



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

126 N. Salina Street, Suite 100
Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: (315) 422-5716
Fax: (315) 422-7753
www.smtcmpo.org

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

**June 13, 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**
 - February 27, 2025
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
 - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. New 2026-0230 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 13, 2025 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Corey Dunham, Chair
Bren Daiss
David Smith
David Bottar
Odean Dyer
Zhitong Wu
Sara Sherlock
Stephanie Webb
Ryan Smith
Hon. 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
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Empire State Development
Onondaga County Legislature

Also Attending

David Roth
Betsy Parmley
Heather Snow

NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation
Oswego County

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Andrew Frasier, Jade Nguyen, Jason Deshaies, Joey DiStefano, Meghan Vitale, Kevin Kosakowski, and Lori Irvine.

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Dunham called the meeting to order at 10:00 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.

Hon. Burtis 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 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 with 280 attendees.

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 public comment. All comments were responded to and included in the document.

SMTC staff continue to analyze Census Transportation Planning Products Data for use in agency studies and projects. Synchro file compilation has been completed for data collection, 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, and the pavement rating is now underway.

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/Policy Committee Meetings.

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 meeting 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 the first item under New Business on the agenda.

Chairperson Dunham 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 indicated that they are “full steam ahead” on the I-81 project with all five contracts in Phase 1 currently under construction.

Contract 5 – (Southern end by Syracuse University and Oakwood Cemetery). This contract was just awarded to the same contractor as Contracts 1 & 3 so the learning curve should be less steep. Ms. Parmley indicated that Renwick Avenue and Fineview Place are now closed between Martin Luther King Drive and Van Buren Street to begin building retaining walls and prep work prior to building the highway. Work to widen I-81 southbound is also happening to eventually make I-81 northbound into Business Loop 81.

Ms. Parmley indicated a lot of community engagement is taking place regarding health protections and what the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is doing with air quality and noise monitoring. Ms. Parmley indicated that NYSDOT is giving out tacky mats to homeowners in the community to put near their front door to help cut down on dust being tracked into their home. Ms. Parmley also mentioned that community partners are helping as well with a health hot line and handing out pamphlets and magnets on healthy habits. NYSDOT have been in close coordination with many member agencies present at the meeting today along with stakeholders and Syracuse University and mentioned if anyone feels uninformed about what is happening to please let them know.

Contract 4 – (I-690 at Crouse and Irving Avenues). Ms. Parmley indicated that this is the realignment of I-690. The new on-ramp from Crouse Ave. to eastbound should be opening soon (hopefully in July). Traffic will then switch onto the newly built infrastructure. Ms. Parmley mentioned that substantial work continues on Irving and Crouse and NYSDOT is working closely with area businesses, hospitals, and Syracuse University.

Contract 3 – (Inner Harbor). Ms. Parmley indicated the progress is coming along nicely. Earthwork is taking place for the widening of I-81, bridge demolition, and the construction of the new on/off ramps to connect to N. Clinton and Bear St. Ms. Parmley mentioned they were successful with the bridge demolition at night and kept below their noise commitments of 70 decibels. Ms. Parmley expects Bear and Spencer St. to open hopefully later this year although Court St. will not close until Bear and Spencer have been opened.

Contract 2 – (Southern Interchange – Brighton Ave. - East Glen). Work should be wrapped up and operational by the end of the season with the East Glen interchange, Brighton Ave. and the two new roundabouts. The CSX work carried over to 2026 due to limited track time to complete the work.

Contract 1 – (Northern Interchange). A major milestone has been reached with the flyover ramp now open. This allows mainline connections underneath between existing I-481 and I-81 and will allow the viaduct to be taken down. This work will be wrapped up by the end of the season. 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 soon. Preparatory construction will be starting next year.

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

Chairperson Dunham 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee to adopt the 2026-2030 TIP.

Mr. David Smith moved, and Mr. Dyer seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Self-Certification

Mr. D'Agostino explained that a requirement of the Transportation Improvement Program (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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee

approve the SMTC's Self Certification.

Mr. David Smith moved, and Hon. Burtis 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee approve the TIP amendment.

Mr. Ryan Smith moved, and Hon. Burtis seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Performance Measure Targets (Transit Asset Management, Traffic 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 the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Congestion Management Process 2025 Update

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the CMP 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

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

Ms. Webb moved, and Ms. Sherlock 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

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

Mr. Dyer moved, and Mr. David Smith 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 Program Manager, Mario Colone, provided a brief presentation on behalf of SMTC Senior Transportation Planner Michael Alexander who could not attend the meeting.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion 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.

Hon. Burtis moved, and Mr. David Smith 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the SMTC Policy Committee adopt the MTP Transportation Atlas.

Ms. Sherlock moved, and Ms. Webb seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

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 11:22 a.m.

The motion passed unanimously.