



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

December 2, 2022

10:00 a.m.

**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Lower-Level Conference Room
126 N. Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202**

Megan Costa, Chairperson, Presiding

AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - August 5, 2022
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. UPWP Status Report
- 4. Old Business**
 - I-81 Project Update
- 5. New Business**
 - A. TIP Amendments
 - TAP/CMAQ Projects
 - B. Coordinated Plan
 - C. Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System
 - D. Brighton/Seneca Technical Analysis
 - E. Micron
 - F. Election of Officers
- 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 December 2, 2022 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Megan Costa, Chair
Brian Schultz
Katrina Bergan
Jonathan Link-Logan
Mary Robison, Vice Chair
Odean Dyer
Jim Beebe
Allison Bodine
Neil Burke
Sara Sherlock
Aaron McKeon

Organization

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

Also Attending

Rich Sawczak
Bren Daiss
Christopher Tuff

NYS Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
CNY Regional Transportation Authority

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mario Colone, Andrew Frasier, Tom Bardenett, Alexander McRoberts, Joseph DiStefano, Kevin Kosakowski, Meghan Vitale, Michael Alexander, Jason Deshaies, and Lori Irvine.

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Costa called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at the SMTC Lower-Level Conference Room.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. D'Agostino indicated there were no additions or changes to the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any changes to the August 5, 2022, minutes. Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion. Mr. Schultz moved, and Mr. Burke seconded the Approval of the Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. **UPWP Status Report**

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following:

General Administration: Upcoming SMTC Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for December 15th. A Public Notice was advertised of upcoming TIP Amendments. **UPWP Maintenance & Development:** A solicitation went out for the 2023-2024 UPWP cycle. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that an application is available on the SMTC website. **Census Data Compilation and/or Analysis:** Staff continue to prepare for the release of the new urban area boundaries from the U.S. Census Bureau and how those boundaries will affect the SMTC's metropolitan planning area. The Census Bureau estimates that these boundaries will be released in December. **Geographic Information Systems – SMTC:** Staff compiled information on existing bike infrastructure in preparation for updating the SMTC Bike Map as some of the information was outdated. The completed Empire State Trail will also be referenced. **Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning:** The Forum on Active Transportation (FOAT) was held on December 1, 2022. Centro discussed their future On Demand and bikeshare efforts, as well as upcoming community outreach. Updating the Bike Suitability Map to reflect recently completed trails, bike lanes, and Syracuse's Veo Ride micromobility options were also discussed. **Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS):** The presentation of last year's draft final report is on the agenda for today (5C). This year's data collection is complete, and Staff is now working on the compilation of analysis. **I-81 Project Involvement:** Due to litigation, the project advancement is temporarily halted pending legal resolution. No movement will occur until legal processes progress. **Rail, Truck & Transit Planning:** The required Coordinated Plan is on the agenda today (5B) and Mr. Colone will be giving a detailed presentation to Committee Members. Staff met with the City of Syracuse Mayor and Centro to discuss the Bus Rapid Transit system timeline. **City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support:** A Technical Memo will be presented later in the agenda (5D) for analysis completed on the E. Brighton Ave./E. Seneca Turnpike study. Progress has been made on compiling a prioritized list of intersections within 0.25 mile of a school, for potential additional crosswalk treatment at the request of City of Syracuse DPW. **Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan:** SMTC staff held a call with Stantec staff to review comments from the October SAC meeting and the finalization of the Strategic Plan. **Manlius Village Center Pedestrian Safety & Mobility Study:** Much of the draft report has been completed. SMTC held a SAC meeting on November 4th to review several concept plans that include a new bike/ped network throughout the village and to the high school. Concept plans for municipal lots, intersections, and village-owned roads were also presented. Overall, SAC members favored the concepts and requested SMTC present them to the public as an informational item at a Village Board Meeting on December 13, 2022. **CNYRTA Public Outreach:** A contract for interpretation/language services is in place. The public outreach survey has been finalized. Recording of the narration for the presentation has been completed and should be launched in January after Centro's final review. SMTC staff have also been coordinating with Centro staff on a list of potential locations for pop-up meetings (tabling) locations in January/February. Anticipating public launch of the Exploring Tomorrow's Transit effort early in 2023. **Coldbrook Creek Trail City of Syracuse:** Staff attended the Valley TNT meeting on November 9th, presenting a brief overview of the study. A public survey was sent out, receiving over 100 responses. **Westside Trail City of Syracuse:** A SAC meeting is being held next week. Staff are currently reviewing existing conditions, traffic volumes, and accident data. A draft Public Involvement Plan is being developed. **Nedrow Route 11 Corridor Study:** The draft scope was approved. SMTC prioritized fieldwork efforts while

the weather remained favorable. A crash assessment is underway as well as a demographics summary. Turning movement counts at three signalized intersections were completed. Study Advisory Committee meeting materials are being developed. TIP Development & Maintenance: The 2023-2027 TIP is being maintained as appropriate. Several amendments were prepared for consideration. All I-81 amendments have been pulled from the agenda.

Mr. D'Agostino asked if there were any questions on any of the items discussed. There were none.

