



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

**February 13, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Lower-Level Conference Room
Corey Dunham, Chairperson**

AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - September 23, 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 February 13, 2026 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Corey Dunham, Chair
Chris Tuff
Marino Nave
Betsy Parmley
Aaron McKeon
James Fensken
Jake Dishaw
Sara Sherlock
Dereth Glance
Ryan Smith
Jared Shepard
Nicole Watts
Troy Waffner

Organization

City of Syracuse, Office of the Mayor
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
City of Syracuse Common Council
NYS Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
Onondaga County Executive
City of Syracuse – Planning Commission
NYS Thruway Authority
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Empire State Development
CenterState CEO
Onondaga County Legislature
Onondaga County Planning Board

Also Attending

David Roth
Kelly Gibson

NYS Department of Transportation
Onondaga Nation

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Lori Irvine, Andrew Frasier, Jason Deshaies, Joey DiStefano, Kevin Kosakowski, Danielle Krol, and Michael Alexander.

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Dunham called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. in the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Dunham inquired if there were any changes to the September 23, 2025, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. McKeon moved, and Mr. Tuff seconded the approval of the minutes.

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 office from December 9th through December 11th. The review was given by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

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 that overall, 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions. There were none.

This is an informational only item.

~Chairperson Dunham requested a brief roll call from all meeting attendees.

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 there is work that is wrapping up, work that is continuing and a lot more work to come. 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 the 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. Contract one will then be done.

Ms. Parmley mentioned that the contract in the Valley/Brighton Avenue area is wrapping up with hopes of opening one of the closed connector bridges from I-481 to I-81 soon. With winter coming early, it has set them back on a few outstanding items.

Ms. Parmley indicated that the work on I-481 over CSX will continue through the fall. The Spencer Street bridge connecting to the northside in the Inner Harbor is now open with the hope of finishing the Bear Street bridge in the spring. The Court Street bridge will then close and will be completed by the end of this year. Ms. Parmley indicated NYSDOT is working in close coordination with the city to ensure emergency services and plowing can still happen with the closures.

Ms. Parmley spoke about the I-690 at Crouse and Irving Avenue area where she indicated that the combined sewer separation along Erie Blvd. is complete and is considered a big community benefit. The new onramp onto I-690 east from Crouse Avenue is open and explained that the acceleration lane will get longer once the Lodi Street bridge deck is open. Ms. Parmley indicated that the I-690 work will continue into 2027.

Ms. Parmley indicated that Contract 5, the Southside contract where they are bringing Business Loop I-81 to street is "full steam ahead" with completion scheduled sometime in 2028. Ms. Parmley mentioned that they are planning on closing Van Buren St. on the back side of the Dome in the spring for approximately 6 months and are working closely with the City of Syracuse, Syracuse University, hill stakeholders and Syracuse Housing, for and any impacts to their properties in that area.

Ms. Parmley indicated that Contract 6, which is the entire reconstruction of I-690 from Crouse Avenue just past West Street, is currently in procurement. Ms. Parmley indicated that this contract is nearly a billion dollars and is the largest in NYSDOT's history. Ms. Parmley is hopeful there will be a design-build team on board this spring/summer. Prep work will then begin. Construction will not start until late 2026/early 2027. Ms. Parmley stressed that this is a very big contract and will be very impactful with the reconstruction of an interstate that is a couple of miles long. Chairperson Dunham asked how long this contract will take and Ms. Parmley indicated approximately 4 years.

Lastly, the drainage/trunk line contract which separates the combined sewer line from Almond Street to Onondaga Creek is in procurement and will be in construction this summer.

Ms. Parmley expressed that everyone should get the I-81 app to stay informed.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any other 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee adopt the 2026-2027 UPWP.

Ms. Parmley moved, and Ms. Glance 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. Corey Dunham, graciously agreed to stay on as Chairperson of the SMTC Policy Committee with Mr. Chris Tuff from the CNY RTA as Vice Chairperson.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee elect herself as Chairperson and Chris Tuff as Vice Chairperson.

Ms. Glance 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion to have the Policy Committee adopt the Performance Measure Targets.

Mr. Dishaw moved, and Mr. McKeon 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the Rt. 31 Transit Corridor Assessment as complete.

Mr. McKeon moved, and Mr. Smith 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System report.

Ms. Glance moved, and Ms. Parmley 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 Dunham asked if there were any questions. There were none.

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

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge completion of the Route 57 Complete Streets Study.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Parmley moved, and Mr. Shepard seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that the next meeting will be held sometime in May.