

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the August 6, 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Christopher Tuff - *Chairperson*
Marty Voss
Mary Robison
David Roth

Organization

CNY Regional Transportation Authority
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
City of Syracuse
NYS Department of Transportation

Also Attending

Katrina Bergan
Tara Spraker
John Kivlehan
Chris Rauber

NYS Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
City of Syracuse
Onondaga County Department of Transportation

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Kevin Kosakowski and Lori Irvine

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Tuff called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that a new item (5B) was added to the agenda under New Business at the request of Empire State Development.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Tuff asked if there were any changes to the May 7, 2026, minutes.

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

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

The motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Financial Statements presented were through June 2026.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that there were no big surprises but indicated a slight overspending in the administrative category due to a backlog in auditing from the pandemic period. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned the administrative auditing expense by the host agency, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, is now hitting the SMTC budget harder than he thought. Otherwise, the SMTC is exactly where

it needs to be.

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 July 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Status Report:

The SMTC has scheduled special August Planning and Policy Committee meetings to address the I-81 budget and schedule issues. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he has recently posted a job opening for the replacement of an Analyst at the SMTC and is currently conducting interviews. The SMTC worked with the New York State Comptroller on SMTC documents for the Comptrollers Bridge Audit of New York State Department of Transportation, which is the first time for this request per Mr. D'Agostino. Additionally, several scopes of work were created and will be shared at the special Planning Committee meeting assuming there will be time on the agenda, otherwise they will be mailed.

SMTC website maintenance occurred and mandatory mailings to interested parties for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendments were sent out. Also, a Public Notice and review began for the LRTP and TIP Amendments. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that progress is being made for the planning of the 2027 NYSAMPO Conference.

SMTC staff are reviewing signage requirements for trailblazing and gathering recent cost estimates/cost estimating tools to utilize in a variety of current/on-going SMTC bicycle/pedestrian efforts. SMTC staff continue to work on the report text, graphics, and maps for the City of Syracuse on the Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS). Mr. D'Agostino indicated that SMTC Transportation Planners, Kevin Kosakowski and Evan Tuthill will now be handling this project after Andrew Frasier's departure.

SMTC staff posted the proposed Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) amendment on July 13th with public comment open until August 12th. The amendment adds Contract 6 from the I-81 Viaduct Project to the fiscally constrained portion of the plan. SMTC staff continue to work on determining specific routing and signage for implementation of the SMTC's Bicycle Commuter Corridor Study from 2013. Staff have received helpful cost estimate information and sign specifications from our member agencies that will be utilized as part of this effort.

Efforts are in progress for this year's mandatory update to the Coordinated Plan and SMTC provided the New York State Department of Transportation assistance disseminating truck bridge strike safety materials to nine local truck rental locations for the Rail, Truck & Transit Planning project. SMTC staff participated in a variety of planning activities for the County's Safety Action Plan throughout the month. Also, SMTC staff participated in the County wayfinding project and provided material from two completed SMTC wayfinding initiatives.

The Syracuse Urbanism Collective installed their Hawley-Green project on the weekend of July 24th for the Community Streets Program. Three intersections were completed over the course of three days. Project volunteers and staff have discussed some potential improvements for future program years aimed at better communication during the permit process and improved guidelines for installation days. SMTC staff continue to work on draft potential trail alignments to share with municipal partners for the Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities – Phase 2 project. SMTC staff have drafted texts to accompany these concepts to share with both the partners and the Study Advisory Committee (SAC). Other preparations in advance of the September SAC meeting are underway. This project is on track to be completed by the end of this calendar year.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that the SMTC has spent a large amount of time working with New York State Department of Transportation for their CNY Forward and Micron related Environmental Impact Statement modeling for I-81. The Federal Highway Administration requested a reevaluation of the original travel demand model to make it work with Micron to answer questions specifically about noise and air quality.

SMTC provided a draft technical memo for Henry Clay Boulevard to Onondaga County Department of Planning (OCDOT) for their initial review. The Intersecting Community Needs: Food Access and Transportation project is on target to be completed by this calendar year. SMTC staff responded to comments received by public meeting attendees for the Midler Ave & New Court Ave Multimodal Study. A Study Advisory Committee meeting was held on August 5th, and the project will be presented at the next SMTC Planning Committee meeting.

SMTC staff have finished summarizing survey responses and creating associated tables and maps for the Nottingham Rd Multimodal Improvement Study draft document as the study nears completion. SMTC staff continue to digitize potential bicycle and pedestrian routes for the Cicero Active Transportation Plan. SMTC staff continue to review draft report text and provide feedback as needed for the City of Syracuse Thriving Communities Grant Coordination and Management Assistance. Grant application discussions with the City of Syracuse and CenterState CEO staff have continued.

