee Resolution

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Executive Summary

The 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) is the state-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Syracuse area, responsible for administering comprehensive, continuous, and cooperative transportation planning.

Creation of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is one of the core functions of every MPO. The MTP must articulate a 20+ year vision for the future of the region's transportation system based on the latest projections of regional population and economic growth, travel demand, and available funding along with public and stakeholder input. The SMTC is required to update our region's MTP at least once every 5 years. This current MTP replaces the 2020 Update to the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Since the 1970s, the growth pattern in our region has generally been a shifting of population from the City of Syracuse to towns outside of the city, while our overall regional population has remained essentially stable. Economically, the region has seen a decline in manufacturing accompanied by a rise in service industry employment, especially "eds and meds." Our region has a substantial – but aging – road network that affords the region relatively short commute times and minimal congestion, but requires increasing maintenance. Commuters in our region overwhelmingly drive alone to work. Outside of the City of Syracuse, only 1 percent of commuters use transit. Access to opportunities such as education, training, and employment are challenges for many residents of our region.

In 2022, Micron Technology, Inc., announced that they would build a semiconductor manufacturing facility in the Town of Clay in northern Onondaga County, with upwards of 9,000 on-site jobs when fully-operational, to

be built-out over phases through 2041. This is expected to result in about 76,000 new residents in the Central New York region, with the majority expected to locate in Onondaga County. This represents a change in the region's economic and demographic trends that has not been seen for generations. A substantial investment in housing will be necessary to accommodate this growth, and the choices about the form of that growth will have a profound impact on our transportation system. Onondaga County's new comprehensive plan – Plan Onondaga – encourages growth in "strong centers" with a mix of housing types.

The MTP proposes that our future transportation planning should focus on mobility choices that reflect the trip purpose, length, and geographic context. Through our public engagement, we heard that many in the community want more choices in how they get around, including more opportunities to safely walk and bike, especially for short trips within their neighborhood, and more increased frequency in our bus system to make transit a viable option. More mobility options will also offer increased opportunity to the residents of our region without access to personal vehicles. Analysis conducted through this MTP process illustrated that encouraging growth within centers – as envisioned by Plan Onondaga – and focusing on key corridors can make higher-frequency, reliable, enhanced bus service viable in our region.

The MTP is required to be a “fiscally constrained” vision for transportation in the region, meaning that the plan needs to show that we have a reasonable expectation of revenue to fully fund the projects and initiatives identified over the next 25 years. This MTP includes a total of \$5.896 billion in revenue over 25 years, to complete projects totaling \$5.832 billion, demonstrating fiscal constraint. This includes substantial maintenance on the roads and bridges in our region, along with maintenance of our existing transit system as well as implementation of Bus Rapid Transit. The completion of Business Loop 81 is a substantial portion of our future project costs. Numerous highway, bicycle, and pedestrian safety projects are also included in this vision. Inclusion in the MTP does not guarantee that a project will be funded; each project must still compete for federal funding through future Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) updates, which will look to the goals and objectives stated in the MTP to select specific projects.

Our next MTP update will be due in 2030. With two significant environmental reviews currently underway in our region – one for the Micron Technology site and one initiated by the New York State Department of Transportation to assess impacts of multiple planned developments in northern Onondaga County – we recognize that an amendment to this MTP prior to 2030 may be necessary. We will continue to monitor progress and work closely with the SMTC member agencies to ensure that these reviews and associated projects proceed in a timely manner.



Our transportation system should provide mobility choice based on the length and purpose of trip, as well as safe accommodations in all weather.