SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES
of the
October 1, 2026
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING

Voting Members	Organization
Christopher Tuff - *Chairperson*	CNY Regional Transportation Authority
Mary Robison	City of Syracuse
Aaron McKeon	CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
David Roth	New York State Department of Transportation

Also Attending

Bren Daiss	CNY Regional Transportation Authority

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, and Lori Irvine

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Tuff called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. in the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. D'Agostino mentioned that he would like to add a discussion regarding the next UPWP cycle under 5C on the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Tuff asked if there were any changes to the September 3, 2026, minutes.

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

Mr. Roth moved, and Mr. McKeon 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 August 2026. The SMTC is approximately 3% in the black and on target. A few consultant contracts are coming up where the budget will get hit harder but Mr. D'Agostino feels the SMTC should be ok through the end of the year. He will keep an eye on it and will adjust it accordingly if needed.

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

Mr. D'Agostino held interviews and selected someone for the analyst staffing position. She begins on Monday. Also, interviews were held, and a selection was made for the Administrative Assistant position as the current Administrative Assistant will be retiring in January. She will begin on October 16th to start her training.

In support of the Coordinated Plan, letters were mailed to numerous human resource agencies and transportation providers. SMTC staff also tabled at a couple of community organization meetings. SMTC website updates also occurred.

In early September, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution through December 11th that allows funding to continue starting October 1st and extends the surface transportation legislation as well.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that four new scopes of work were approved last month and work efforts are now underway. SMTC staff are also working on crafting scopes of work for a few new projects remaining on the 2026-2027 UPWP. Planning for the 2027 NYSAMPO Conference continues with a call for presentations to be released this week. Efforts have been revolving around and preparing for the new Transportation Analyst to begin on Monday to train her on the Geographic Information System.

SMTC staff participated in the quarterly virtual NYSAMPO Bike/Ped Working Group meeting on September 18th. The group received updates on the NYSDOT Active Strategic Plan which is due to be completed before the end of the year. Also, TAP applications are undergoing their final reviews and "winners" will be notified once the governor's announcement is given.

SMTC staff has completed the city and county pavement ratings ahead of schedule and drafting of the document has occurred. SMTC staff attended and participated in the Onondaga County Legislature led Housing and Transportation Open House. SMTC staff were also a panelist at a recent FOCUS Citizens Academy meeting that was well attended. SMTC staff have been updating bicycle-and-trail-related GIS mapping and expect to have an abbreviated project to Onondaga County Department of Planning soon. For the Coordinated Plan, staff conducted a paper mailing to 60 transit providers/coordinators in our region. SMTC staff have been distributing surveys with the assistance of Steering Committee members. SMTC staff attended Centro's Bus Rapid Transit meeting where various project updates were provided and SMTC staff provided comments/edits on the latest iteration of the NYSAMPO Freight Working Group truck resource guide.

For Traffic Safety, the SMTC staff facilitated a Safety Working Group agenda meeting in early September, and the Safety Working Group meeting call on September 23rd. SMTC staff attended a City of Syracuse Vision Zero Advisory Committee meeting on September 3rd and a Post-Crash Committee meeting on September 22nd. SMTC staff continue to engage weekly with Onondaga County Department of Planning on SS4A planning efforts. The SMTC is also participating in the county's Wayfinding project for downtown.

For the Community Streets Program, Alchemical Nursery installed their street mural over Labor Day weekend as part of their annual block party. The Syracuse Urbanism Collective had a planned installation for September 26th. SMTC staff have posted project updates on social media and have updated the program website. A late September SAC meeting was planned to share potential draft alignments with the towns of DeWitt and Elbridge for the Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities – Phase 2 project. Obtaining permission to get onto National Grid property for a field visit in DeWitt is possible but will take a bit of time to get through the application process.

CNY Forward coordination meeting with NYSDOT in Albany resumed this month for the Travel Demand Modeling project as it relates to Micron. The NYSDOT team provided SMTC with a general overview of the next round of requested model runs with additional details to follow soon. Mr. D'Agostino has requested an additional 5 weeks of work and $100,000.00 to complete this project as he has exhausted the funds due to other modeling requests.