A scope of work and a Request for Proposal was issued for the LaFayette Road Corridor Study where seven proposals were received by the July 16th deadline. SMTC staff have begun assembling a consultant selection committee and continue to review the proposals. SMTC staff met with project sponsors to discuss the draft scope of work for the Meadowbrook Drive Corridor Study. The scope will be sent to the SMTC Planning Committee for approval in August. SMTC staff presented preliminary recommendations for the short-term action plan to the Study Advisory Committee for the Center City Parking and Mobility Study. The actual effort should begin soon. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that SMTC staff have met with the Town of Clay regarding the Town of Clay Hamlet/Village Concept Refinement and Multimodal Access study as this study continues to develop. The study will be discussed in greater detail later in the agenda.

The SMTC staff drafted a scope for the Martisco to Otisco Lake Trail Evaluation and incorporated comments from Onondaga County Department of Planning and New York State Department of Transportation. The trail study will focus on a 5-mile off-road segment along former Martisco Railroad land that extends between Otisco Lake and Marcellus Park. SMTC staff met with Onondaga County Department of Planning regarding the NYS Route 31 Corridor Planning – Next Steps study. Mr. D'Agostino feels

the project is related to the Town of Clay planning task and the Empire State Development project and they should be combined. A Scope of Work was written; a Request for Proposal was released, and six proposals were received for the Greater Baldwinsville Pedestrian/Bike Connective Corridor study. SMTC staff are in the process of creating a review team with member agencies to choose the consultant for this study. Mr. D'Agostino has indicated there has been no progress on the Baldwinsville Bypass – Phase II study as SMTC Project Managers have been very busy with other projects.

SMTC staff drafted a scope of work will be sent to the SMTC Planning Committee for the Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer (SOCRIS) Corridor Study. SMTC staff have met with the Department of Environmental Conservation along with Oswego County for their comments. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that this is a big project and expects it to last at least two years. SMTC staff have prepared a draft scope of work for the Shop City Mobility Study to send to the SMTC Planning Committee for approval.

Lastly, Mr. D'Agostino indicated that on July 8th, a Capital Projects Committee Meeting was held to discuss Federal Fiscal Year 25/26 project costs, schedules, and fund obligations which resulted in 20 amendments that necessitate SMTC committee action. Also, a 30-day public comment period was initiated for New York State Department of Transportation's I-81 Viaduct Contract. The cost increase will be brought forward at the August SMTC Planning and Policy Committee meetings for approval.

Chairperson Tuff 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 explained that during a recent meeting of the SMTC Capital Projects Committee, and post-meeting discussions, numerous project cost and/or schedule adjustments were identified for action before the closing of the current Federal Fiscal Year 25/26.

In total, 19 amendments are proposed for Executive Committee consideration. There were originally 20 but one was pulled at the last minute (PIN 375749).

Change in cost and/or schedule:

- o PIN 328723 (ONONDAGA LAKE PARKWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, OLD LIVERPOOL TO I-81 RAMP, TN OF SALINA, ONONDAGA CO).

- ☐ Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). NYSDOT is proposing to delay the Detailed Design and Right-of-Way Acquisition phases from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 26/27 to FFY 27/28 and program as \$344,000 NHPP federal and \$232,000 HSIP federal. Compensating offset provided by available planning target funds.

- o PIN 375677 (PAVING, BEAR RD, SANDY LN TO RT 11, TN OF CLAY, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor Onondaga County Department of Transportation (County). The County is proposing to add \$200,000 NHPP federal funds, post obligation, to the Construction phase in FFY 25/26. Compensating offset provided by available planning target funds.

- o PIN 375702 (ONONDAGA LAKE CANALWAYS TRAIL - SALINA EXTENSION PROJECT - PHASE 2, SYRACUSE & TN OF SALINA, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor County. The County is proposing to decrease the Right-of-Way Acquisition phase in FFY 25/26 by \$159,000 NHPP federal funds and add a new Right-of-Way Incidentals phase in FFY 25/26 utilizing \$94,000 NHPP federal funds. Offset provided by Right-of-Way Acquisition.

- o PIN 375681 (PAVING, E COLVIN ST COMSTOCK AVE TO CITY LINE, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor City of Syracuse (City). The City is proposing to add \$366,000 STBG-Urban federal funds, post obligation, to the Construction phase in FFY 25/26. Compensating offsets provided by PIN 375710 (Creekwalk Ph. III, Colvin St to Dorwin Ave) and PIN 375770 (Creekwalk, Kirk Park Dr to Ballantyne Rd) Right-of-Way Acquisition phases.

- o PIN 375708 (N, S, E, W CORRIDORS INTERCONNECT EXPANSION, PH 2, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor City. The City is proposing to add \$410,000 NHPP federal funds, post obligation, to the Construction phase in FFY 25/26. Compensating offset provided by available planning target funds.

