



## **Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council**

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### **PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 11, 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**
  - June 5, 2025
- 3. Communications and Reports**
  - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
  - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
  - A. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan
  - B. TIP Amendment
  - C. Village of Liverpool Modeling Update & Analysis
  - D. Onondaga County Safe Routes to School
- 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 September 11, 2025 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

### Voting Members

Megan Costa - Chairperson  
Mary Robison  
Chris Tuff  
David Roth  
Marty Voss  
Mark Olson  
Kevan Busa  
Aaron McKeon  
Sara Sherlock  
Shannon Fults  
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  
NYS Thruway Authority  
CenterState CEO  
City of Syracuse, Div. of Planning

### Also Attending

Betsy Parmley  
Tim Talbot  
Bren Daiss  
Tara Spraker  
Anna Nguyen  
Heather Snow

NYS Department of Transportation  
NYS Department of Transportation  
CNY Regional Transportation Authority  
CNY Regional Transportation Authority  
CenterState CEO  
Oswego County Community Dev., Tourism & Planning

### 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 10:08 a.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

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

Chairperson Costa indicated that there was one revised TIP Amendment presented to each committee member.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any changes to the June 5, 2025, minutes.

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. **UPWP Status Report**

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following from the August 2025 UPWP Status Report:

SMTC Planning, Policy, and Executive Committee meetings were scheduled for September. Public comment on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) continued and the next SMTC newsletter is being planned. Three additional scopes of work were approved by the SMTC Planning Committee (Cicero Active Transportation Plan, Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities – Phase 2, and Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities Plan) with all scopes of work in place and currently on the SMTC work program.

SMTC staff are researching traffic count data information on new projects. Training will take place soon for SMTC staff to transition over to ArcGIS Pro and the training will be paid in full by NYSAMPO. Additionally, New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) provided a draft GIS geodatabase that includes features extracted from Cyclomedia imagery and lidar along NYS routes including signs, curb cuts, bike lanes, catch basins, and various other transportation related features. SMTC staff has scheduled a Forum on Active Transportation (FOAT) virtual meeting for early October to discuss updates regarding Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning. The Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System report for last year's ratings is still not complete but should be completed by the next Planning and Policy Committee Meetings. Pavement rating continues for the 2025 season and should be wrapped up within the next couple of weeks.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be discussed later on the agenda. Mr. D'Agostino recommended committee members take a newly updated Atlas and requested their feedback. In regards to Travel Demand Modeling, staff continue to coordinate with NYSDOT and their consultant team regarding the Onondaga County Transportation Improvements Project EIS. The NYSDOT team has been developing the methodology for the analysis and SMTC staff has been providing information about the SMTC Regional Model which will involve several alternatives related to Micron and Northern Onondaga County transportation developments.

SMTC staff are continuing to coordinate with member agencies and other members of the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Team to focus on identifying opportunities for transit-oriented development for future BRT stops. A meeting will be held on September 15th for interested parties to review the visualizations for the Route 31 Transit Corridor Assessment and to discuss and review with interested Study Advisory Committee members and other municipal representatives.

The consultant team for the City of Syracuse Reconnecting Communities Grant Coordination and Management Assistance continues to refine initial corridor cross sections and begin the creation of plan view designs. The consultant team recently met with the City of Syracuse staff in a focused discussion on the Adams St and Harrison St corridors. SMTC staff continue to provide feedback and direction on interim designs. The SMTC staff are coordinating with the City of Syracuse staff to determine the feasibility of a third year and how the program may transition into an open application process that allows community groups to submit project ideas throughout the year for the Community Streets Program. Draft considerations for improvements along Route 57 in the form of a public review showcase have been posted on the Route 57 Complete Streets Study website, where the public can provide feedback on proposed improvements

and share their priorities on complete streets design considerations. The interactive map and survey are available on the project website and will remain open through September 17th.

The draft final report for the Safe Routes to School project will be presented later in the agenda. Onondaga County has asked for SMTC assistance in the proposal review process for the Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan. The SMTC is in the process of preparing materials for a Study Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting in September for the West Monroe Route 49 Corridor Study. The SMTC is finalizing a future network/land use map and is coordinating with SAC members to pick a date. The SMTC is developing existing conditions maps for the Bicycle Commuter Corridor Implementation Study to show where facilities exist and are lacking. The SMTC will also prepare outreach materials for County, City, Town and Village representatives to present at the next Forum on Active Transportation meeting.