SMTC staff have put the Henry Clay analysis tech memo out for review to the full SAC and received no comments/updates for the Onondaga County Department of Transportation Operations and Safety Analysis. SMTC staff look now to finalize that memo while continuing work on the South Bay Road analysis tech memo. The final SAC meeting was held on September 23rd for the Intersecting Community Needs: Food Access and Transportation study where staff provided an overview of the planning effort's draft final document.

SMTC staff sent a full draft report to the SAC for the Midler Ave & New Court Ave Multimodal Study and provided two weeks for review and comments. This project will be presented at the next SMTC Planning and Policy Committee meeting. A SAC meeting for the Nottingham Road Multimodal Improvements study was held on September 16th to review survey results and mapping, discuss issues and opportunities, and review high-level concepts for potential improvements in the Nottingham corridor.

SMTC staff prepped for and facilitated a study advisory committee meeting for the Cicero Active Transportation Plan on September 21st to review draft recommendations, refine ideas, and document next steps to allow staff to start drafting the technical memo. Mr. D'Agostino believes this project should be wrapped up within the next few months. SMTC staff received the full draft report for review and comments on the City of Syracuse Thriving Communities Grant Coordination and Management Assistance study. A final report is expected this month. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the consultant selection for the LaFayette Road Corridor Study will be discussed in detail later in the agenda. SMTC staff conducted an initial windshield survey for the Meadowbrook Drive Corridor Study as well as currently conducting initial fieldwork, mapping existing conditions, and planning public engagement with SAC members. Initial crash analyses were also conducted.

A short-term action plan was finalized for the Center City Parking and Mobility Study and SMTC staff began scoping efforts related to the long-term planning effort. A scoping meeting was held on September 18th with staff from the City of Syracuse to better understand what they hope to see from this larger effort. Research was initiated into development design guidelines for the Town of Clay Hamlet/Village Concept Refinement and Multimodal Access study. A collection of example guidelines will be assembled and then discussed with the Town.

The SMTC staff are currently collecting data and documenting existing conditions for the Martisco to Otisco Lake Trail Evaluation. There has been no significant activity to report on the NYS Route 31 Planning Corridor Planning. SMTC staff are currently working on the draft consultant contract and hope to have the Barton & Loguidice begin work in October on the Greater Baldwinsville Pedestrian/Bike Connective Corridor study. Mr. D'Agostino mentioned there has not been any significant activity to report on the Baldwinsville Bypass – Phase II project. SMTC staff has facilitated several discussions with representatives from Oswego County to discuss the best approach to develop build-out projections for the SOCRIS (Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer) Corridor Study. SMTC also continues to collect needed data and document existing conditions. These items will help set the framework for a Study Advisory Committee meeting. SMTC staff continue to work on existing conditions reporting and reviewing past plans and projects for the Shop City Mobility Study. Outreach to the plaza owners and managers has begun.

Lastly, Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the TIP was maintained throughout the month inclusive of amendment approvals and preparation for future committee action. Several projects missed their obligation deadlines and the monies cannot roll. Discussions will need to occur on how to offset those projects going forward.

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 indicated there is one TIP Amendments for consideration:

Change in cost and/or schedule:
o PIN 375717 (MOBILITY IMPROVEMENTS, RTC/REGIONAL MARKET AREA, SYRACUSE, ONONDAGA CO). □ Sponsor City of Syracuse (City). The City is proposing to delay the Detailed Design phase from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 25/26 to FFY 26/27. No offset necessary.

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

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

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

The motion carried unanimously.

B. LaFayette Road Corridor Study Consultant Selection

Mr. D'Agostino explained that the SMTC published a Request for Proposals in the New York State Contract Reporter on June 17, 2026. Seven proposals were received and have been reviewed by a proposal review committee. The Stantec proposal was

selected to provide the services requested upon approval of the Executive Committee. Should Stantec not be able to perform the work as proposed, and upon Executive Committee approval, contract award and negotiations would then occur with JMT.

Chairperson Tuff asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

Chairperson Tuff called for a motion that the Executive Committee approve of entering into a contract with the consultant for the LaFayette Road Corridor Study.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

C. UPWP – Next Cycle

Mr. D'Agostino informed committee members that he will be sending out a letter saying that the SMTC UPWP program is full, and the SMTC will not be accepting any other big comprehensive studies. A Call-Letter will not be going out as usual. He did, however, indicate that he will be sending out a mini-Call-Letter to member agencies only for any technical assistance studies in approximately two weeks.

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

This was 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 12:27 p.m.

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

The motion passed unanimously.