



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 11, 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**
 - January 29, 2026
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
 - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Scope of Work Approval
 - 1) LaFayette Road Corridor Study
 - 2) Greater Baldwinsville Bicycle & Pedestrian Connective Corridor Study
 - B. Route 49 Mobility Study
 - C. Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities Plan
 - D. Bear Trap Creek Connector Study
 - E. Freight Profile
 - F. Reconnecting Communities Project Coordination
- 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 June 11, 2026 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Megan Costa - Chairperson
Chris Tuff
Katrina Bergan
Elaine Denton
Aaron McKeon
Sara Sherlock
Shannon Fults
Ryan Smith
Dereth Glance
Mary Robison
Owen Kerney

Organization

Onondaga County, Department of Planning
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
NYS Department of Transportation
Onondaga County Legislature
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
NYS Thruway Authority
CenterState CEO
Empire State Development
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
City of Syracuse, Administration
City of Syracuse, Division of Planning

Also Attending

Sophia Fisher CNY Regional Planning & Development Board

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Danielle Krol, Andrew Frasier, Thomas Bardenett, Kevin Kosakowski, Jade Nguyen, Joseph DiStefano, Elizabeth (Lizzi) Conley, and Evan Tuthill.

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Costa called the meeting to order at 10:07 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 January 29, 2026, minutes.

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. UPWP Status Report

Mr. D'Agostino discussed the following highlights from the SMTC Monthly UPWP Status Report for May 2026.

The scoping of new projects and closing out last year's projects is underway hence a few items on the agenda today. Mr. D'Agostino introduced two new SMTC staff members, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Conley, and Evan Tuthill, to the committee attendees. Evan joined the

SMTC approximately one month ago and Lizzy began this week. Both staff were hired as Transportation II Planners. The new SMTC Brochure has been updated, and free copies are available for the taking. Mr. D'Agostino indicated the SMTC website required some updates to work towards ADA compliance under new regulations. Additionally, a successful FOAT meeting with approximately 20-25 attendees was held in April.

The Federal House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee released draft legislative text for the next surface transportation reauthorization. The Senate has not yet released their version.

Closing on projects from last year's UPWP such as the Bear Trap Creek Connector Study is on today's agenda. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that staff assignments and scoping is currently underway for a lot of new projects for the current UPWP and indicated that some of the projects may be extended into next year due to how large the program is. A UPWP amendment at the last SMTC Executive Committee meeting was processed for adding \$100,000 in SPR funds for modeling related to Micron and I-81. The 2027 NYSAMPO Conference will be held in April, and all member agencies are welcome to attend free of charge.

Traffic count data collection has begun to support a few studies since the weather has been nice. Mr. D'Agostino explained that this summer, SMTC staff will develop a "living" map that includes existing and planned bicycle/pedestrian trails in the MPA, working with municipalities to gather the latest trail information, and digitizing trails as needed. SMTC staff have begun synthesizing bridge data and compiling pavement information for the Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System report that will be presented later this year.

The SMTC has to develop a Metropolitan Transportation Plan amendment that will be discussed at an upcoming "Special" Planning and Policy Committee meetings scheduled on July 23rd at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. respectively for NYSDOT due to the cost significance.

SMTC staff have summarized meetings with NYSDOT, OCDOT and the City of Syracuse regarding potential implementation opportunities/strategies for the Bicycle Commuter Corridor Implementation project. SMTC staff will begin preparing a draft approach to tackling future implementation of 4-5-pronged spine that can serve as a commuter bicycling network in the MPA. The Freight Profile draft final report has been prepared and will be presented at today's meeting. Additionally, SMTC staff attended the May 19th Port of New York & New Jersey tour, which was very impressive.

SMTC staff attended the Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan – Project Coordination kick-off meeting and are coordinating with Onondaga County and the project's consultant as needed. SMTC staff met with the City of Syracuse about project details for the Community Streets Program. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that three projects are expected to be installed this summer. SMTC staff held a Study Advisory Meeting for the Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities – Phase 2 project. SMTC conducted fieldwork and observations of each area and conducted an existing conditions assessment of the study areas. Staff are developing potential trail concepts for review.

