



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

**June 25, 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**
 - February 13, 2026
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
 - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Route 49 Mobility Study
 - B. Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities Plan
 - C. Bear Trap Creek Connector Study
 - D. Freight Profile
 - E. 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 25, 2026 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Corey Dunham, Chair
Chris Tuff
Marino Nave
Betsy Parmley
David Bottar
Jake Dishaw
Sara Sherlock
Dereth Glance
Jared Shepard
Nicole Watts
Troy Waffner
Marty Voss

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
City of Syracuse – Planning Commission
NYS Thruway Authority
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
CenterState CEO
Onondaga County Legislature
Onondaga County Planning Board
Onondaga County Executive

Also Attending

David Roth
Kelly Gibson
Ben Fischer
Bren Daiss
NYS Department of Transportation
Onondaga Nation
Federal Highway Administration
CNY Regional Transportation Authority

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Danielle Krol, Michael Alexander, Tom Bardenett, Kevin Kosakowski, Andrew Frasier, Joseph DiStefano, Evan Tuthill, and Elizabeth Conley.

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 February 13, 2026, minutes.

Hearing none, Chairperson Dunham called for a motion.

Mr. Shepard moved, and Mr. Waffner seconded the approval of the minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. **UPWP Status Report**

Mr. D'Agostino discussed the following highlights from the May 2026 UPWP Status Report:

Under General Administration, Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the scoping of new projects as well as closing out last year's projects is currently underway as the new SMTC program year began on April 1, 2026. Mr. D'Agostino introduced two new SMTC staff members, Elizabeth Conley, and Evan Tuthill to the committee. They recently joined the SMTC team as Transportation Planner II's. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that under Public Participation a new SMTC Brochure has been designed, printed and is available to committee members. The SMTC website required some significant updates and corrections to work towards making it ADA compliant under the federal guidelines. The SMTC held a Forum on Active Transportation (FOAT) meeting that was well attended as well as a public meeting for the Midler Ave study.

The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee released draft legislative text for the next surface transportation reauthorization. The Senate has not yet released their version and the future is unknown. Work continues on closing out all carryover projects such as the Bear Trap Creek study which will be discussed later in the agenda. Initial staff assignments and scoping for the new UPWP are underway. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the program is very large and will be completed over a two-year cycle. The next Call-Letter will be limited due to the size of the program. Additionally, at the request of the New York State Department of Transportation, a UPWP Amendment was processed for adding \$100,000 in State Planning and Research (SPR) funds for modeling related to Micron and I-81. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that the planning for the 2027 NYSAMPO Conference in Syracuse is currently underway and all member agencies are welcome to attend at no charge.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that traffic count data has been collected in support of some of the projects. Approximately 25 people attended the FOAT meeting on April 29th where SMTC staff shared updates on several on-going and upcoming studies. This summer, SMTC staff will develop a "living" map that includes existing and planned trails in the MPA area. Work continues on the Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS) report. SMTC staff have begun synthesizing bridge data and compiling pavement information based on currently available data.

Mr. D'Agostino explained to committee members that the "Special" SMTC Planning and Policy Committee meetings originally scheduled for July 23rd at the request of New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) due to the need of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment has been cancelled and a future meeting date will be determined. SMTC staff have summarized meetings with NYSDOT, OCDOT, and the City of Syracuse regarding potential implementation opportunities/strategies for the Bicycle Commuter Corridor project. Staff will begin preparing a draft approach to tackling future implementation of a 4–5-pronged spine that can serve as a commuter bicycling network in the MPA.

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that the Freight Profile draft final report has been prepared and will be presented later in the agenda as being complete. Additionally, staff attended the May 19th Port of New York & New Jersey tour along with other MPOs which was

deemed very informative. SMTC staff attended the kick-off meeting and are coordinating with Onondaga County and the project's consultant for the Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan and three projects are moving forward this summer to be installed for the Community Streets Program.

SMTC staff held a study advisory committee meeting for the Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities – Phase 2 project. Staff conducted fieldwork and observations of each area and conducted an existing conditions assessment of the study area. Staff are also developing potential trail concepts for review.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that NYSDOT has requested SMTC's assistance with a request from FHWA 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. SMTC staff are currently compiling the data and should be completed by the end of the summer.

