

DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (SMTC) • FALL 2010



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The summer months proved to be as busy as the spring at the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC). The SMTC served as the local host and coordinator of the Association of New York State Metropolitan Planning Organization's (NYSMPO) annual conference at the Syracuse Renaissance Hotel. Over 100 participants attended the sessions. A variety of topics were covered during the two days. A third staff development day was held for MPO staff with three different professional trainings occurring. (See page 3 for more information on the conference.)

From mid-May through mid-August the SMTC employed two interns. They assisted staff with traffic counts, data collection, and GIS work.

On July 27, 2010, the SMTC Policy Committee adopted the 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). (See page 2 for further details on the TIP.) Additionally, the Policy Committee adopted a new Operations Plan for the SMTC.

Over the last few months, staff conducted small group sessions relative to the *The I-81 Challenge*. The I-81 Study Advisory Committee (SAC) met at the end of July. In addition to receiving project updates, those in attendance viewed the *Syracuse's 15th Ward and Beyond* documentary.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 315.422.5716 or jdagostino@smtcmpo.org.

Yours truly,

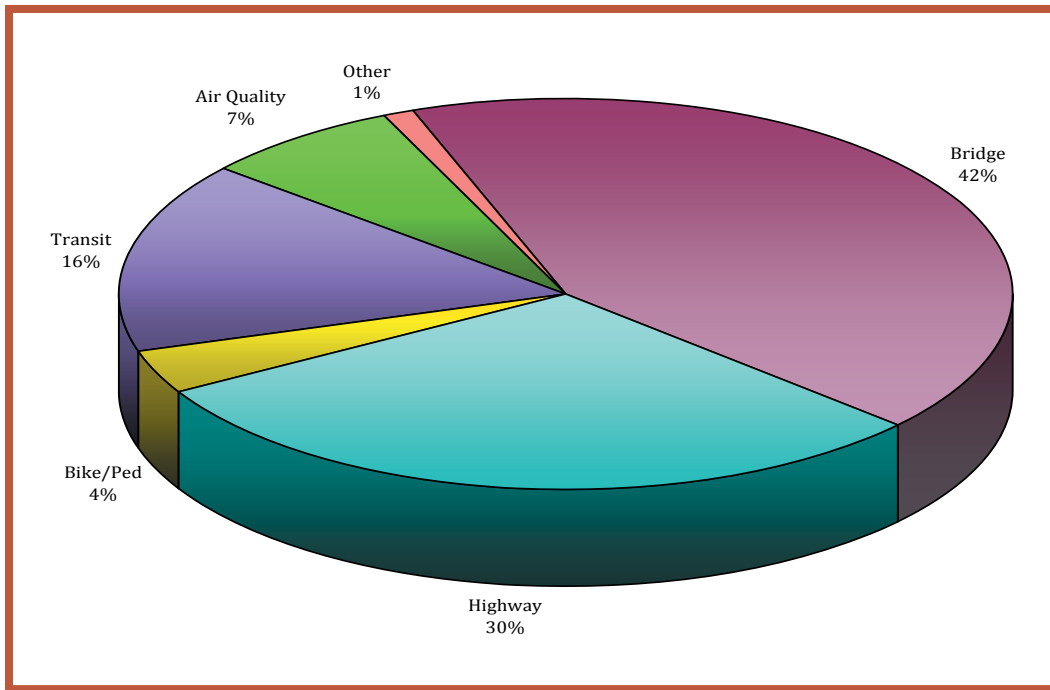
James D'Agostino
Director

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2011-2015 TIP ADOPTED BY THE SMTC POLICY COMMITTEE

The **2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** was approved by the SMTC Policy Committee on July 27. This fiscally balanced, multi-year program of local projects in the Onondaga County area totals approximately \$402 million in funding and covers the period October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2015. It should be noted, this is a substantial investment of federal funding into the local economy. The TIP contains all Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration projects in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area that are expected to use a combination of Federal, State and local funds in the next five-year period. Project funding has been programmed to such projects as air quality, bicycle/pedestrian, bridge, highway and transit. The majority of projects in the TIP are aimed at increasing the efficiency and safety of the existing transportation system rather than construction of new facilities. As depicted in the table below, approximately three-quarters of the total funding is going toward the maintenance of bridge and highway facilities to maintain or enhance acceptable condition levels for the traveling public.



