



## **Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council**

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### **PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**June 5, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council  
Lower-Level Conference Room  
126 N. Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202**

Megan Costa, Chairperson, Presiding

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
  - February 20, 2025
- 3. Communications and Reports**
  - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
  - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
  - A. New 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
  - B. Self-Certification
  - C. TIP Amendments
  - D. Performance Measure Targets (Transit Asset Management, Transit Safety)
  - E. Congestion Management Process 2025 Update
  - F. Greater Liverpool Traffic Study Technical Analysis
  - G. North Syracuse – Grove, Van Mara Traffic Calming & Safety Analysis
  - H. MTP Transportation Atlas
- 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 June 5, 2025 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

### **Voting Members**

Megan Costa - Chairperson  
Mary Robison  
Tara Spraker  
Katie Bergan  
Chris Rauber  
Mark Olson  
Kevan Busa  
Aaron McKeon  
Melissa Davis  
Dereth Glance  
Sara Sherlock  
Jared Shepard  
Owen Kerney

### **Organization**

Onondaga County, Dept. of Planning  
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  
NYS Thruway Authority  
CenterState CEO  
City of Syracuse, Div. of Planning

### **Also Attending**

Betsy Parmley  
Matt Boemi (Public)

NYS Department of Transportation  
WSP

### **SMTC Staff**

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Lori Irvine, Andrew Frasier, Thomas Bardenett, Kevin Kosakowski, Mike Alexander, Joseph DiStefano, Meghan Vitale, and Jason Deshaies.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

Chairperson Costa called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

#### **1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

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

#### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any changes to the February 20, 2025, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Olson 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 highlighted the following from the May 2025 UPWP Status Report:

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

A virtual FOAT meeting was held on Wednesday, June 4th at 3:30 p.m. where approximately 20 participants heard about the City's Vision Zero/Complete Streets Plan and had an opportunity to provide feedback on Veo services. Also, the TIP was put out for required public comment and comments are coming in. The TIP will be discussed in detail later in the agenda.

SMTC staff continue to analyze Census Transportation Planning Products Data for use in agency studies and projects. Synchro file compilation has been completed, and staff are looking next to finalize the draft count map to share with the Onondaga County Department of Transportation. SMTC staff have also requested from NYSDOT Main Office an update on count information for the count program.

SMTC staff attended the NYSAMPO conference which included several sessions related to GIS including an update from ESRI about upcoming changes to ArcGIS 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. SMTC staff continue to advise the City of Syracuse with their GIS governance buildout and are working with Centro on an update to their system map.

SMTC staff are continuing work on this year's Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System Report as well as kicking off the pavement rating season this week.

A Metropolitan Transportation Plan SAC meeting was held on May 22nd. A full draft of the Transportation Atlas was presented at the meeting, along with an updated draft which will be discussed later in the agenda. A final SAC meeting is scheduled for June 16th to review a full, final draft of the MTP prior to the public review and comment period. SMTC staff are aiming to have a draft ready for SAC review by June 9th and are on track to complete the necessary public and agency review over the summer and adopt the MTP in September.

For Travel Demand Modeling, several comments were received on the draft technical memorandum that was provided to the Village of Liverpool modeling project advisory committee. SMTC 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 and will be presented at the next Planning Committee Meeting.

SMTC staff participated in a "virtual site visit" with the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance team members and other staff from the City of Syracuse, Centro, and the Land Bank on May 19th. SMTC staff attended the Onondaga County Transportation Improvements Project DEIS kickoff meeting as a participating agency for the Micron

Development Area Transportation System Assessment. SMTC staff also 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.

The City of Syracuse and SMTC staff hosted an in-person site visit for the consultant team for the City of Syracuse Reconnecting Communities Grant Coordination and Management Assistance project in which they visited 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 Syracuse Urbanism Collective, along with SMTC staff and Adapt CNY volunteers, attended a pre-development meeting hosted by the City of Syracuse for the Community Streets Program 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 early summer. The North Syracuse Van Mara Dr. & Grove St. Traffic Calming and Safety Analysis is on the agenda today.

The Complete Streets Planning Study for Route 57 in Liverpool is on target for completion in a few months. SMTC 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. SMTC staff conducted a walk audit with six students at Chestnut Hill Middle School 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 Safe Routes to School report to be discussed at the SAC on June 12th.

SMTC staff participated in a discussion with Onondaga County and FHWA (NY Division Office and Headquarters) regarding the County's Safe Streets for All grant. SMTC staff are available to support the SS4A Action Plan development should assistance be requested. SMTC staff are waiting on a response from FHWA on whether the funding will be in place.

