

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the January 15, 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Mary Robison - *Chairperson*
Dave Roth
Marty Voss
Chris Tuff
David Bottar

Organization

City of Syracuse
NYS Department of Transportation
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CNY Regional Planning and Development Board

Also Attending

Katrina Bergan
Tara Spraker
Bren Daiss

NYS Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CNY Regional Transportation Authority

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino and Lori Irvine

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Robison called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Chairperson Robison indicated there were no additions or changes to the agenda but mentioned that the financials were handed out due to them not being available at the time of the mailing.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any changes to the December 4, 2025, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Robison called for a motion for the Approval of the Minutes.

Mr. Roth moved, and Mr. Voss seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. D'Agostino presented the November 2025 Financial Report which is the three-quarter point of the SMTC fiscal year which runs until March 31st.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that at this point, the SMTC is over 5% in the black, which is the margin he wants to be at for any unexpected items that may creep up. There are still some significant consultant expenses that were accrued after these financials were completed for the Rt. 31. Transit Study as well as the required EIS work for New York State Department of Transportation for Micron and the CNY Forward Project.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that the margin will get smaller by the end of the fiscal year but indicated in his perspective, the SMTC financials are in very good shape.

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

This was an informational item only.

B. UPWP STATUS REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following from the December UPWP Status Report:

SMTC staff prepared for and hosted the required Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Certification from December 9-11. This will be discussed in greater detail on Item C on the agenda. A call for projects for the next UPWP went out and approximately 12 new project requests were received. The SMTC met with the sponsors virtually, moved forward and drafted a program for the Planning Committee at the end of January. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that all the project requests that were received are on the program, but some projects won't begin until mid-year and some projects will be completed in multiple phases due to their size. It will be a full program and will max out staff capacity. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that if another priority project comes in, he will need to move a project off the program.

A public notice went out for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments as well as a 30-day review/comment period for the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) draft document which is also on the SMTC website.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that the NYSAMPO training for ESRI ArcGIS Pro continues with a class scheduled for next week. The Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS) will be presented at the upcoming Planning and Policy committee meetings as well as the City's Pavement Prioritization Program. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is now complete and printed.

The SMTC has been asked to be an active voting member on the Oswego County Transportation Advisory Committee. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he welcomed the opportunity. For Travel Demand Modeling, the SMTC continues to work with NYSDOT and their consultant team for the CNY Forward project. The SMTC has completed a draft round of modeling for the project and delivered it to NYSDOT this past Monday to give to their consultant for review.

SMTC staff are continuing to work with the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Team to draft the "small area plan" for the City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support. The full draft final report for the NYS Route 31 Transit Corridor Assessment is complete and will be presented at the upcoming SMTC Planning and Policy Committee meetings. Concepts from the public engagement sessions for the City of Syracuse Reconnecting Communities Grant Coordination have been posted on the City's website to allow for additional comments. SMTC staff discussed changes to corridor concepts with the consultant team based on comments received at the in-person engagement sessions. The Project Team aims to have the report finished by the end of March/mid-April timeframe.

The application window for the Community Streets Program has been promoted through email, social media posts, and the fall SMTC newsletter. SMTC staff continue to monitor the online application form for incoming project proposals. The Route 57 Complete Streets Study is complete and will be presented at the upcoming SMTC Planning and Policy Committee meetings. SMTC staff are waiting for Onondaga County Planning on how to proceed with the Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan. SMTC staff has summarized all Synchro findings in a LOS table and supporting tables and summary reports for the West Monroe Route 49 Corridor Study. SMTC staff is also digitizing concept plans based on mitigation needs per the Synchro model. Mr. D'Agostino indicated this study should be complete by the March/April timeframe.

SMTC staff is creating summary maps for the Bicycle Commuter Corridor Implementation Study that shows capital projects that include portions of the envisioned bike network to determine what may have been implemented. SMTC staff are determining what corridors to prioritize and will then summarize this information into a presentation to share with the Study Advisory Committee (SAC) and Forum on Active Transportation (FOAT).

SMTC staff met with representatives from the Village and NYSDOT to discuss the collected data and analysis for the Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities study and expects the technical memo to be completed soon. SMTC staff set up an informational page on the SMTC website about the Empire State Trail Economics Opportunities – Phase 2 project. Staff sent a notice to municipal contacts about the availability of planning assistance and have only heard back from the Town of Dewitt. Another notice blast for interest will be going out soon.