The new capital program was developed in close collaboration with the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority, the New York State Department of Transportation and the SMTC's Capital Projects Committee. Additionally, through consultation with the New York State Interagency Consultation Group, which is comprised of various Federal and State agencies with a vested interest in air quality, as required by federal transportation legislation, the 2011-2015 TIP was found to conform to all applicable air quality requirements and emission standards.

The final document is available for public viewing and download on the TIP section of the SMTC web site: www.smtcmpo.org/tip.asp. For additional information on the TIP process, please contact **Mario Colone** at **315.422.5716** or mcolone@smtcmpo.org.

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS is a publication of the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC). Formed in 1966 as a result of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962, and the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, the SMTC serves as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Syracuse metropolitan area, and provides a forum for cooperative decision making in developing transportation plans and programs. Its committees are comprised of elected and appointed officials, representing local, state and federal governments or agencies (member agencies) having an interest in or responsibility for transportation planning and programming.

Editor: *Patricia A. Wortley*

SMTC COORDINATES AND HOSTS THE NYSMPO CONFERENCE

The SMTC served as the local host and coordinator of the **Association of New York State Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NYSMPO) 2010 Annual Conference**. The event was held June 14-15 at the Renaissance Syracuse Hotel. Over one hundred Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) staffers and MPO consultants, as well as SMTC member agency staff attend the conference.

The first day featured informational sessions dealing with GIS for NYSMPOs; Transportation Related GIS; Freight Planning and Congestion Management; Innovative Planning Programs for Bicyclists and Pedestrians; Public Meeting Tips, Techniques and Ideas; Consensus Building and Small Group Facilitation. John W. Martin, President and CEO of Southeastern Institute of Research, gave the luncheon address entitled *Using a Generational Lens in Planning for the Future*. Following the day's sessions, participants were encouraged to take a Self-Guided Walking Tour of Downtown Syracuse. The SMTC staff created a map together with a description of historical buildings in and around the immediate Downtown area.



*Luncheon speaker:
John W. Martin, President
and CEO of Southeastern
Institute of Research*

Day two featured a Safety Peer Exchange; Preparing for Climate Change and Energy Legislation; Planning for Transportation Demand Management and Transit; HUD, EPA, USDOT Sustainability Partnership; Travel Demand Modeling for Planners; The Urban Interstate Dilemma: Challenges and Opportunities; and Financial Planning for TIPs and Metropolitan Transportation Plans. The second day concluded with a presentation from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) regarding Legislative Happenings in Washington. Staff from the SMTC led a group of attendees on a tour of the Erie Canal Museum.



Copies of the presentations can be found on the NYSMPO web site: http://www.nysmpos.org/2010_annual_conference.html.



On Wednesday, June 16, MPO staffers were able to attend three additional trainings: ALIS, Adobe Photoshop and Civil Rights. Held at the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Region 3 Offices, attendees learned the ALIS Query, Report and Analysis (QRA) application which lets users design their own queries based on specific accident, vehicle and contributing factor characteristics or select a study area of interest along with the type of analysis they would like to conduct. Planners interested in learning more about the use of Adobe Photoshop attended a custom-designed course at the New Horizons training center in East Syracuse. Particular attention was given to photo simulations for transportation planning applications, including items such as pedestrian accommodations and landscaping. Representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) presented an overview of Civil Rights and Title VI to MPO staff at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

The SMTC would like to thank C&S Companies and Wilbur Smith Associates for their sponsorship of events during the conference. Additionally, thank you to the Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board and the Safety Council of Central and Western New York for their donation of items to the conference.

IN THE NEWS ...

The SMTC is pleased to welcome the following staff: In May 2010, the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council welcomed **Aaron McKeon** to the staff as a Transportation Planner. McKeon has a B.A. in History from the University of Rochester and a Masters in Regional Planning from Cornell University. Past work experience includes seven years as an Environmental Planner with the California Department of Transportation and experience as a planner with CHA, Inc. in Syracuse.

Elizabeth Hassett joined the SMTC staff as a Junior Transportation Planner in June 2010. Hassett is a graduate of Oberlin College and received her Master's of Science from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, with a focus on Applied Statistics. She learned ArcGIS in classes and for her thesis, "Statistical Sampling for Estimating Landscape Pattern Metrics", and continued with mapping while at O'Brien and Gere, her former employer. Her main responsibilities at the SMTC are mapping and transportation analysis.



James Street "Road Diet" Public Meeting

**Thursday, October 7, 2010
6:30 p.m.**

**Lincoln Middle School
1613 James Street, Syracuse**

**For further information on the meeting
visit**

www.smtcmpo.org

THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



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