The Scope of Work for the Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities project has been approved and the SMTC staff have begun collecting preliminary data. It appears to be a much smaller effort than envisioned due to the amount of work that has already been done in this area. The Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities – Phase 2 Scope of Work has been approved and the SMTC staff are collecting relevant information from the Phase 1 Empire State Trail Local Economic Opportunities Plan to assist in shaping the Phase 2 project. The SMTC staff has been reviewing accident information and preparing templates/tables to house the information needed to analyze and eventually help determine if a need exists for a signal and/or other mitigation solutions at the unsignalized intersections along the road segments being studied for the Onondaga County Department of Transportation (OCDOT) Operations and Safety Analysis study.

The SMTC Planning Committee approved the Scope of Work for the Intersecting Community Needs: Food Access & Transportation project. SMTC staff are organizing existing conditions data and will schedule the kick-off SAC meeting at the beginning of October. Existing data collection is underway for the Midler Ave and New Court Ave Multimodal Study with the first SAC meeting being planned. The Scope of Work for the Nottingham Rd Multimodal Improvements project was approved in July and SMTC staff are currently developing a project schedule and gathering needed data for this study effort. A SAC kick-off meeting is being scheduled. A Scope of Work was approved for the Bear Trap Creek Connector study. SMTC staff continue to examine existing conditions and have begun conducting field work and a SAC meeting was held earlier this month.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that there is a TIP Amendment on today's agenda and advised committee members that the United States Department of Transportation has recently rescinded a 3.9 million dollar Raise Grant awarded to the CNYRPDB.

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 indicated that at the last SMTC Executive Committee meeting, TIP amendments were presented for Contract 6, which is basically the total reconstruction of 1-690 from Crouse Ave to Leavenworth Ave just past West Street.

Ms. Parmley explained that Contract 6A, a new contract pulled out of Contract 6, consists of large drainage trunk line work and additional funds for design.

Ms. Parmley gave some interesting facts regarding the scope of Contract 6:

15 – lane miles of elevated interstate reconstruction

20 – lane miles of local street reconstruction

37 – bridge removals

28 – new bridges

37 – retaining walls

17 – ramp removals

11 – new ramps

Several sidewalks, shared use paths, decorative lighting, trees, landscaping, etc.

Ms. Parmley explained that the increase in cost is out of NYSDOT's control and due to inflation, labor, and increase in supply cost and not a change in scope. Ms. Parmley emphasized that NYSDOT is 100% committed to delivering the I-81 project and explained that the construction cost index increased 70% since 2022 for heavy highway.

Ms. Parmley explained that contract 6A is for the large (approx. 10' in diameter) drainage trunk line, which will be dug 20' deep to take the drainage out of the combined sewer.

Ms. Parmley explained the need to pull this work out of Contract 6 was to get more competitive bids from local contractors and get the drainage trunk line in place prior to the start of Contract 6 and to help manage work-zone conflicts.

Ms. Parmley indicated that the Request for Proposal for Contract 6 is out for competitive bidding with the total amount expected at approximately 700 – 900+ million dollars, the largest contract in NYSDOT history.

Ms. Parmley mentioned that people will soon start seeing some traffic relief prior to it starting back up again with the East Glen interchange opening in a week or two. This will allow traffic to go northbound and southbound to I-81-Future Business Loop 81 at East Glen so the roundabouts will connect. The southern interchange is anticipated to be complete by the end of this year along with the northern interchange in Cicero. The work on I-481 over CSX will carry over into 2026 as it is difficult to get track time. The Inner Harbor contract of southbound I-81 offramp to North Clinton St at Bear St will be open soon and that work is expected to be wrapped up by the end of next year. Additionally, the Crouse on-ramp to I-690 eastbound will be opening soon.

Ms. Parmley indicated that Contract 5 (Southside by the Dome) work is being done to widen and build infrastructure in the southbound direction of I-81 so traffic shifts are likely. Ms. Parmley indicated that NYSDOT is working closely with City of Syracuse, Syracuse University, the hospitals, and emergency responders, making sure everyone is aware of

closures, Dome events, etc.

