



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 29, 2026

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**
 - September 11, 2025
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. UPWP Status Report
 - B. Federal Certification Debrief
- 4. Old Business**
 - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. 2026-2027 UPWP
 - B. Election of Officers
 - C. 2026 Statewide Safety Targets
 - D. Rt. 31 Transit Corridor Assessment
 - E. Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System
 - F. City of Syracuse Pavement Prioritization Program
 - G. Rt. 57 Complete Streets Study
- 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 January 29, 2026 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Megan Costa - Chairperson
Tara Spraker
David Roth
Marty Voss
Elaine Denton
Kevan Busa
Aaron McKeon
Sara Sherlock
Shannon Fults
Ryan Smith
Stephanie Webb

Organization

Onondaga County, Dept. of Planning
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
Empire State Development
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Also Attending

Betsy Parmley
Heather Snow
Kelly Gibson
NYS Department of Transportation
Oswego County Community Dev., Tourism & Planning
Onondaga Nation

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Lori Irvine, Andrew Frasier, Thomas Bardenett, Kevin Kosakowski, Jade Nguyen, Joseph DiStefano, and Danielle Krol.

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Costa called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any changes to the September 11, 2025, minutes.

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. UPWP Status Report

Mr. D'Agostino explained that due to the length of the agenda, he would like to skip this item as he is giving a year-end overview of the UPWP later in the agenda and mentioned if anyone has any questions, they are welcome to reach out to him later.

B. Federal Certification Debrief

Mr. D'Agostino gave an overview of the required Federal Certification Review process at the SMTC from December 9th through December 11th.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that there was active participation from Centro, New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board (CNY RPDB) during the review.

Mr. D'Agostino felt overall that it was a very positive review with the final written certification forthcoming in a couple of months. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he will email committee members when it is received and will post it on the SMTC website.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned the positive takeaways were for the SMTC Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and the SMTC Atlas which the auditing team mentioned should be made a national example. The SMTC's public participation involvement efforts were praised, and they mentioned that the SMTC UPWP efforts were extremely high and SMTC staff runs studies extremely well and professionally. The federal auditors also indicated that the number of studies is very high for the number of dollars available in the budget. SMTC staff were 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 a stand-alone ITS Strategic Plan which is a task on next year's work program and creating a Comprehensive Freight Plan in light of the Micron's impact on the community.

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, Regional Director of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), gave committee members the following I-81 update:

Ms. Parmley indicated that most of the contracts are now "sleeping" due to the cold and snow, but a lot of progress was made beforehand. In Cicero, the northern interchange of I-81 and I-481 is essentially complete. There are some punch list items such as finishing touches on pavement, pavement markings and landscaping yet to complete, but it is otherwise operational. The South Bay Road bridge is almost complete but will need to go back to a single lane for a short period of time in the spring to finish the bridge construction.

Ms. Parmley mentioned that the contract in the valley is proceeding but with winter coming early it has set them back on a few outstanding items. The new offramp northbound to East Glen Avenue still needs to open and the connectors between I-481 south to I-81 south and I-81 south to I-81 north should be complete this spring/summer.

Ms. Parmley indicated that the work on I-481 over CSX is continuing and will be completed in the fall of this year. The Spencer Street bridge in the Inner Harbor is open and has been receiving great feedback. The Court Street bridge is closed, and they are

working on replacing the bridge, which is expected to open by the fall of this year. Bear Street should be opening in the spring and the new on/off ramps on I-81 southbound to North Clinton Street is now operational. Ms. Parmley indicated that this contract should be completed by the end of 2026.

Ms. Parmley mentioned that the Crouse Avenue and Irving Avenue area will be finished in the spring with more signal, pavement and drainage work to be done. The new onramp onto I-690 east from Crouse Avenue is open and expressed that the acceleration lane will get longer once the Lodi Street bridge deck is open.

