



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 3, 2019

10:00 a.m.

*Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Lower Level Conference Room
Syracuse*

Mary Robison, Chairperson, Presiding

AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - November 27, 2018
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. 2018-2019 UPWP Status Report
 - B. Update on the I-81 Viaduct Project from the NYSDOT
- 4. Old Business**

None
- 5. New Business**
 - A. 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program
 - B. Self Certification
 - C. TIP Amendments
 - D. Armory Square Mobility Plan – Draft Final Report
 - E. Bridge and Pavement Condition Management System – Draft Final Report
 - F. Vision Zero Presentation
 - G. SMTC Website Redesign
- 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 • New York State Department of Economic 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 3, 2019 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Mary Robison, Chair
David Bottar
Neil Burke
Megan Costa
Odean Dyer
Mark Frechette
Mike Jauch
Casey Jordan
Owen Kerney
EJ Moses
Ben Sio

Organization

City of Syracuse
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
City of Syracuse DPW
Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Thruway Authority
Onondaga County Legislature
City of Syracuse - Planning
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CenterState CEO

Also Attending

Eric Hathaway
John Reichert
City of Ithaca
NYS Department of Transportation

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Thomas Bardenett, Kevan Busa, Mario Colone, Jason Deshaies, Andrew Frasier, Kevin Kosakowski, Danielle Krol, Aaron McKeon, James Squier, Meghan Vitale, and Patricia Wortley

BUSINESS MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Robison called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, Syracuse, NY.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairperson inquired if there were any changes to the November 27, 2018 minutes. Hearing none, the Chairperson called for a motion.

Ms. Costa moved and Mr. Bottar seconded approval of the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. UPWP STATUS REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following: We are launching our new website this month. No real progress has been made on a new infrastructure bill. A large Fast Act rescission is pending at this time. The new projects for this program year are either scoped or in the process of being scoped. We are hosting the NYSAMPO Conference in Syracuse. Mr. D'Agostino encouraged people to attend the conference, as it is free of charge. Data collection is underway by our consultant and staff. We are also collecting this year's Bridge and Pavement data. The Bridge and Pavement report will be presented today. We are undertaking a GIS project for the County collecting speed limits for their roads. The I-81 Viaduct Project DEIS has been released. We are hosting a joint

Planning and Policy Committee meeting on I-81 on June 26. The Geddes/Fayette Complete Street Project is scheduled for a summer completion. A Long Range Transportation Plan Working Group meeting is scheduled for June 11. The Cicero Route 11 project is progressing. The Erie Blvd Transit study will be done by fall. The TIP is on the agenda today.

B. UPDATE ON THE I-81 VIADUCT PROJECT FROM THE NYS DOT

Mr. Frechette stated that they are only going to build one solution for the I-81 interchange. They made a decision to release the preliminary DEIS in April. In that, they are recommending a preferred alternative of the Community Grid Alternative. A community meeting will be held on June 18, at 3:00 p.m., with a presentation at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Frechette stated that the Community Grid has components in it that came from their outreach efforts. Studying the tunnel there is a lot of information that came from the Orange Tunnel Alternative. The Community Grid had some new components, including the Business Loop 81. That will allow for DOT to maintain a freeway north and south of the City. The proposal for the Community Grid is to disperse the traffic; it will not be on Almond Street. It is a big change for this project. People were concerned at losing that 81 shield. People will be able to go 65 MPH to 690. They are looking to do further enhancements to the Bear Street Corridor. There are many things that have been updated. They are zeroing in. This is what DOT believes is the best solution. There is still time for comment. There will be local outreach meetings. The SMTC is hosting a meeting on June 26. Mr. D'Agostino stated the NYS DOT would need to come to the SMTC Committees in order to add the project to the TIP.

Mr. Frechette stated there would be neighborhood meetings in the suburbs and the city. They will also be having noise wall meetings, but those meetings have not been set up at this time.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. D'Agostino stated that we are adopting the new multi-year TIP. Mr. Colone gave an overview of the process and the projects. We are maintaining fiscal constraint as required. Additionally, we also must adopt a resolution for our Self Certification. Mr. D'Agostino thanked the members who spent a lot of time getting to this point. The new TIP goes into effect October 1.

Mr. Kerney moved and Mr. Bottar seconded a motion that the Policy Committee adopt the 2020-2024 TIP at their June 19 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. SELF CERTIFICATION

Mr. D'Agostino stated that in addition to adopting the new multi-year TIP, we also must adopt a resolution for our Self Certification. He gave an overview of the federal Certification. Our last on-site certification was in 2017.

Mr. Moses moved and Ms. Costa seconded a motion that the Policy Committee adopt the Self Certification Resolution at their June 19 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. TIP AMENDMENTS

Mr. D'Agostino stated that the City of Syracuse and Centro are in need of amendments to the

2017-2021 TIP.

Addition of project:

Bridge NY awards

PIN 375651 (E Brighton Ave over NYSW Superstructure Replacement, BIN 2208610, City of Syracuse, Onon Co). Total cost \$3,605,000. Sponsor City of Syracuse. Project sponsor requests addition of project to program to replace bridge. Project awarded funding via statewide Bridge NY solicitation.

