



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

December 15, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council Virtual ZOOM Meeting

Megan Costa, Chairperson, Presiding

AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - August 19, 2020
- 3. Communications and Reports**
 - A. 2020-2021 UPWP Status Report
 - B. Update on the I-81 Viaduct Project from the NYSDOT
- 4. Old Business**

None
- 5. New Business**
 - A. 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (plus annual recap)
 - B. Safety Performance Measure Targets
 - C. TIP Amendment(s)
- 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 15, 2020 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Megan Costa, Chair
David Bottar
Neil Burke
Jerrin George
Casey Jordan
Owen Kerney
James Fayle
Brian Schultz
Mark Frechette
Dave Mankiewicz
Mary Robison, Vice Chair
Odean Dyer

Organization

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

Also Attending

EJ Moses
Carlos Gonzalez
David Roth
John Reichert
Dan Kwasnowski

CNY Regional Transportation Authority
FHWA
NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation
Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Kevan Busa, Mario Colone, Jason Deshaies, Andrew Frasier, Mike Alexander, Kevin Kosakowski, Danielle Krol, Aaron McKeon, Meghan Vitale, and Lori Irvine

BUSINESS MEETING

Mr. D'Agostino completed a roll call by Agency.

Chairperson Costa called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. via Zoom.

1. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Chairperson Costa asked if there were any additions or changes to the Agenda. Hearing none she moved to Approval of Minutes.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Costa inquired if there were any changes to the August 19, 2020 minutes. There were none. Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Schultz moved and Mr. Kerney seconded the Approval of the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**
A. 2020-2021 UPWP STATUS REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that this is the Planning meeting of the year that he presents the new program and will leave it up to the committee members to read the document that was sent to them at their perusal. Mr. D'Agostino indicated that he will give an overall update later in the agenda then asked if anyone had any specific questions. Hearing none, the committee moved onto the next item in the agenda.

B. UPDATE ON THE I-81 VIADUCT PROJECT FROM THE NYSDOT

Mr. Frechette recognized that Mr. Gonzalez from FHWA was in attendance on the call then provided a brief update to the members on the latest efforts regarding the I-81 Viaduct project. Mr. Frechette indicated that the Department of Transportation shared the Environmental Impact Statement with the Federal Highway Administration last July which means that all the revisions that were made to the preliminary DEIS have been incorporated. Mr. Frechette indicated that the NYSDOT have continued to work throughout the fall with their FHWA partners to build consensus on many topics. Mr. Frechette mentioned that the NYSDOT has had multiple working sessions and has received over 1000 comments on this topic from the community in 2019-2020. Mr. Frechette indicated that it is typical that the NYSDOT and FHWA have discussions on engineering solutions, alternatives, development and detailed conversations regarding protecting the environment such as the historic downtown buildings, protection of the public during construction, noise, dust, etc. Mr. Frechette indicated that the ultimate goal is to get both agencies in agreement with the language in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement as they will be engaging Washington D.C. as part of the process for a Prior Concurrence Review and once that is done, the document can be shared with the public. Mr. Frechette indicated that the NYSDOT will host a public hearing along with neighborhood meetings but emphasized that the NYSDOT will not hold a public meeting unless it is safe for the public. Mr. Frechette mentioned that he has seen a couple of states go forth with virtual public meetings and that is something he has discussed with the Federal partners regarding this project. Mr. Frechette indicated that this is an extremely complicated project as it involves many bridges (over 50), it covers a lot of interstate and a lot of construction work in both the city and suburbs. Mr. Frechette indicated that the education part of this project is extremely important and feels they have made major progress in 2019. Mr. Frechette stated the NYSDOT started with multiple options and are now down to two build alternatives and one "do nothing" alternative. Mr. Frechette mentioned that both the Viaduct option and Community Grid build alternatives have continued to evolve for the better since they started due to public engagement. Mr. Frechette indicated that once the DEIS document is released, a public hearing needs to be held within 2-3 weeks due to the public comment period. Mr. Frechette indicated that the NYSDOT recently took part in a Syracuse Big Table meeting which discussed exciting job initiatives for the community once this project starts construction and will continue to work virtually with other interested individuals, groups and Stakeholders.

Mr. Kerney asked Mr. Frechette about the engagement in concurrence with Washington D.C. and Mr. Frechette indicated that the NYSDOT formalized the engagement and it was up to the FHWA division to send on the documentation to Washington D.C. and this process is currently ongoing.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**
None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **2021-2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (PLUS ANNUAL RECAP)**

Mr. D'Agostino provided brief presentation on the proposed Unified Planning Work Program and year-end review which can be found on the SMTC website. Mr. D'Agostino would like to have the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee adopt the 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Discussion occurred. Chairperson thanked SMTC for working with SOCPA with their items in the UPWP then Chairperson Costa called for a motion.

Mr. Burke moved and Mr. Kerney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. **SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that as required by the FAST Act, the SMTC has the option to either adopt the performance measure established by the State or develop our own on the safety targets that were adopted in August 2020. Mr. D'Agostino recommends the Planning Committee recommend that the Policy Committee to adopt the 2021 Safety Performance Measure Targets.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion. Mr. Frechette moved and Mr. Kerney seconded the motion to adopt the 2021 Safety Performance Measure. The motion passed unanimously.

C. **TIP AMENDMENTS**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that The Central New York Transportation Authority (CNYTRA) and the Onondaga County Department of Transportation are in need of 11 amendments to the Transportation Improvement Plan. Two (2) amendments for the County remove bridge projects where no federal dollars are currently programmed, while 9 amendments for the CNYTRA were developed to maximize the use of traditional federal transit funds and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds allocated to the transit authority that support capital and operating expenses responding to COVID-19. Discussion occurred then Mr. D'Agostino recommended that the Planning Committee recommend the Policy Committee approve the TIP amendments.

Chairperson Costa called for a motion. Mr. Fayle moved and Mr. Mankiewicz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments received via the live YouTube feed. Mr. Gonzalez from the FHWA thanked the SMTC staff for the UPWP past and upcoming work and for their help and professionalism via chat comment on Zoom.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that the Policy Committee Meeting will be sometime in January and will be contacting Mr. Schultz (Chairperson) to plan the exact date.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.