



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 15, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

Lower-Level Conference Room

Brian Schultz, Chairperson, Presiding

AGENDA

- 1. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - August 12, 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
 - I-81
 - B. Coordinated Plan
 - C. Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System (including Syracuse Pavement Prioritization)
 - 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 15, 2022 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Brian Schultz, Chair
David Smith
Kevin Schwab
Corey Dunham, Vice Chair
David Bottar
Jennifer Schultz
Jake Dishaw
John DeSantis
Dan Kwasnowski
Sara Sherlock
Trendon Choe

Organization

CNY Regional Transportation Authority
NYS Department of Transportation
CenterState CEO
City of Syracuse, Mayor
CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
City of Syracuse Common Council
City of Syracuse Planning Commission
Onondaga County Legislature
Onondaga County Planning Board
NYS Thruway Authority
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Also Attending

Mark Frechette
Bren Daiss
Spencer Lyons, Chief

NYS Department of Transportation
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
Onondaga Nation Council

SMTC Staff

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

BUSINESS MEETING

Chairperson Schultz called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's 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 Schultz inquired if there were any changes to the August 12, 2022, minutes. Hearing none, Chairperson Schultz called for a motion.

Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Kwasnowski seconded the approval of the minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. UPWP Status Report

Mr. D'Agostino gave an update on the following:

General Administration: For the SMTC work plan development, a UPWP solicitation for projects went out for the next program year. Mr. D'Agostino reminded member agencies to get their proposals in A.S.A.P. 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 and kick-off in 2023. Geographic Information Systems – SMTC: Staff compiled information on existing bike infrastructure in preparation for updating the SMTC Bike Map. There will also be a print order for several thousand bike maps that will be available in-house sometime in the spring. Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning: Another successful Forum on Active Transportation (FOAT) meeting was held on December 1st. Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System (BPCMS): The report for last year is on today's agenda. This year's data collection is now complete, and staff are onto the data analysis and compilation mode. I-81 Project Involvement: The legal litigation is still on-going however "paperwork" activities can resume. Mr. Frechette will give an update next on the agenda. Rail, Truck & Transit Planning: The Coordinated Plan draft final report was provided to several members and agencies for their review and has been brought forward by the Planning Committee for acknowledgement of completion. Staff met with City of Syracuse Mayor Walsh, CenterState CEO, and Centro earlier this month to discuss public transportation opportunities between the city and the future Micron facility in the Town of Clay. The Centro Bus Rapid Transit will be implemented within the next few years with a lot of its funding already being identified and in the books. City of Syracuse On-Call Planning Support: The Technical Memorandum for E. Brighton Ave./E. Seneca Turnpike is on today's agenda. Significant progress has been made on compiling a prioritized list of intersections within 0.25 mile of a school, for potential additional crosswalk treatment. This report should be handed over to the city by the end of the program year. Dome Traffic Management & Events Strategic Plan: Study Advisory Committee Meetings have been held and the final version of the Strategic Plan is near completion. Manlius Village Center Pedestrian Safety & Mobility Study: Much of the report is complete with SAC meetings being held and concept plans presented to the public as an informational item at a Village Board Meeting on December 13th. CNYRTA Public Outreach: A contract for interpretation/translation services is now in place. The public outreach survey has been finalized. Recording of the narration for the presentation is finalized. Staff have been coordinating with Centro staff on a list of potential pop-up meetings (tabling) locations. The anticipated launch will be sometime in January 2023. Coldbrook Creek Trail City of Syracuse: A SAC meeting has been held and discussions of existing conditions/traffic volumes is being reviewed. Nedrow Route 11 Corridor Study: SMTC prioritized fieldwork efforts while the weather remained favorable. A crash assessment is underway as well as a demographic summary. TIP Development & Maintenance: The 2023-2027 TIP is being maintained as appropriate. Several amendments were prepared for the committee's approval as well as a significant I-81 Viaduct Project amendment.

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

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

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

- **I-81 Project Update**

Mr. Frechette gave a brief update of the I-81 project.

