Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

Unified Planning Work Program Status Report

2026-2027 Program Year – 2nd Half

October 2026

General Administration (Project Manager: James D'Agostino)

October: Two new staff members were hired and joined the SMTC in October. A new Transportation Analyst and a new Administrative Assistant. Onboarding and training for the new staff have been ongoing.

Public Participation and Outreach (and Website) (Project Manager: James D'Agostino)

October: Website maintenance has occurred. The story map section of our web site is being updated including the summary of planning activities conducted by the SMTC. Public notice has gone out for TIP and UPWP amendments planned for November.

Federal Transportation Legislation Examination & Evaluation (Project Manager: Mario Colone)

October: No significant activity to report.

UPWP Previous Year Closeouts (Project Manager: James D'Agostino)

June: All carryover projects are complete. *No further updates on this item.*

UPWP Maintenance & Development (Project Manager: James D'Agostino)

October: A call letter went out to members and the community indicating that there will be no call for new planning projects for the coming UPWP cycle while we catch up on the large number of projects currently on the books. We will still be able to do new technical assistance projects for member agencies and a letter to that effect will go out later this year.

2027 NYSAMPO Conference (SCI Billing) – (Project Manager: James D'Agostino)

October: Conference planning continues. A call for presentations and student posters has gone out and two plenary speakers have been secured.

Census Data Compilation and/or Analysis (Project Manager: Joey DiStefano)

October: Staff are working with new 2020-2024 American Community Survey estimates. No significant activity to report.

Data Collection, Compilation &/or Analysis (Project Manager: Kevin Kosakowski)

October: Staff have worked with Miovision to extract needed count information for a couple intersections for the Safety and Operations project.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - SMTC (Project Manager: Jason Deshaies)

October: New analyst staff were introduced to the SMTC GIS datasets, available software, applications, and documentation. Replica AADT data was downloaded and processed for several projects including SOCRIS. Staff is comparing Replica AADTs to NYSDOT AADTs where available and will create a balanced AADT network for all the roads in the study area.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) – Member Agency Assistance (Project Manager: Jason Deshaies)

October: Staff provided NYSDOT with Replica data and a map showing the distribution of traffic that uses the Route 12 northbound approach to its intersection with Route 11 in Central Square. The map also visualized the general location of the origins and destinations for those trips. Staff is currently working on additional similar requests from NYSDOT.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)

October: TAP award announcements were made in mid-October. CNY received funding for two projects, totaling $1.9 million: sidewalk projects in both Skaneateles (extend sidewalk on the east side of East Lake Street and construct an asphalt trail connection) and the Town of Manlius (installation of ADA-compliant sidewalks along Enders Road).

Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS) (Project Manager: Kevin Kosakowski)

October: Staff last month completed the pavement rating and are working currently on updating elements of the BPCMS report where data is available. Awaiting 2025 NYSDOT pavement data. Also, beginning work on elements of the Pavement Prioritization for the city and the compilation of 2026 ratings for the county.

MPO Area and Regional Planning Initiatives (Project Manager: James D'Agostino)

October: No significant activity to report.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)

October: Staff provided information on the Amendment process to other MPOs in New York State to assist in their planning efforts. The recently passed Amendment to the 2050 MTP was highlighted in the SMTC's October e-newsletter.

Bicycle Commuter Corridor Implementation (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)

October: Staff are continuing to map bicycle-related projects that are scheduled to be completed (those already on the TIP) so that gaps between already completed facilities and planned projects can be identified. Staff are also working to obtain slope information (where available) for the commuter spines.

Rail, Truck & Transit Planning (Project Manager: Mario Colone)

October: At the close of the transportation provider and user's surveys distributed for the Coordinated Plan, staff received 12 responses from transportation providers and 226 responses from users of the transportation system. Staff have been summarizing the information for inclusion in the report. Additionally, the final Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for November 6th. And staff will discuss the statewide Truck Route Resource Guide at the October 27th NYSAMPO Freight Working Group meeting.

Traffic Safety (Project Manager: Michael Alexander)

October: SMTC continues to coordinate on a variety of safety planning initiatives with the City of Syracuse (Vision Zero Committees) and with Onondaga County (SS4A). At the request of the City, SMTC will host an in-person meeting with the City's Vision Zero coordinator and with representatives from the Governors Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) in November. SMTC is also facilitating changes in leadership with the NYSAMPO Safety Working Group. Staff meet with potential co-chairs in October. Staff also coordinated with the Modeling Working Group, Bike/Ped Working Group, and the GIS to arrange a joint demo with Replica to go over new safety apps.

Onondaga County Safe Streets for All Action Plan – Project Coordination (Project Manager: Mario Colone)

October: Staff continued with project assistance throughout the month, which consisted of progress meetings with the County and consultant team, a stakeholder meeting, and a discussion with the consultant team on safety planning and projects within the SMTC planning area.

City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)

October: Staff participated in the City's Vision Zero post-crash committee meetings.

Onondaga County Planning Assistance (Project Manager: James D'Agostino & Mario Colone)

October: Staff participated in requested items from Onondaga County including wayfinding, data requests, and other items.

Community Streets Program (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)

October: The October e-newsletter highlighted the four projects completed in 2026. Staff have drafted a summary of the program year to present to the SMTC committees later this year. Coordination with City of Syracuse staff regarding the next program year continues.

Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities – Phase 2 (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)

October: A SAC meeting has been scheduled for October 27, 2026. Staff will share potential draft alignments of connections between the EST and locations in the Towns of DeWitt and Elbridge. Staff will also share draft concepts of what some of the connections could look like, such as bike lanes, shared use paths, sharrows, etc.