For Travel Demand Modeling, the New York State Department of Transportation has requested SMTC's assistance with a request from Federal Highway Administration to model and analyze the potential transportation related impacts of Micron and its

associated developments on the I-81 Viaduct Project that is currently under construction. Staff are currently compiling the data and assumptions needed to update the regional travel demand model for the several model runs that are anticipated for this analysis.

SMTC staff held a Study Advisory Committee Meeting for the Intersecting Community Needs: Food Access and Transportation project that provided updates on the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the project. Staff have been working closely with Food Access and Healthy Neighborhoods Now to schedule additional focus groups for the study. Staff have begun writing the draft report. SMTC staff reviewed the draft concepts with the City of Syracuse for the Midler Ave & New Court Ave Multimodal Study, determining the additional bike treatments along Midler Ave are desirable. Staff have worked to refine the draft concepts and develop materials for a public meeting scheduled for June 16th at Lyncourt School in their auditorium. Virtual engagement materials will be provided on the study's webpage.

Staff are in the process of developing an approach to summarize the Nottingham Rd Study survey which yielding just under 300 responses. Staff continue to work on drafting sections of the document and development of suggested future treatments will begin in the coming month. Staff are preparing detailed gap maps to determine recommendation ideas for the Cicero Active Transportation Plan which will identify roadways that are currently being measured to determine lane, shoulder, median and right-of-way widths. This information will help SMTC determine what types of facilities may be appropriate for each identified road.

SMTC staff participated in a virtual workshop with staff from the City of Syracuse, CenterState CEO, and Centro for the City of Syracuse Thriving Communities Grant Coordination and Management Assistance Program. Staff continue to meet with the TCTA (Thriving Communities Technical Assistance) team from Washington to identify issues and opportunities for the team to address. Work sessions with city agencies and Centro are scheduled for the beginning of June.

A scoping meeting with City staff was held to review an initial draft scope of the LaFayette Road Corridor Study which is also on today's agenda. The Meadowbrook Drive Corridor Study is a new project, and scoping will commence in Q2 of this program year. The City of Syracuse has asked for a short-term action plan to be fast-tracked for the Center City Parking and Mobility Study to address existing and upcoming parking constraints as it relates to facilities going offline and the I-81 Viaduct Project. Two study advisory committee meetings were held in May along with a virtual meeting. Discussions around specific issues and concerns highlighted demand for parking on the eastern side of Downtown. SMTC staff held meetings with parking facility operators, identifying available parking spaces, primarily on the western and southern ends of Downtown. The efforts have identified enough parking within Downtown to accommodate any temporary displacement and are now focusing on short-term efforts to improve mobility around the district to help connect businesses to the available parking. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that there are enough available spaces, just not where people want them to be. This project should be wrapped up this summer.

An initial scoping discussion was held with the Town of Clay and representatives from Onondaga County Department of Planning for the Town of Clay Hamlet/Village Concept Refinement and Multimodal Access project. Staff have begun preparing a scope of work that will be shared with the Town and County for review prior to approval. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the scope of the Martisco to Otisco Lake Trail Evaluation project should be

ready for approval next month. An initial scoping discussion was held with the Onondaga County Department of Planning and SMTC staff for the NYS Route 31 Corridor Planning – Next Steps study. SMTC staff started preparing a scope for County review.

SMTC staff met with the project sponsors to develop a plan for the project scope of work for the Greater Baldwinsville Pedestrian/Bike Connective Corridor. The scope was drafted and will be on today's agenda. SMTC staff is still scoping the Baldwinsville Bypass – Phase II: Technical Modeling Analysis and are working closely with the village and town. The SOCRIS (Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer) Corridor Study is 25 miles in length from the City of Fulton to the Village of Cleveland. In preparation for a scoping meeting, SMTC met with the Oswego County Director of Planning as well as the lead planning consultant who is developing the county's comprehensive plan. Mr. D'Agostino expects this scope to be completed by July.

SMTC staff have begun drafting a scope outline for the Shop City Mobility Study and will coordinate with Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse at a scoping meeting in early June. The initial research into ITS Architecture and related Strategic Plans development has started and is ongoing.

Lastly, Mr. D'Agostino indicated that various administrative modifications and amendments have taken place to the capital program over the month for the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Development & Maintenance and mentioned that a large TIP Amendment is being created for the July 23rd SMTC Planning & Policy Committee Meeting.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

This is an informational only item.