PIN 375657 (W Colvin St over Onondaga Creek Bridge Rehabilitation, BIN 2208360, City of Syracuse, Onon Co). Total cost \$895,000. Sponsor City of Syracuse. Project sponsor requests addition of project to program to rehabilitate bridge. Project awarded funding via statewide Bridge NY solicitation.

TAP/CMAQ awards

PIN 395072 (Lodi St Connector, City of Syracuse, Onon Co). Total cost \$351,000. Sponsor City of Syracuse. Project sponsor requests addition of project to program to install on-road bicycle facilities. Project awarded funding via statewide TAP/CMAQ solicitation.

PIN 395073 (CNYRTA Expanded Transit Service, Onon Co). Total cost \$6,250,000. Sponsor Central New York Regional Transportation Authority. Project sponsor requests addition of expand mid-day, second, and third shift transit service. Project awarded funding via statewide TAP/CMAQ solicitation.

PIN 395074 (Creekwalk Improvements, Bridge and Walk Maintenance, City of Syracuse, Onon Co). Total cost \$1,370,000. Sponsor City of Syracuse. Project sponsor requests addition of project to program to rehabilitate a multi-use trail bridge over Onondaga Creek to address structural deficiencies and reconstruct existing sections of the trail to the north to meet current standards for multi-use trails. Project awarded funding via statewide TAP/CMAQ solicitation.

Mr. Colone stated there is a small inaccuracy in the Creekwalk amendment. The total is \$1.535M. For the Centro CMAQ project, Centro requested FHWA funds be transferred to FTA. As such, the entire \$5M CMAQ award is now listed in one year. Mr. D'Agostino stated the changes would be made to the amendments prior to going to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Kerney moved and Mr. Frechette seconded a motion that the Policy Committee approve the Resolutions for the above projects. Motion carried.

D. ARMORY SQUARE MOBILITY PLAN – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino stated that this study was done at the request of the City of Syracuse. Mr. McKeon gave an overview of the project.

Mr. Jordan thought the idea of closing off Walton Street would be attractive, but that would lead to the loss of parking spaces and that would be damaging to the businesses. Mr. McKeon stated that it is very hard to find parking in the area at night. Mr. Jordan sited an area of Dublin. Discussion occurred over the perfect balance for parking and pedestrians. The Chairperson inquired if the raised crosswalks are able to be plowed. Mr. McKeon stated they are. Mr. Jordan inquired about adding a parking garage. Mr. McKeon stated they did have a discussion. The cost to build a garage is \$25,000 - \$30,000 per spot and it is difficult to recoup your cost of construction.

Mr. Burke moved and Ms. Costa seconded a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the report. Motion carried.

E. BRIDGE AND PAVEMENT CONDITION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. D’Agostino stated that this is a recurring report. Mr. Frasier gave an overview of the work product.

Mr. D’Agostino stated that the SMTC staff would now be rating all City streets, not just the Federal Aid Eligible roads.

Mr. Frechette moved and Mr. Moses seconded a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the report. Motion carried.

F. VISION ZERO PRESENTATION

Mr. D’Agostino introduced Mr. Hathaway from the City of Ithaca. Mr. Hathaway gave an informational presentation on the program. This initiative started in Ithaca, but it involves a statewide component. The goal of Vision Zero is eliminating traffic fatalities in any given community. He discussed whether speed limits make a difference themselves. Yes, speed limits have an effect on people’s behaviors. He reviewed the difference of hitting a pedestrian at 20 MPH and 40 MPH.

Mr. Hathaway conducted an appropriate speed limit survey of roads in Ithaca. In Ithaca, the appropriate speed is 25 MPH. However, V&T Law Section 1643 prohibits cities and villages from establishing area-wide speed limits below 30 MPH. Lowering speed limit = reduced speed.

Inquiry was made as to a desire to see lower speed limits. Mr. Bottar inquired as to why the V&T limit was set. Mr. Hathaway does not know. Mr. Frechette stated that you do see in other states where there are some very funky speed limits. Some of it is done purposely to generate revenue for that area.

Mr. Hathaway stated that if enough people are saying they care about it they could lobby elected officials to make a change. Mr. Frechette stated that a limitation the NYSDOT has for setting a speed limit is the drivers’ comfort level and looking at the 85th percentile speed, which ultimately dictates the speed limit.

Vision Zero is putting pressure on and they are taking out the 85th percentile. Ms. Costa inquired if there is a number of municipalities looking to lower or increase speed limits. Mr. Frechette does not have an exact number, but circumstances play a role in the requests.

No action is required of this Committee.

G SMTC WEBSITE REDESIGN

Mr. D’Agostino stated that the SMTC contracted with Syracuse Design Group to undertake an upgrade of our website. Mr. Colone gave an overview of the new features on the site.

Ms. Costa inquired about interactive maps. Mr. D’Agostino stated that all of the same maps that are on our current site would be available. We will have interactive maps. Mr. Frechette

inquired if going forward staff will be able to manipulate the website or would the consultant have to make the change. Mr. D'Agostino stated that staff would be able to make changes to the site.

No action is required of this Committee.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. D'Agostino stated the City has asked for assistance for writing a RFP for their Traffic Control Center (TCC). We will most likely have to hire a consultant to assist the City.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m. with a motion from Mr. Kerney, seconded by Mr. Bottar.