Mr. Frechette indicated that the last update that he gave the committee was in August 2022. He reminded committee members that last spring the Policy Committee approved the finances for Phase 1 of the project. NYSDOT has been busy this year working on developing the designs and contractor procurement for the five projects in Phase 1 which totals 1.1 billion dollars in construction. Mr. Frechette indicated that they decided to stagger the contractor selection to maximize competition and to allow other contractors that were not awarded a contract early on to still compete for later contracts. Mr. Frechette mentioned that when construction starts I-81, I-690, and I-481 will be operational with two lanes of traffic, both ways. The work for the next 2-3 years will be on expanding the highway system and those impacts should not be felt on the interstates. Mr. Frechette indicated that NYSDOT has selected a contractor for Contract 1, and it is waiting for the approval from the State Comptroller and Attorney General's offices. Once their approval has been made, NYSDOT will publicly announce the winner. Mr. Frechette mentioned that the first contract is for the Northern I-81/I-481 interchange to the Kirkville Road expansion.

Mr. Frechette indicated NYSDOT received a legal challenge in the State and Federal courts and is working with the Attorney General's office on the state challenge and working with federal partners on the federal challenge. Mr. Frechette indicated that a temporary restraining order was filed by Judge Neary on November 10th which put a pause on all work on the project. A week or so ago, the pause was lifted to allow necessary design work and contractor procurement to be done. NYSDOT will not break ground until the lawsuits are addressed.

Mr. Frechette mentioned that in Contract 1, there is a local hiring initiative of 15% that is receiving national attention. NYSDOT has been working with the City and Urban Jobs Task Force for training. Mr. Frechette indicated that NYSDOT is very proud of this initiative and indicated that it should be released to the community soon.

Mr. Frechette mentioned that Contract 2 is a very large contract that includes the southern exchange of I-81/I-481 to Kirkville Rd. which includes the I-481 CXS bridge. This work was moved from Contract 1 to Contract 2 during the summer. Mr. Frechette indicated that the list of contractors for Contract 2 has been shortlisted and NYSDOT has been holding one-on-one meetings with contractors and anticipates a contractor selection in early 2023 (February-March timeframe).

Mr. Frechette indicated that Contract 3 is for the Inner Harbor which includes 4 bridges on I-81, and Bear St./Clinton St. upgrades. NYSDOT completed the 50% final designs back in October and should be ready to start the contractor procurement this spring with a contract in place in early summer. Mr. Frechette also indicated that NYSDOT will be working closely with the city and National Grid regarding some challenges with lighting, tree planting, and utilities etc. which will make for a very busy spring.

Mr. Frechette indicated that Contract 4 work is at I-690 over Crouse and Irving, and Lodi St. in which 6 interstate bridges will be replaced. There will be reconstruction of Crouse and Irving up the hill to Adams St. Mr. Frechette indicated NYSDOT completed the 50% Final Designs at the end of November and is currently being reviewed. Mr. Frechette mentioned that these are big milestones to keep the project on pace and estimates that the finished

design will be completed by the end of the summer. Mr. Frechette indicated that NYSDOT does not have the real estate in place for contracts 3, 4, and 5 at this time.

Mr. Frechette indicated that final contract in Phase 1 is Contract 5, which is the southern area near the roundabout and includes the railroad bridge. The anticipated design completion is in the fall of 2023. Mr. Frechette mentioned NYSDOT is not currently working on Phase 2 at this time although the money has already been approved by the Policy Committee.

Chairperson Schultz asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Schultz asked if Mr. Frechette could provide more information regarding the real estate process in contracts 3-5. Mr. Frechette indicated that strip takings are needed for some areas for shoulders, sidewalks, and bike lanes in which NYSDOT will need to work with the landowners to acquire. Mr. Frechette also indicated that there will be a total of 4 buildings (businesses) to purchase in which a process of developing an appraisal, offer to the property owner, conversation as to the price point and an agreement that must take place. Three of the buildings are in Phase 1. No offers have been made yet.

Ms. Schultz asked if this was an option for the business owners in which their building needs to be purchased for the construction. Mr. Frechette indicated that it would fall under eminent domain which ultimately protects the rights of the property owners.