4. OLD BUSINESS

I-81 Project Update

Ms. Bergan indicated that the I-81 project update has been deferred until the next Policy Committee Meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Scope of Work Approval

Mr. D'Agostino is looking for the SMTC Planning Committee to review and approve the following Studies:

1) LaFayette Road Corridor Study:

Mr. D'Agostino explained the SMTC is undertaking this study on behalf of the City of Syracuse (City). SMTC will manage a consultant team to conduct the work for this study. The study will evaluate LaFayette Rd, from the City line to E Seneca Turnpike, and a small segment of E Seneca Turnpike, from LaFayette Rd to E Brighton Ave.

This planning level study seeks to increase the safety for all users of the transportation system with an emphasis on increasing non-motorized mode share along the corridor. Existing land use around the corridor varies, with large scale residential apartments and suburban style commercial plazas on the north end, to a more rural character as you

travel south towards the City line. A pending redevelopment of the vacant golf course into a mixed-residential development will impact the character of the corridor and its mobility needs. The incoming development will adhere to city street specifications, including the addition of sidewalks, bike lanes, and off-street trails. This study will consider ways to connect potential developments into the region's overall transportation network, providing seamless connectivity between the internal street network and LaFayette Rd.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the SMTC Planning Committee approve the LaFayette Road Corridor Study.

Mr. Kerney moved and Ms. Bergan seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2) Greater Baldwinsville Bicycle & Pedestrian Connective Corridor Study:

Mr. D'Agostino explained the SMTC is undertaking this study on behalf of the Village of Baldwinsville (Village) and Towns of Lysander and Van Buren (Towns). SMTC will manage a consultant team to conduct the work for this study.

The three municipalities are looking to examine a set of complete streets corridors for bicyclists and pedestrians to circumnavigate the Towns and Village and provide connectivity between various parks and other local amenities such as restaurants, retail, and commercial businesses, as well as to consider future connections to the Empire State Trail system and Onondaga County's Loop the Lake Trail.

This study will include a data-based assessment of several corridors to determine their potential for on-road bicycle facilities to the extent practicable, for the purpose of providing safe and accessible complete street routes for bicyclists, walkers, and joggers. Off-road trails are preferred where feasible and will also be considered and examined.

The proposed boundary limits of the study area will be determined at the kick-off SAC but are loosely considered to follow an immediate study area (with connections starting near/from existing trails in the Village of Baldwinsville that will lead to Lysander Town Park, Baldwinsville Community Park, and Van Buren Central Park) and a secondary study area (where potential/future connections to parks, trails and neighborhoods located beyond the immediate study area may be considered).

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the SMTC Planning Committee approve the Greater Baldwinsville Bicycle & Pedestrian Connective Corridor Study.

Mr. McKeon moved and Ms. Bergan seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously

B. Route 49 Mobility Study

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the Study was initiated as part of the 2024-2025 UPWP on behalf of the Town of West Monroe to address concerns regarding traffic volume impacts and few to no existing bicycle and pedestrian amenities.

The Town (and Village of Central Square) want to best manage vehicular traffic, maintain acceptable levels of service at intersections, and increase mobility options for walking, biking, and safely riding snowmobiles.

SMTC used its travel demand model to forecast traffic growth out to 2050 and then calculated growth factors to enter into a microsimulation model (Synchro software) to assess existing and future (2050) intersection traffic operations. Based on analysis findings, SMTC further modeled a future (2050) mitigation scenario that considered the need to add turn lanes, travel lanes, and other geometry mitigation improvements at select locations to improve modeled operations.

SMTC then developed detailed concept plans that show the envisioned mitigation improvements. The concepts include mobility improvement options for new bicycle, pedestrian and snowmobile amenities, improved lighting, and other related enhancements such as a detailed access management plan for the commercial portion of Route 49 within Central Square.

Mario Colone, Assistant Director of the SMTC, gave a brief presentation of the Route 49 Mobility Study on behalf of Michael Alexander, SMTC Principal Transportation Planner who is absent.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the SMTC Planning Committee recommend the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Route 49 Mobility Study.