SMTC staff have been working toward finalization of the draft technical memorandum for the OCDOT Operations and Safety Analysis. Staff are revisiting the Operations analysis portion of the tech memo, particularly the synchro modeling analysis and will be attempting to wrap up the Henry Clay Boulevard analysis soon and moving toward the South Bay Road analysis. 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. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the project is moving along nicely.

SMTC staff reviewed draft concepts with the City of Syracuse for the Midler Ave & New Court Ave Multimodal Study. A public meeting was held on June 16th at Lyncourt School with approximately 12 guests in attendance. Virtual engagement materials will be provided on the study's webpage. SMTC staff are in the process of developing an approach to summarize the Nottingham Rd Multimodal Improvements study survey and work continues on drafting sections of the document. SMTC staff are reviewing the gap maps it created to identify where to suggest active transportation improvements for the Cicero Active Transportation Plan. Identified roadways are currently being measured to determine lane, shoulder, median and right-of-way widths. Other information such as AADT, posted speed limits, etc. are being collected. This project will be wrapped up soon.

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 study. The workshop focused on identifying specific focus areas based on existing conditions. Staff reviewed the first draft chapters and provided public engagement summaries for recent efforts within the study area. Work sessions with city agencies and Centro are scheduled. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the LaFayette Road Corridor Study was scoped and approved by the SMTC Planning Committee two weeks ago.

The Meadowbrook Drive Corridor Study is a new project, and scoping will begin later this summer. Mr. D'Agostino explained that the City of Syracuse has asked the SMTC for a short-term action plan for the Center City Parking and Mobility Study to be fast-tracked to

address existing and upcoming parking constraints as it relates to facilities going offline and the I-81 Viaduct Project. A scope of work for a Technical Analysis has been agreed upon by the assembled Study Advisory Committee and good progress is being made for draft recommendations. Once the Technical Analysis has been completed, it will go back to being a full-blown study.

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 study, which has turned into research and identification of plausible development guidelines for Clay per Mr. D'Agostino. The Martisco to Otisco Lake Trail Evaluation scoping meeting has been held and the draft scope has been completed. The study will be going to the SMTC Planning Committee to review soon. An initial scoping discussion was held with the Onondaga County Department of Planning for the NYS Route 31 Corridor Planning – Next Steps study. SMTC staff started preparing a scope of work for County review.

The draft scope of work was approved by the SMTC Planning Committee two weeks ago for the Greater Baldwinsville Pedestrian/Bike Connective Corridor study and an RFP has been released for a consultant to perform the work. Mr. D'Agostino explained that discussions regarding the Baldwinsville Bypass – Phase II: Technical Modeling Analysis is happening on whether there will be any benefit or improvement if the development of this project is beneficial.

Mr. D'Agostino explained that 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 as they prepare for residential growth in the area due to Micron. 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. Initial research into the ITS Architecture development has started with the ITS Strategic Plan Update: Review and Scope for New Plan.

Lastly, various administrative modifications and amendments took place to the capital program over the month for TIP Development & Maintenance. TIP approved information was then entered into the new statewide capital program management software for addition to the Statewide TIP. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that a July CPC meeting has been scheduled to ensure all projects are obligated.

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

This is an information item only.

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:

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any other questions, there were none.

This is an informational only item.

*Chairperson Dunham and Mr. D'Agostino introduced Ben Fischer from The Federal Highway Administration.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **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.

Mr. Michael Alexander, Principal Transportation Planner 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 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 Route 49 Mobility Study.

Ms. Glance moved, and Mr. Tuff seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Fayetteville – Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities Plan**

Mr. D'Agostino explained that 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.

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

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the Fayetteville-Route 5 Transportation & Smart Growth Opportunities Plan as complete.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

C. 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.

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

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Bear Trap Creek Connector Study.

Ms. Sherlock moved, and Ms. Watts seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. 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.

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

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Freight Profile.

Ms. Parmley moved, and Mr. Nave seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Reconnecting Communities Project Coordination

Mr. D'Agostino explained that building off 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.

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

Chairperson Dunham asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

This is an informational item only.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Dunham called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Voss moved, and Mr. Tuff seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

The motion passed unanimously.