Ms. Parmley encouraged everyone to get the I-81 Connect Mobile App to get direct access to the I-81 project team by email/phone along with current travel advisory updates.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

This is an informational only item.

## 5. **NEW BUSINESS**

### A. **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the SMTC staff has completed the required 5-year update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (also referred to as a Long-Range Transportation Plan). The full draft document has been downloaded on the SMTC website.

The draft 2050 MTP considers how the region will grow due to the anticipated development at White Pine Commerce Park, including Micron Technology, and how the future transportation system will be impacted by this growth. Through public engagement conducted as part of the MTP process, we heard that residents want more choices in how they travel around the region including safe and efficient roads, transit, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The draft 2050 MTP supports the "strong centers" concept envisioned in Onondaga County's recent Comprehensive Plan.

The draft 2050 MTP is fiscally constrained, as required by federal legislation. The plan includes \$5.896 billion in revenue over 25 years to complete anticipated projects totaling \$5.832 billion. A substantial portion of the total project cost is for the completion of Business Loop 81, as well as other road, bridge, and transit maintenance projects in our region.

Ms. Meghan Vitale, SMTC Principal Transportation Planner, gave a brief presentation summarizing key elements of the draft 2050 MTP.

Public comments on the draft 2050 MTP are being accepted through September 12, 2025.

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 MTP before September 30, 2025.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

**B. TIP Amendment**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there was one TIP amendment proposed for modification to the 2026-2030 TIP and statewide TIP.

Change in cost

o PIN 380797 (ONONDAGA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS).

Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). In Federal Fiscal Year 26/27, NYSDOT is proposing to change the project total to \$383,250,000, an increase of \$320,000,000. The Construction phase will be programmed with \$39,600,000 NHPP Federal and \$335,400,000 State funds, while the Inspection phase will be programmed with \$5,940,000 NHPP Federal and \$2,310,000 State funds. Compensating offsets provided by Federal and State funds from outside the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion Occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend the Policy Committee approve the TIP Amendment.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Village of Liverpool Modeling Update & Analysis**

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the SMTC completed this technical analysis for the Village of Liverpool. The purpose of this analysis was to examine existing transportation conditions and to analyze several hypothetical future transportation alternatives using the SMTC's Regional Travel Demand Model (TDM), similar to the modeling effort completed for the Village in 2009. An update of this analysis was requested because the TDM was recently updated to include future changes such as the completion of the I-81 viaduct project and the assumed land use changes related to the proposed Micron facility in the Town of Clay. As a technical analysis, no public engagement was completed for this task. SMTC staff consulted with Liverpool and other local representatives as well as NYSDOT and OCDOT staff during the study process.

The target for this project was to determine if there were any feasible alternate transportation options to decrease the traffic in the Village by approximately 15%-20% as stated in the Village's Commercial Market and Retail Analysis (2005). While the completion of the Liverpool Bypass (originally proposed in the 70's) results in the highest modeled reduction in Village traffic in this analysis, no recommendations are made or implied in this document. However, the technical memorandum could provide justification for the Village or others to pursue additional more detailed studies.

Mr. Jason Deshaies, SMTC Senior Transportation Analyst Staff provided a brief summary at the meeting.

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 Liverpool Modeling Update and Technical Analysis.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Onondaga County Safe Routes to School**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that stemming from SMTC's Safe Routes to School White Paper and City of Syracuse Safe Routes to School Planning Guide, this Study was initiated as part of the 2024-2025 UPWP on behalf of Onondaga County Department of Planning to encourage safe walking and biking in Onondaga County school districts outside the City of Syracuse.

County-wide data on school district demographics and mobility were mapped and analyzed to create profiles of the County's school districts.

SMTC identified a school community, Chestnut Hill Elementary and Middle Schools, to conduct a Safe Routes to School case study. This effort included stakeholder meetings with principals and the PTO, parent and student surveys, and a walk-audit with students.

Based on this public feedback, SMTC developed potential short-, mid-, and long-term improvements with planning level cost estimates to help encourage safe active transportation to and from the school campus.

Mr. Joey DiStefano, SMTC Transportation Planner II, provided an overview presentation at the meeting.

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 acknowledge the completion of the Onondaga County Safe Routes to School effort.

Mr. Roth moved, and Mr. Kerney 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 September 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m. by Chairperson Costa.