

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the April 2, 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

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

Organization

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

Also Attending

Bren Daiss
Tara Spraker

CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CNY Regional Transportation Authority

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone and Lori Irvine

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Tuff called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Tuff asked if there were any changes to the March 5, 2026, minutes.

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

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

The motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Financial Statements were through February 2026, which is 11/12 of the way through the program year which ended on March 31st. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that now that everything has been billed out, the SMTC is much closer to a zero-based budget than before and believes he will squeak in just under in terms of being in the black. Mr. D'Agostino advised committee members that he doesn't foresee any issues but will report back if there is.

Chairperson Tuff 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 March 2026 UPWP Status Report:

The recently approved Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) has been printed and distributed. Mr. D'Agostino offered copies to any committee member that has not yet received one. The new program year kicked off this week, and staff will begin scoping projects with the first project being Center City Parking and Mobility Study beginning tomorrow morning. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that 2026-2027 will be a very big program year with 11 new projects and a bunch of roll-over projects that have yet to be completed. Two new Transportation Planner II staff positions have been filled with one starting in May and the other in June.

The spring SMTC Directions hardcopy newsletter is currently at the printer and expected to be mailed out sometime next week. The digital version of the federal certification report has been received and will be posted on the SMTC website for review. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that he was still waiting for the hard-copy version to arrive.

The contract with current consultant for the Data Collection, Compilation and/or Analysis project is being renewed with the optional 1-year extension. SMTC staff participated in a National Grid webinar on 3/20/2026 for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning project where National Grid shared information about their trail planning process with municipalities, NYSDOT, MPOs and other entities conducting trail planning or constructing trails. The next Forum on Active Transportation (FOAT) virtual meeting will be held on April 29th at 3:30 p.m.

SMTC staff continue to work on the Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS) and Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that the Rail, Truck & Transit Planning project is wrapping up later this month. For Travel Demand Modeling, the SMTC staff continue to coordinate with New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and their consultant team for the CNY Forward project, which is a separate Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) focused on transportation impacts of Micron and other projects. Mr. D'Agostino also mentioned that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approached NYSDOT to study the impacts of the Micron development specifically on the I-81 project. The NYSDOT Main Office has asked the SMTC to assist using the SMTC model, as they would like to make sure that nothing is being developed as part of Micron that will negatively impact the I-81 project proper and they could recommend additional mitigation for the state to put in place if anything is found.

SMTC staff attended the Onondaga County Planning Federation meeting and staffed a table for information. 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 and the team has asked the SMTC to leverage the Replica software to assist them.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the City of Syracuse Reconnecting Communities Grant Coordination and Management Assistance project will be wrapped up in the next month or so. SMTC staff met with the two project sponsors for the Community Streets Program and progress is being made. The West Monroe Route 49 Corridor Study draft final report is being posted on the SMTC website and will be presented at the next SMTC Planning and Policy Committee meetings.

The Bicycle Commuter Corridor Implementation project is continuing and is on track for completion. It will also be a topic at the upcoming FOAT meeting at the end of April. The Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities final draft document is complete and will be presented at the next SMTC Planning and Policy Committee meetings.

SMTC staff are moving forward with assessing three corridors as part of the Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities – Phase 2 project: two in the Town of DeWitt and one in the Town of Elbridge. SMTC staff have been working on the draft technical memorandum for the OCDOT Operations and Safety Analysis project, which is mostly complete and SMTC staff are double checking with the modeling consultant before giving the final approval.

SMTC staff continue to meet with stakeholders for the Intersecting Community Needs: Food Access & Transportation project. SMTC staff were present at the Valley Plaza grocery store public meeting to share information and speak with community members. ZIP code profiles are under development and staff are working on the introductory chapters of the draft report. Concept designs are in development based on conversations with the SAC, public survey results, and data collection efforts for the Midler Ave and New Court Ave Multimodal Study. An intersection capacity analysis will evaluate the potential for a road diet along Court Street and staff will continue to work on the draft report text.

The survey for obtaining feedback on how the public interacts with the Nottingham Road corridor is now live and the survey will remain open through April 17, 2026. This project should be wrapped up by the end of the summer. SMTC staff conducted the second and final Focus Group for the Bear Trap Creek Connector. Additionally, SMTC staff hosted more conversations with major stakeholders and are organizing the final SAC meeting in mid-April.

SMTC reviewed maps created to date for the Cicero Active Transportation Plan and are updating them where new data exists and for enhanced clarity. SMTC will continue to summarize existing documents and existing conditions. SMTC will provide a brief overview of this effort at the upcoming FOAT meeting at the end of April.

Lastly, amendments and administrative modifications occurred throughout the month as applicable for TIP Development and Maintenance. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the electronic STIP is locked out and SMTC cannot make any modifications until the new software is launched. SMTC is leading the statewide group of MPOs working with the NYSDOT Main Office to learn how to use the new software.

Chairperson Tuff asked if there were any questions. Discussion occurred.

This was an informational item only.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**
None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **TIP Amendments**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there are 2 TIP Amendments for consideration:

Change in cost and/or schedule

PIN 382002 (ACQUISITION FOR THE CENTRO BRT NETWORK, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO).

Sponsor Centro. Centro is proposing to add an additional \$9,280,000 Section 5339 federal funds to the project in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 25/26. Compensating offset provided by Section 5339 funds previously awarded to Centro through a federal Low/No and Bus and Bus Facilities solicitation.

PIN 303771 (PAVEMENT REHAB & INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, RT. 31, CICERO).

Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). NYSDOT is proposing to add \$1,000,000 HSIP federal funds to a previously obligated Construction phase. Compensating offset provided by available planning target funds.

Chairperson Tuff asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Tuff called for a motion that the Executive Committee approve the TIP Amendments.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

7. **ADJOURN**

With no further business to be addressed, Chairperson Tuff called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Roth moved and Ms. Robison seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.