Ms. Parmley explained that the build out for the new I-690 continues with staging of the work being like putting together the pieces of a puzzle. The next stage will be the eastbound traffic will move to the southbound half of I-690 followed by work on the inside then flipping sides. The I-690 westbound offramp to Crouse Avenue will open this year which will be a gateway to the university area. This contract should be completed midway into 2027.

Ms. Parmley indicated that the Southside contract (Colvin Ave. & Van Buren St. area) is the building out for the new Business Loop I-81 where building of a retaining wall and excavation work will take place. Air and noise monitors will be installed as they are part of this project commitment. Ms. Parmley mentioned that they are planning on closing Van Buren St. on the back side of the dome in the spring and are working closely with Syracuse University, Syracuse Police Department, Veterans Administration, Crouse Hospital, Environmental Science and Forestry among other entities, so they are aware of this street closing. Ms. Parmley fully expects the southern portion of the viaduct to come down at the end of 2026 or beginning of 2027.

Ms. Parmley indicated that Contract 6, which is the total reconstruction of I-690 from Crouse Avenue just past West Street, is currently in procurement with design-build proposals coming soon. Ms. Parmley is hopeful it will be under construction by this summer but will be mostly prep work and less impactful to the traveling public. Ms. Parmley stressed that once this very big contract gets fully underway, it will be very impactful with detours and new traffic patterns. Ms. Parmley indicated there will be a lot of communication going out to help navigate travel.

Lastly, the drainage/trunk line contract which separates the combined sewer line from Almond Street to Onondaga Creek is in procurement and will be put out to advertisement in a few weeks. This is expected to be a 2-year contract. Ms. Parmley mentioned that Contracts 7 and 8 are still in the final design stage and construction for those projects won't begin until 2027. Ms. Parmley mentioned that everyone should get the I-81 app to stay informed and thanked everyone for their patience.

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

This is an informational only item.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2026-2027 UPWP

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the SMTC staff have developed the 2026-2027 UPWP.

A letter was sent to member agencies and municipalities on November 7, 2025, acting as a call letter for UPWP Project Proposals. Additionally, a virtual meeting for prospective

sponsors was held November 24, 2025.

A draft of the 2026-2027 UPWP was created programming 100% of our anticipated allocation.

Mr. D'Agostino outlined the approach to funding and programming for the 2026-2027 UPWP in light of funding needs and allocation limitations. To fully accomplish the program as envisioned, the NYSAMPO is contributing \$50,000 to cover the costs of the 2027 NYSAMPO conference.

Mr. D'Agostino also provided a year-end summary of the existing 2025-2026 program year as well as further details on the proposed 2026-2027 UPWP.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion to have the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Mr. McKeon moved, and Ms. Fults seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Election of Officers

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that Pursuant to the SMTC's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and By-Laws, the Policy, Planning and Executive Committees are due to elect, by consensus of each Committee, a new slate of officers. The term of office is two (2) years from appointment.

The New York State Department of Transportation shall serve as the Secretary of the Policy Committee and the Executive Committee, and the Central Staff Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Planning Committee.

After further discussion, the current Chairperson, Ms. Megan Costa, graciously agreed to stay on as Chairperson of the SMTC Planning Committee with Mr. Aaron McKeon from the CNY RPDB as Vice Chairperson.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the Planning Committee elect herself as Chairperson and Aaron McKeon as Vice Chairperson.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

C. 2026 Statewide Safety Targets

Mr. D'Agostino explained as required by the federal surface transportation authorization, the SMTC has the option to either adopt the performance measure targets established by the State or develop their own. The State adopted annual safety targets in August 2025.

Safety specific performance measures include:

- Number of fatalities,
- Rates of fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),
- Number of serious injuries,
- Rate of serious injuries per 100 Million VMT, and
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.

A draft resolution was transmitted with the meeting items in email, hardcopy, and on the website.