Travel Demand Modeling (Project Manager: Jason Deshaies)

October: Analyst staff reviewed the latest CNY Forward memo and files provided by NYSDOT and generated a master list of all the project components for each of the 16 model runs that are being requested for the project. Several meetings were held with the NYSDOT project team to review the progress of the modeling effort.

OCDOT Operations and Safety Analysis (Project Manager: Kevin Kosakowski)

October: Staff will look to wrap up the finishing touches of the final draft Henry Clay Blvd. report. Staff have shifted their focus mainly to working on the draft South Bay Corridor report.

Intersecting Community Needs: Food Access and Transportation (Project Manager: Mario Colone)

October: On October 17th, staff presented SMTC's planning effort at SOFSA's (Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance) Annual Food Justice Gathering. The draft final report was assembled, which will be presented to the Planning and Policy Committees in late Fall/early Winter.

Midler Ave & New Court Ave Multimodal Study (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)

October: A draft report was posted for public review and comment on October 16th. Comments were accepted through October 30th.

Nottingham Rd Multimodal Improvements (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)

October: Staff are in the process of creating more in-depth plan views, cross sections and conceptual visualizations for the suggested improvements based on discussions held during the September SAC meeting. Staff are also developing the text for each of the potential treatment ideas.

Cicero Active Transportation Plan (Project Manager: Michael Alexander)

October: Staff have incorporated Study Advisory Committee (SAC) comments into the draft recommendation maps and documents. Staff are now conducting a high-level townwide crash assessment. Staff are also outlining a draft technical report. Staff attended relevant training sessions at the American Planning Association conference on 10/15 and 10/16.

City of Syracuse Thriving Communities Grant Coordination and Management Assistance (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)

October: Staff have continued to participate in the Networked Communities calls, including a wrap up session to highlight successes and areas of improvement for the program. Staff expect to review the final document in the coming weeks as the program draws to a close.

LaFayette Road Corridor Study (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)

October: The SMTC Executive Committee approved awarding the consultant contract to Stantec. Consultants have been notified of the status of their applications. A brief meeting with the selected consultant was held to iron out contract details.

Meadowbrook Drive Corridor Study (Project Manager: Joey DiStefano)

October: SMTC staff have conducted fieldwork measurements, documented existing conditions, and outlining previous reports. Staff are working on a draft of a public survey, developing a project website, and creating a draft report layout.

Center City Parking and Mobility Study (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)

October: The Short-Term Action Plan was sent to SAC members for their review and to be used in their immediate planning efforts. Staff have drafted a scope of work for the long-term planning effort. The draft will be sent to the Planning Committee for approval in the coming days.

Town of Clay Hamlet/Village Concept Refinement and Multimodal Access (Project Manager: Mario Colone)

October: Staff continue researching circulation, accessibility, parking, and streetscapes design guidelines. A draft scope of work was shared with the Town for their review and comment. The draft will be sent to the Planning Committee for their approval in the coming weeks.

Martisco to Otisco Lake Trail Evaluation (Project Manager: Michael Alexander)

October: Staff continue to investigate road crossing design options and on-road and off-road design options. Staff attended relevant training sessions at the American Planning Association conference on 10/15 and 10/16. Staff are reviewing project task files completed to date and developed a list of questions to guide a future meeting with the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA).

NYS Route 31 Corridor Planning – Next Steps (Project Manager: Mario Colone)

October: A draft scope of work was shared with the County Department of Planning for their input. The draft will be sent to the Planning Committee for their approval in the coming weeks.

Greater Baldwinsville Pedestrian/Bike Connective Corridor (Project Manager: Danielle Krol)

October: The contract with B&L in the process of being signed and executed.

Baldwinsville Bypass – Phase II: Technical Modeling Analysis (Project Manager: Jason Deshaies)

October: A draft scope of work is nearly complete and coordination with the project team continues.

SOCRIS (Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer) Corridor Study (Project Manager: Michael Alexander)

October: Staff reached out to officials at Oswego County to request confirmation that their engineering consultant will conduct a full-buildout assessment for the sewer district. SMTC is currently using its Travel Demand Model to identify which outputs may best inform planning-level decisions. SMTC is also going through a process to validate traffic volume data collected by Replica. SMTC will provide various state agencies, including the NYSDEC, with an update in November.

Shop City Mobility Study (Project Manager: Tom Bardenett)

October: Staff and SAC members met with the property management team of Shop City Plaza to discuss their future plans for the plaza area and consult on public engagement activities within the plaza. A study website was developed alongside a public survey. The survey was released on October 15th and is open through November 20th. The survey has been promoted via social media, the October e-newsletter, and direct communication with community groups. Staff conducted fieldwork and in-person surveying at Shop City over the course of two days, as well as attending the Eastwood TNT meeting. Staff continue to work on existing conditions and promoting the survey.

ITS Strategic Plan Update: Review and Scope for New Plan (Project Manager: Mario Colone)

October: No significant activity to report.

TIP Development & Maintenance (Project Manager: Mario Colone)

October: Throughout the month, staff created the Federal Fiscal Year 2025/2026 end-of-year summary report and put together the required list of annual obligations. Both items will be available on the SMTC website. At the close of the year, approximately 99% of the FHWA programmed funds were obligated. Additionally, several amendments were prepared in advance of the November Executive Committee meeting.

Miscellaneous Activities and Special Technical Assistance (Project Manager: James D'Agostino)

October: No significant activity to report.