SMTC developed a Synchro model for the Route 49 corridor study in West Monroe that analyzes operations for four signalized intersections and five unsignalized intersections. SMTC is summarizing this information to review with the study advisory committee at an upcoming meeting (date TBD).

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that there are several projects in the beginning and middle stages of scoping. They include: Empire State Trail Economics Opportunities – Phase 2, Bicycle Commuter Corridor Implementation, Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities, Intersecting Community Needs – Food Access & Transportation, Bear Trap Creek Connector, Midler Ave and New Court Ave Multimodal Study, Nottingham Rd. Multimodal Improvements, and Cicero Active Transportation Plan. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he expects all the scopes to be in place by the end of the summer.

The full draft 2026-2030 TIP (document narrative, fiscal constraint table, and project listings) was released May 9th for a 30-day public comment period. Mr. D'Agostino

indicated that this item will be discussed in detail later in the agenda and indicates he feels this is the most important item on the agenda.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions. There were none.  
This is an informational only item.

#### 4. **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **I-81 Project Update**

Ms. Parmley gave committee members the following update:

Ms. Parmley thanked member agencies for their partnership/collaboration with the project and indicated the project is moving “full steam ahead”. Ms. Parmley liked a term that Ms. Sherlock used describing her morning commute to work as she was “held up by progress”. Ms. Parmley indicated that there will be more impacts, but we cannot forget about the long-term gain of the project.

Contract 5 – (Southern end by Syracuse University and Oakwood Cemetery). This contract had to be re-bid and was awarded to Salt City Construction who also had the contracts in Cicero and the Inner Harbor. This contract will also deal with environmental commitments. Ms. Parmley indicated that Renwick Ave. is now permanently closed due to building Business Loop 81. This contract will be in construction for the next few seasons and people should expect open houses and a lot of community engagement during this time. Ms. Parmley also indicated that they are giving out tacky mats to homeowners in the community to help cut down on dust. They are also working closely with Syracuse University and the school district regarding their operations.

Contract 4 – (I-690 at Crouse and Irving Avenues). Ms. Parmley indicated that the contract is coming along with building an on-ramp to eastbound I-690 and to expect some lane shifts starting mid-summer. Ms. Parmley indicated there will be a lot of utility work coordination with the city and business owners in the area.

Contract 3 – (Inner Harbor). Ms. Parmley indicated that there is a lot of retaining wall work being done and the bridges are almost complete. Spencer Street will probably be completed before Bear Street and Court Street will not be closed until Spencer or Bear Street is complete for emergency services. The on and off ramp to southbound I-81 is under construction and they have been successful in keeping the noise down at night under 70 decibels.

Contract 2 – (Southern Interchange – East Brighton Ave). This contract should be wrapped up by December 2025 with CSX work carried over to 2026 due to limited track time to complete the work.

Contract 1 – (Cicero). The flyover ramp is now open and clean-up around the work zones has taken place. The goal is to have the South Bay Road bridge open to 2-way traffic prior to snow and ice operations.

Phase 2 – (Start to construct I-690, finish I-81, and take down the rest of the viaduct). Contract 6 is in-design and the RFQ has been issued and will be awarded sometime this spring and preparatory construction starting next year.

Ms. Parmely reminded committee members to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

This is an informational only item.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. New 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the 2026-2030 TIP is a multi-year program of transportation capital projects together with a five-year estimate of transit capital and operations requirements. A multi-year TIP is developed generally every 3 years and is maintained on a continual basis to account for necessary cost and/or schedule adjustments.

SMTC Program Manager, Mr. Colone, gave a brief presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the 2026-2030 TIP.

Mr. Olson moved, and Ms. Spraker seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Self-Certification**

Mr. D'Agostino explained that a requirement of the TIP is to have the MPO complete a self-certification. This is the process of assuring that the SMTC meets and/or exceeds all of the federal requirements for MPO compliance. We are given a formal in-person or virtual certification on site every 4 years. Our last on-site certification was November 30th to December 2nd, 2021, with the report finalized in March 2022.

Mr. D'Agostino provided a brief explanation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee approve SMTC's Self Certification.

Mr. Olson moved, and Mr. Kerney seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**C. TIP Amendments**

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (Centro) is in need of an amendment for the current 2024/2025 Federal Fiscal Year.

Change in project function:

- PIN 382954 (Maintain Centro's Syracuse Facility & Walsh RTC). Work efforts

associated with the RTC platform rehab/renovation will be covered by New York State. Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee approve the TIP amendment.