Mr. D'Agostino provided an overview of the proposed Performance Measure Targets.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion to have the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the Performance Measure Targets.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Rt. 31 Transit Corridor Assessment

Mr. D'Agostino explained that NY Route 31 is a critical east-west corridor in northern Onondaga County that provides connections between several existing activity centers and future growth areas, including Baldwinsville and the towns of Lysander, Clay, and Cicero. The corridor is about to undergo a significant transformation spurred by the Micron semiconductor chip manufacturing facility that will lead to substantial economic growth opportunities. This will lead to increased demand for commercial, industrial, and residential development along and around the corridor.

The purpose of the NYS 31 Transit Corridor Assessment is to develop a mobility plan for the NYS 31 corridor that outlines the feasibility of, and required conditions for, future enhanced public transportation services that support existing and anticipated centers identified in Onondaga County's comprehensive plan, Plan Onondaga. While this study looks at the NYS 31 corridor between Baldwinsville and Cicero and shows **numerous high-quality visualizations** of transit infrastructure and development at example station areas, this is not a transit plan or development master plan. Instead, this assessment is a visioning exercise to understand what transit could look like along NYS 31 to support planned growth.

SMTC Assistant Director, Mario Colone provided a brief overview presentation.

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 the Rt. 31 Transit Corridor Assessment as complete. Mr. Voss moved, and Mr. McKeon seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the goal of this reoccurring work item is to report, map, and analyze roadway bridge and federal-aid eligible pavement conditions in our Metropolitan Planning Area.

SMTC Senior Transportation Analyst, Andrew Frasier provided a brief presentation.

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 the completion of the Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System report.

Ms. Webb moved, and Mr. Busa seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

F. City of Syracuse Pavement Prioritization Program

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that in recent years, on behalf of the City of Syracuse, the SMTC has conducted an analysis of the City's road network to provide insight into prioritizing certain roads for pavement maintenance. This process leads to the development of a Priority Score, which can help guide City staff on pavement decisions.

The Priority Score includes several infrastructure-related variables, such as pavement rating (collected in 2025), traffic volumes, functional classification, and others. It also includes demographic information from the Census Bureau to include an equity component as requested by the City.

The score is calculated for individual blocks. Street segments and Census Tracts are given a weighted score for planning purposes.

SMTC Senior Transportation Analyst, Andrew Frasier provided a brief presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa indicated that this is an informational item, and no action is required of the committee.

G. Rt. 57 Complete Streets Study

The SMTC completed this consultant-based study on behalf of Onondaga County (County). The County sought to evaluate and potentially improve upon the overall transportation network and connections to/from Route 57 between John Glenn Boulevard and New York State Route 31 in the Town of Clay. The study area for this project was later expanded further south to the northern Village of Liverpool boundary.

The purpose of this study was to examine opportunities to increase the safety for all users of the transportation system through feasible complete streets treatments. The USDOT defines a complete street as a facility that ensures the safe and adequate accommodation of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public

transportation users, children, older individuals, individuals with disabilities, motorists, and freight vehicles. Further, a complete street includes, but is not limited to, sidewalks, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), special bus lanes, accessible public transportation stops, safe and accommodating crossing options, median islands, pedestrian signals, curb extensions, narrower travel lanes, and roundabouts.

Detailed planning-level cost estimates, potential funding opportunities, an implementation plan and prioritization of complete streets treatments were provided to committee members.

SMTC Senior Transportation Planner, Danielle Krol gave a brief overview presentation.

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 Route 57 Complete Streets Study.

Mr. McKeon moved, and Ms. Denton seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Heather Snow announced a new regional planning initiative happening in the northern part of the community as Jefferson County recently announced a new public transportation connector to Oswego County's public transportation system in Pulaski. Ms. Snow explained that it means Adirondack Trailways, Oswego Public Transit and the new Jefferson County system will be meeting in Pulaski to move residents from Oswego County to Watertown in Jefferson County.

Mr. D'Agostino reminded committee members of the upcoming SMTC Policy Committee meeting scheduled for Friday, February 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Costa reminded attendees that registration is now open for the Onondaga County Annual Planning Symposium at the Marriott on March 19th and should go to ongov.net/planning to register.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. by Chairperson Costa.