SMTC continued drafting of the technical memorandum for Henry Clay Boulevard for the Onondaga County Department of Transportation (OCDOT) Operations and Safety Analysis. SMTC staff reviewed recent turning movement counts completed along the corridor and used these counts in the signal warrant analysis and Synchro modeling. SMTC staff also extracted specific crash details to explore any possible trends. Mr. D'Agostino indicated this project is on track for completion.

SMTC staff met with stakeholders to discuss the project efforts so far and share information about similar efforts for the Intersecting Community Needs: Food Access & Transportation study. SMTC staff have scheduled focus groups for 2026 to meet with people and agencies who work directly with food accessibility issues. Staff continue to build a network of key project stakeholders in the region. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that this was a very interesting and new study for the SMTC.

SMTC staff have categorized survey responses for analysis and continue to work on a public survey summary to provide the SAC for the Midler Ave and New Court Ave Multimodal Study in January. SMTC staff have begun looking closer at crash data for the James St/Midler Ave intersection due to its inclusion on the City's High Injury Network. Work continues on identifying issues and opportunities based on collected data and survey results. The first SAC meeting for the Nottingham Road Multimodal Improvement Study was held on December 17, 2025. Staff reviewed the project purpose/study area, initial data collection (review of existing studies, demographics, Replica findings, existing traffic data, transit data, etc.), and potential issues/opportunities. Public outreach is the next step in the project and is anticipated to take place virtually in February once the SAC reviews the public outreach materials.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that the Bear Trap Creek Connector Study has had surprisingly high interest from member agencies. SMTC staff began drafting concepts for the 2nd SAC meeting, including photosims of the area around the southern trailhead of the existing Bear Trap Creek Bikeway as well as along Hiawatha Boulevard. SMTC staff conducted additional fieldwork along the existing trail as well as along Hiawatha and 7th North Street. SMTC staff are formatting the report for future SAC review. The second SAC meeting was held virtually on January 8th and was very successful.

SMTC continues to summarize existing conditions, including crash patterns, transit, and other travel-related demographics for the Cicero Active Transportation Plan. Mr. D'Agostino questions whether the Town of Cicero would like to continue as they have not heard back yet from the Town Supervisor. Mr. D'Agostino will be sending out a formal letter asking if they wish to stay on the program.

Lastly, for TIP Development and Maintenance, routine maintenance and administration of the area's TIP occurred throughout the month. The TIP was highlighted during the recent Federal Certification. For capital project administrative purposes, staff, along with everyone else in New York State, will soon transition to a new online project management software. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that SMTC staff are waiting for proper training.

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

This was an informational item only.

C. FEDERAL CERTIFICATION DEBRIEF

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that he does not have the formal completed federal certification yet, but when he receives it, he will share it with committee members. Mr. D'Agostino shared his perspective on how it went with committee members. There was also involvement from Centro, New York State Department of Transportation and the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board throughout the December 9th through 11th visit. The positive takeaways were the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), SMTC Atlas (indicating that it should be a national example), public participation involvement efforts were praised, the SMTC UPWP efforts were extremely high and SMTC staff runs studies extremely well and professionally. They also indicated the number of studies is very high for the number of dollars in the budget. SMTC staff was called out statewide for their leadership and expertise for the New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the areas of improvement were to create a formal document of policies for native nations engagement beyond the standard public participation plan that already exists, putting together an ITS Strategic Plan for the SMTC area which we'll need assistance from NYSDOT to complete this task and creating a Comprehensive Freight Plan in lieu of the Micron's impact on the community study.

Overall, Mr. D'Agostino was very pleased with the review.

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

This was an informational item only.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **TIP Amendments**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there are two TIP Amendments for consideration:

Change in cost and/or schedule

o PIN 350197 (BUSINESS LOOP 81, SOUTHERN SECTION, PH. 2, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). NYSDOT is proposing to delay the Construction and Inspection phases from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 25/26 to FFY 26/27. Compensating offset provided by outside planning area funds.

Phase addition

o PIN 307629 (BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, RT 20 OVER LIMESTONE CRK, POMPEY, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor NYSDOT. NYSDOT is proposing to program Right-of-Incidentals (\$8,000 NHPP Federal) and Right-of-Way Acquisition (\$16,000 NHPP Federal) in FFY 25/26. Compensating offset provided by available planning target funds.

Mr. Roth and Ms. Bergan gave a brief explanation.

Chairperson Robison asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Robison called for a motion that the Executive Committee approve the TIP amendments.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. D'Agostino gave a brief SMTC staff update.

B. **Election of Officers**

Chairperson Robison indicated that this item is tabled until the next meeting.

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

All attendees except for voting members were dismissed for further discussion.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

8. **ADJOURN**

With no further business to be addressed, Chairperson Robison adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:00 p.m.