Mr. Kerney moved, and Ms. Sherlock seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Performance Measure Targets (Transit Asset Management, Transit Safety)**

Mr. D'Agostino explained that as required by the federal surface transportation authorization, the SMTC has the option to either adopt the transit performance measure targets established by Centro or develop our own. Centro adopted 1) revised Transit Asset Management performance measure targets in December 2023 and 2) transit safety targets in December 2024.

Transit Asset Management relevant performance measures address State of Good Repair for rolling stock, equipment, and facilities.

Transit safety specific performance measures include:

- Fatalities (number and rate per 1 million Vehicle Revenue Miles [VRM]),
- Serious injuries (number and rate per 1 million VRM)
- Safety events (number and rate per 1 million VRM), and
- System reliability.

Mr. D'Agostino gave a brief overview of the proposed Performance Measure Targets.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the Performance Measure Targets.

Mr. Olson moved, and Mr. Kerney seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Congestion Management Process 2025 Update**

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the Congestion Management Process is a required federal document for the SMTC. This 2025 version provided a more visually appealing, easy to follow "walk through" of the CMP step-by-step process recommended by FHWA. The process culminates with a "toolbox" of suggested strategies that may help mitigate congestion, as well as a review of projects (e.g., planning or capital) undertaken since the last CMP that directly or indirectly have had an effect on area congestion.

SMTC Transportation Planner II, Kevin Kosakowski, gave a brief presentation. Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Congestion Management Process 2025 Report.

Ms. Robison moved, and Mr. Rauber seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**F. Greater Liverpool Traffic Study Technical Analysis**

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the SMTC completed this technical analysis for the Onondaga County Department of Transportation, focused on 19 intersections along County-owned roads near the Village of Liverpool. The OCDOT indicated that they have heard frustration from the traveling public about new development around this area (particularly the Amazon warehouse) and increased traffic. OCDOT asked SMTC to compile relevant current and historical traffic data, including heavy vehicle data, and analyze existing traffic operations. As a technical analysis, no public engagement was completed for this task. SMTC staff consulted with OCDOT staff during the study process.

Review of historical data showed that, generally, intersections and segments in the study area have experienced steady or declining volumes over the past 5+ years. Heavy vehicle movements appear to be confined to Route 57 between the Thruway and Liverpool Bypass, the bypass itself, and Morgan Road between the bypass and the Amazon driveways. Only three intersections in the study area currently operate at LOS D; all remaining intersections operate at LOS C or better. SMTC staff analyzed scenarios with modified cycle lengths but found little to no improvement in operations at most of the intersections. Overall, the study area is operating well.

SMTC Principal Transportation Planner, Meghan Vitale, provided a brief summary.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge completion of the Greater Liverpool Traffic Study Technical Analysis.

Mr. Rauber moved, and Mr. McKeon seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**G. North Syracuse – Grove. Van Mara Traffic Calming & Safety Analysis**

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the Study was initiated as part of the 2024-2025 UPWP on behalf of the Village of North Syracuse to address resident concerns regarding cut-through traffic, speeding, and few bicycle and pedestrian amenities along Grove Street & Van Mara Drive.

Residents want to reduce/eliminate vehicular cut-through traffic and increase bicycle and pedestrian traffic, especially along Grove Street, which connects to the Village pool at Kennedy Park.

SMTC developed detailed recommendations for sidewalks, a shared use path, bike lanes, speed cushions, lighting, and crosswalks.



SMTC developed a detailed concept plan for the multi-legged intersection of South Bay Road / Maxwell Avenue / Watson Road / Grove Street / and Van Mara Drive.

SMTC also developed a detailed concept plan that shows the best site layout and access management practices for businesses along Maxwell Avenue at Route 11.

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

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the SMTC Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of Technical Memorandum #1 and Technical Memorandum #2 of the North Syracuse – Grove, Van Mara Traffic Calming & Safety Analysis.

Mr. Kerney moved, and Mr. Busa seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**H. MTP Transportation Atlas**

Mr. D'Agostino explained the SMTC published the first edition of the Transportation Atlas in 2015. This new edition contains updated information from the 2020 Census, the 2018-2022 American Community Survey, and the 2017-2021 Census Transportation Planning Products. The Atlas serves as a clearinghouse for commonly sought-after transportation data and analyses in the SMTC's Metropolitan Planning Area.

Senior Transportation Analyst, Andrew Frasier, gave a brief presentation.

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

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the Planning Committee recommend that the SMTC Policy Committee adopt the MTP Transportation Atlas.

Mr. Olson moved, and Mr. Shepard seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. D'Agostino reminded committee members of the upcoming SMTC Policy Committee meeting scheduled for June 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m. by Chairperson Costa.