This was an information item only and no action is required by the Committee.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**
I-81 Project Update

Chairperson Costa indicated that there will be no updates due to the legal litigation.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**
A. **TIP Amendments**

• **TAP/CMAQ Projects**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that six TAP-CMAQ projects were identified for funding award in June 2022 by Governor Hochul as part of the latest TAP-CMAQ solicitation.

- Village of Solvay Pedestrian Enhancements to Cogswell Ave
- Kirk Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement, Onondaga Creekwalk Connector
- Erie Blvd West Pedestrian and Bike Improvements
- Village of North Syracuse Pedestrian Improvements
- Teall Avenue Pedestrian and Safety Improvement Project
- Village of Phoenix Pedestrian Improvements

SMTC asks that the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee approve the TIP Amendments.

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

Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Burke moved, and Mr. Link Logan seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Coordinated Plan**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the previous Coordinated Plan was approved by the Policy Committee in 2018. Staff has worked on an update to the 2018 plan as is required every four years. The Coordinated Plan, a required element to award funding from the Federal Transit Administration in a metropolitan area, consists of four key components:

1. Assessment of available services;
2. Assessment of needs for persons with disabilities, seniors, and people with low income;
3. Strategies or activities to address gaps in the transportation system; and
4. Priorities for implementation.

This plan has been updated to include 2020 Census or 2019 American Community Survey 5-year data, and input from various human service agencies and transportation service providers in the area and, consumers of public transportation.

Mr. Colone gave the committee a detailed presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the Coordinated Plan at their meeting.

Mr. McKeon moved and Ms. Bodine seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

C. Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System

Mr. D'Agostino indicated 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.

Mr. Frasier gave the committee a detailed presentation.

Chairperson Costa indicated this is an excellent report.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the BPCMS report at their meeting.

Ms. Robison moved, and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

D. Brighton/Seneca Technical Analysis

Mr. D'Agostino indicated the E Brighton Ave/E Seneca Turnpike Technical Analysis was completed in the second quarter of the 2022-2023 UPWP planning year on behalf of the City of Syracuse Department of Public Works (DPW), under the existing City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support item. Constituents have raised concerns about the existing conditions at the intersection, especially related to pedestrian safety.

SMTC staff analyzed previously completed studies along with documents related to two proposed developments. Traffic associated with the proposed developments was included in an intersection capacity analysis to ensure any changes to the intersection could accommodate the additional vehicles.

Staff structured recommendations in four categories: low-intensity public improvements, medium-intensity public improvements, high-intensity public improvements, and requests for private developers. Recommendations included additional crosswalks and curb ramps, the potential removal of a slip lane, and a two-way protected shared-use path. A road diet option was considered to better accommodate users along the corridor but was ruled out due to key turning movements operating under "failing" conditions.

Mr. Bardenett gave the committee a detailed presentation.

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Burke indicated that the report was timely and useful.

This was an informational item, and no action was required by the committee.

E. Micron

Mr. D'Agostino discussed with the recent announcement that Micron will build a semiconductor chip manufacturing facility in Onondaga County that is slated to employ 9,000 people, plus an additional 40,000-45,000 employees at secondary and spinoff businesses in the next 20-years, there is unprecedented growth opportunities that have not been seen for several decades. Land-use and transportation policies will be important considerations as the facility is built out in phases. SMTC staff is looking for input from agencies for what role SMTC can/could play for appropriate planning activities. This item is an opportunity for Committee members to discuss the nationally significant project.

Two items staff would like to move forward on include:

1. Travel Demand Model Update. This important tool needs to be updated to include recent work relevant to the I-81 project to ensure that the SMTC's Regional Model can be properly leveraged for scenario planning.

2. Additionally, staff has proposed a research effort, to be completed by the FHWA Resource Center as part of a recent request for assistance, to review communities with semiconductor chip fabrication plants and summarize freight- and traffic-related considerations. This also includes considerations associated with secondary growth. The final product may include a case study summary report and a summary presentation. These reference materials would benefit SMTC, its member agencies, and communities nationally. SMTC set May 2023 as a tentative date for completion. This timeframe provides the option to have the Resource Center present findings at the NYSAMPO conference in Syracuse, should interest exist among member and partner agencies.

Mr. Alexander gave the committee a brief update on his dealings with the FHWA on this research effort.

Mr. D'Agostino made it clear to Committee members that the SMTC is there to help in any way they can but not get ahead or in anyone's way.

Chairperson Costa agreed and gave a brief update on SOCPA's perspective of this project.

Mr. Dyer discussed his viewpoint from the Onondaga County Department of Transportation.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that this is generally informational; however, the Planning Committee is asked if they would like to advance the FHWA Resource Center assistance and/or other planning activities.

Discussion occurred.

F. Election of Officers

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that pursuant to the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's (SMTTC) 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.

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the current Chairperson (Ms. Costa) and Vice Chairperson (Ms. Robison) have agreed to continue their term for the next two years unless someone else would like to be considered.

Mr. Dyer indicated that both current candidates have done a great job.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion for the Planning Committee to re-elect the current Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Schultz moved, and Mr. Dyer seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. by Chairperson Costa.