Mr. Bottar asked Mr. Frechette how the Micron project that was formerly announced in early October is impacted by the I-81 project. Mr. Frechette indicated that NYSDOT has worked with White Pines Development, which is at the project site, but has not received any documentation or metrics as to the impacts which will occur. Mr. Frechette indicated that only Micron could provide this information as they would know the number of employees, trucks, and what their business model will look like. Mr. Frechette indicated that it is important to mention that when the Micron announcement was made, the Governor mentioned that there will be money for transportation upgrades as mitigation to be able to address some of the necessary deficiencies as a result of Micron but being that it was just announced, there will need to be some traffic impact studies completed that NYSDOT will be involved in and will work with the towns. Mr. Frechette mentioned that the recent local Amazon development led to an expansion off from the thruway with additional lanes built and intersections redone which came at the expense of Amazon.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the roads closest to Micron; the Rt 31 corridor, I-81, I-481, Caughdenoy Rd area will be looked at more closely once NYSDOT learns more about the numbers from Micron. Mr. Smith mentioned that contract 1 work on the I-81 project will help improve the Northern interchange, which will also improve the Micron project.

Mr. Schwab asked what the timetable for the implementation for Phase 1 of the I-81 project is assuming Judge Neri's upcoming decision goes well. Mr. Frechette mentioned the earliest shovel in the ground is not expected until after March 15th as there is prep work needed prior to that time.

Mr. Schultz asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

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

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. TIP AMENDMENTS

• **TAP/CMAQ Projects**

Mr. D'Agostino indicated several amendments are necessary for new project additions to the TIP.

Six TAP-CMAQ projects 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

Chairperson Schultz asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Chairperson Schultz called for a motion for the Policy Committee to approve the TIP amendments.

Mr. Kwasnowski moved, and Ms. Dunham seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

• **I-81**

Mr. D'Agostino explained that The New York State Department of Transportation is in need of the following amendment for PIN 350191 (Convert I-481 to I-81, I-81 South of Kirkville Rd, Tns of DeWitt & Onondaga, Onondaga Co.).

Due to material review times, programmed funds from the prior Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) were not obligated and the NYSDOT is proposing to carry over the funding from FFY 21/22 to FFY 22/23 as part of the new Transportation Improvement Program. Compensating offsets are provided from outside the Metropolitan Planning Area.

Mr. Frechette confirmed that this TIP amendment was to move federal funds from one year to the next.

Chairperson Schultz asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Chairperson Schultz called for a motion for the Policy Committee to approve the TIP amendment.

Ms. Dunham moved, and Mr. Choe seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

B. Coordinated Plan

Mr. D'Agostino indicated 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 provided a detailed presentation.

Chairperson Schultz asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Chairperson Schultz called for a motion that the Policy Committee approve the Coordinated Plan.

Mr. Kwasnowski moved, and Mr. Smith seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

C Bridge & Pavement Condition Management System (including Syracuse Pavement Prioritization)

Mr. D'Agostino indicated 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 provided a brief presentation.

Ms. Schultz asked if the rating of pavement was also on the road width (creep). Discussion occurred. Mr. Frasier indicated that the rating performed was on the cracking.

Chairperson Schultz asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, Chairperson Schultz called for a motion that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the BPCMS report.

Ms. Dunham moved, and Ms. Schultz seconded the motion.
The motion passed 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 provided a brief presentation.

Chairperson Schultz asked if there were any questions.

Discussion occurred.

This is an information item. No action is required of this committee.

E. Micron

Mr. D’Agostino indicated 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 a brief update regarding freight-related planning.

Mr. Bottar suggested doing an internal white paper review/report on transportation of the Luther Forest/Global Foundries/Town of Malta situation – sort of a before and after-look at what has been done from a transportation perspective. Mr. Bottar indicated he felt this would be instructive.

Discussion continued.

Chairperson Shultz asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

This is an informational item only however, the Policy Committee agreed to advance both

the Travel Demand Model Update and the FHWA/Resource Center assistance items.

F. Election of Officers

Mr. D'Agostino indicated that pursuant to the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's (SMTC) 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 mentioned that Mr. Schultz and Ms. Dunham have both agreed to stay on unless someone else would like to serve.

Mr. Schultz asked if anyone else was interested in the election. Hearing no response, Mr. Schultz called for a motion.

Mr. Smith moved, and Ms. Schultz seconded the motion that the Policy Committee elect Mr. Schultz and Ms. Dunham as the Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Schultz adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.