Ms. Bergan moved and Mr. McKeon seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities Plan

Mr. D'Agostino explained the Fayetteville Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities Plan was initiated as part of the 2025-2026 UPWP on behalf of the Village of Fayetteville. With incoming growth associated with large-scale investments across Onondaga County and planned developments surrounding the Village of Fayetteville, residents continue to be concerned about congestion and the impact it has on daily life within the Village. Building off the Village of Fayetteville Route 5 Transportation and Land Use Analysis from 2018, SMTC staff collected and analyzed updated traffic data, reviewed travel demand model outputs, and evaluated potential traffic calming measures for side streets.

Overall traffic volumes have remained steady over the last 20 years, with congestion and travel times both decreasing. Incoming growth will negatively impact key intersections along the corridor. NYSDOT and Village leaders will need to evaluate the trade-offs between adding more capacity and changing the character of the Village.

Thomas Bardenett, Principal Transportation of the SMTC, gave a brief presentation of the Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities Plan.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the SMTC Planning Committee recommend the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities Plan.

Ms. Bergan moved and Mr. Kerney seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Bear Trap Creek Connector Study

Mr. D'Agostino explained that stemming from SMTC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the City of Syracuse's Bike Plan, and Onondaga County's Greenways and Blueways initiative, this Study was initiated as part of the 2025-2026 UPWP on behalf of the City of Syracuse to assess potential bike and pedestrian connections between the Bear Trap Creek Bikeway and the Regional Market area.

SMTC heard from stakeholders both directly and through two focus group meetings to further identify priorities, issues, opportunities, and to discuss potential improvements. Issues and opportunities include a high traffic volume truck stop on 7th North Street, two rail bridges, a Superfund site along Ley Creek, numerous ongoing and anticipated improvements in the study area, and I-81.

Based on SAC and stakeholder feedback, direct fieldwork observations, and traffic data from NYSDOT and Replica, SMTC identified three potential paths to improve this connection from Mattydale to the Regional Market, as well as potential connections to nearby neighborhoods, destinations, and the greater trail network.

These potential improvements include photo simulations, cost estimations, and ideas for further study.

Joseph DiStefano, Transportation Planner II of the SMTC, gave a brief presentation of the Bear Trap Creek Connector Study.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the SMTC Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Bear Trap Creek Connector Study.

Mr. Kerney moved and Ms. Glance seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Freight Profile

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the purpose of the report was to document the existing, and at times forecasted, freight transportation system for the SMTC Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The profile drew from previous agency completed efforts like the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Transportation Atlas and Bridge & Pavement Condition Management Systems documentation in support of federal metropolitan transportation planning policies but also regional activities to ensure continuance of freight mobility and reliability along the area's transportation network.

The 2026 profile consisted of an overview of the SMTC's transportation system, a description of commodities carried over and along the freight system and the modes used to carry freight into, out of, and within the Syracuse MPA, notably Onondaga County. Throughout the profile, data related to various modes of transportation (e.g., air, rail, truck) as readily available are categorized. Some of the following datasets and/or specific types of information were used in the summary development: locally identified freight corridors, bridges (conditions, low-clearance, weight restricted), roadway pavement conditions, and medium and heavy-duty vehicle stop event frequency.

Mario Colone, Assistant Director of the SMTC, gave a brief presentation of the Freight Profile.

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

Chairperson Costa called for a motion that the SMTC Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Freight Profile.

Mr. McKeon moved and Ms. Bergan seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Reconnecting Communities Project Coordination

Mr. D'Agostino explained the building of the extensive planning work performed in recent years surrounding New York State Department of Transportation's (NYSDOT) I-81 viaduct project, the Reconnecting Communities planning grant focused on identifying actionable solutions to improved east-west connectivity across 5 corridors on the City's Southside.

SMTC staff assisted in the development of the scope of services, consultant selection, and coordination of planning efforts at the request of the City of Syracuse. Staff participated in public engagement activities, including the installation of two demonstration projects, as well as the review of the draft report for comments and edits.

Thomas Bardenett, Principal Transportation Planner of the SMTC, gave a brief presentation of the Reconnecting Communities Project Coordination.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

This was an informational item only.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. D'Agostino reminded participants of the upcoming SMTC Policy Committee Meeting scheduled for June 25th.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m. by Chairperson Costa.