- o PIN 375717 (MOBILITY IMPROVEMENTS, RTC/REGIONAL MARKET AREA, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor City. The City is proposing to delay the Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.

- o PIN 375719 (RT 175 BRIDGE REHAB OVER ONON CREEK, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor City. The City is proposing to delay the Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. Compensating offset for Bridge Funding Program dollars is not necessary, while the remainder will be provided by Local funds.

- o PIN 395079 (PED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, CREEKWALK, KIRK PARK, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor City. The City is proposing to delay the Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.

- o PIN 395080 (PEDESTRIAN & BIKE IMPROVEMENTS, ERIE BLVD W, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor City. The City is proposing to delay the Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.

- o PIN 395089 (NEW SHARED USE PATH, ON WEST SIDE TRAIL, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor City. The City is proposing to delay the Right-of-Way Acquisition phase from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.
- o PIN 395095 (CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR, VIL OF SOLVAY, TN OF GEDDES, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor Town of Geddes (Town). The Town is proposing to delay the Scoping, Preliminary Design, and Detailed Design phases from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.
- o PIN 375727 (CLARK HOLLOW RD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, TN OF LAFAYETTE, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor Town of LaFayette (Town). The Town is proposing to remove the Right-of-Way Acquisition phase and delay the Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. Construction phase increases to \$1,225,000 BFP-Off federal funds. No offset necessary.
- o PIN 375751 (REPLACE, FRANKLIN ST RD BRIDGE OVER PARK POND INLET, VIL OF FAYETTEVILLE, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor Village of Fayetteville (Village). The Village is proposing to delay the Right-of-Way Acquisition phase from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.
- o PIN 395081 (PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS, VIL OF N SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor Village of North Syracuse (Village). The Village is proposing to delay the Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.
- o PIN 395083 (PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS, VIL OF PHOENIX, OSWEGO CO).
 - Sponsor Village of Phoenix (Village). The Village is proposing to delay the Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.
- o PIN 395078 (PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENTS, COGSWELL AVE, VIL OF SOLVAY, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor Village Solvay (Village). The Village is proposing to delay the Construction and Inspection phases from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.
- o PIN 395087 (EMPIRE STATE TRAIL/BELLE ISLE IMPROVEMENTS, VIL OF SOLVAY, ONONDAGA CO).
 - Sponsor Village Solvay (Village). The Village is proposing to delay the Right-of-Way Acquisition phase from FFY 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.
- o PIN 382951 (PURCHASE COMPUTER SOFTWARE).
 - Sponsor Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (Centro). Centro is proposing to move the project from FFY 22/23 to FFY 25/26 and increase the cost by \$310,000 Total (\$248,000 STBG-Flex federal, \$62,000 match). Compensating offset provided by surplus funds from PIN 382911 (Procure, (64) 40FT CNG Fueled Centro Buses).

- o PIN 382953 (MAINTAIN, CENTRO'S SYRACUSE & REGIONAL FACILITIES).
 - Sponsor Centro. Centro is proposing to move the project from FFY 22/23 to FFY 25/26, reduce the Section 5307 funds and related match by \$27,127 Total and program \$347,575 Total (\$278,060 STBG-Flex federal, \$69,515 match). Compensating offset provided by surplus funds from PIN 382911 (Procure, (64) 40Ft CNG Fueled Centro Buses).

Mr. D'Agostino also explained that the City of Syracuse has two project administrative modifications:

PIN 375708 – (N.S.E.W. Corridors Interconnect Expansion, Ph. 2, Syracuse, Onon Co.)
PIN 375681 – (Paving, E. Colvin St., Comstock Ave to City Line, Syracuse, Onon. Co.)

These projects are multi-funded projects with multiple different funding sources, including Flex. The City has requested to take the Flex funds that cannot roll over and use them for these two projects.

Discussion occurred.

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

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

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Addition to the Agenda – Request from Empire State Development

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he was approached by Mr. Chatfield from Empire State Development regarding the CHIPS program and the development of Micron. The SMTC completed a traffic study on Route 31, and Mr. Chatfield would like to discuss the study in detail and find out how the area towns are planning for the development of the microchip corridor.

Mr. D'Agostino was asked by Mr. Chatfield to help facilitate a meeting between Empire State Development, the Town of Clay, Town of Cicero, Onondaga County Department of Planning, Onondaga County Department of Transportation, Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency, Oswego County Planning, Oswego County Industrial Development Agency, New York State Department of Transportation, and Centro to discuss future land use recommendations and help development guidelines.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the meeting will most likely be held in September.

Discussion occurred.

This is an informational item only.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

7. **ADJOURN**

With no further business to be addressed, Chairperson Tuff called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

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

The motion carried unanimously.