

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MINUTES of the JUNE 28, 2017 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Voting Members

Mary Robison, Chair
David Bottar
Timothy Coley
Megan Costa
James Fayle
Mark Frechette
Owen Kerney
Rick Lee
Kerry McElroy
Nick Paro

Organization

City of Syracuse
CNY Regional Planning and Development Board
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency
Empire State Development
NYS Department of Transportation
City of Syracuse, Division of Planning
CNY Regional Transportation Authority
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Onondaga County Legislature

Also Attending

Kathleen O'Leary, NYSDOT

SMTC Staff

James D'Agostino, Mike Alexander, Kevan Busa, Mario Colone, Jason Deshaies, Andrew Frasier, Elizabeth Hassett, Kevin Kosakowski, Aaron McKeon, Jacob Scott, Mary Storholm, Ben Suriani, Meghan Vitale, and Patricia Wortley

BUSINESS MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Robison called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. in Room 129 of SUNY Oswego Metro Center, Syracuse, NY.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairperson inquired if there were any changes to the March 24, 2017 minutes. Hearing none, the Chairperson called for a motion.

Mr. Frechette moved and Mr. Kerney seconded approval of the minutes. Motion carried.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

A. UPWP STATUS REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino highlighted the following items: The SMTC hosted the NYSAMPO Conference at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, June 19-21. Relative to Data Collection, we have summer staff and they are riding buses each and every day conducting Centro Surveys. Regarding GIS, we have revised our Functional Classification System based on comments from Main Office DOT and that will be addressed later on today's agenda. Staff is assisting the CNY RPDB with their stormwater efforts. That is going well. Our Bike/Ped staff arranged for Alta Planning to speak on the Erie Canal Trail at the NYSAMPO conference. Under Bike/Pedestrian Safety Outreach we developed a series of PSAs that ran in May on Spectrum Cable. They will be presented on agenda later today. Our Bridge and Pavement field work is underway on Federal Aid Eligible

roads for county and city. We might have difficulty with bridge ratings this year due to changes. Staff needs to meet with the NYSDOT about how to handle that, with the possibility that the bridge element may be omitted from the report for a few years. A SMART 1 SAC meeting was held June 27. The final public meeting will be held this fall. The Freight Profile is completed. The Work Link project is completed as well. We have three Centro Surveys on the books at this time. We have surpassed the number of rider surveys so far this summer. Additionally, over 1,000 responses were received for the non-rider survey. The employer survey was not successful. We received 23 responses out of over 6,000. The DeWitt Bike Ped Mobility Plan is on the agenda today. The Camillus project is moving along. The Jamesville comprehensive plan study is done. Our Route 57 efforts will be finalized this summer. The Skaneateles study is progressing. The TIP is being maintained. We created a new database that will be shared with other MPOs if requested.

B. UPDATE ON I-81 OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE NYSDOT

Mr. D'Agostino stated that at every meeting we have the NYSDOT provide an update on their I-81 efforts. Mr. Frechette stated he has no new information related to the independent study. He reviewed what that study involved. The consultant is drafting what they have put together. He expects he will be able to share information at the next Planning meeting.

They have continued their meetings with groups such as the Syracuse Housing Authority, hospitals, and emergency service providers. They will continue these meetings as they help the project. They developed a Northside Committee and they continue to meet. They have looked at the elimination of the missing links on 690 and 81. They are taking a look at what it means to not build the missing links. The Northside Committee has helped the Department with the realignment of Butternut Street. Aesthetics is an important piece. They are flushing out ideas. They are thinking about holding a stakeholder meeting at the end of summer to reveal information.

They are working on freight movement as well. There is public concern over truck diversions. They are doing quite a bit of traffic modeling. Two contractors just started doing subsurface utility work on the corridor. They will be performing the work during off-peak hours. This will identify where all the utilities are within the corridor. He noted that this is critical information for the engineering part.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS **A. TIP AMENDMENTS**

Mr. D'Agostino stated that following amendments are needed to the 2017-2021 TIP and Statewide TIP:

Addition of projects

PIN 305626 (Ramp Re-Alignment Project, I-481 @ Kirkville Rd Interchange, Onondaga Co)
Total cost \$700,000. Sponsor New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT).
Project will address safety issues such as rear end crash patterns at the I-481 NB and SB off-ramps to Kirkville Rd.

As part of the 2016 Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) solicitation, the following projects are being added to the 2017-2021 TIP:

PIN 395060 (Region 3 Highway Emergency Local Patrol (HELP) Program) Total cost \$1,500,000. Sponsor NYSDOT. Two HELP trucks with operators will patrol high-volume, limited access highways in Onondaga County during peak volume hours and special events looking for non-recurring events or incidents such as disabled vehicles and accidents.

Mr. D'Agostino stated this program has been in operation in the Albany area and it has been highly successful. Mr. Fayle inquired if there was research out of Albany that local operators (i.e. AAA) have been impacted. Mr. D'Agostino stated not really because the program is getting incidents cleaned up as fast as they can.

PIN 395061 (North Syracuse Complete Streets Corridor Project) Chestnut St, Centerville Pl & Church St) Total cost \$1,253,273. Sponsor North Syracuse. Project includes the physical alteration of Chestnut St, Centerville Pl & Church St to construct a "complete streets" corridor in order to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.

PIN 395064 (Baldwinsville Village Sidewalk Extension Project) Total cost \$1,320,402. Sponsor Baldwinsville. Project will install sidewalks along state roadways within the Village of Baldwinsville to improve pedestrian travel.

PIN 395065 (Fayetteville Sidewalk Project, Rt 257) Total cost \$775,541. Sponsor Fayetteville. Construction of new and, reconstruction of existing sidewalks along Rt 257 and Salt Springs Rd to improve transportation options in proximity of Wellwood Middle School, Fayetteville Elementary School, and Immaculate Conception School.

Mr. Frechette moved and Mr. Coley seconded a motion that the Policy Committee approve the TIP Amendments at their July meeting. Motion carried.

B. FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION PROFILE SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino stated that this is a new report based on increased interest in freight movement at both the state and federal level in recent years. Mr. Colone gave an overview of the report.

Mr. Bottar stated that the Port of Oswego is not in the County, but asked if an acknowledgement that the Port of Oswego really ties into the freight profile could be added to the report. Mr. Colone stated we could add that. Mr. Frechette thanked the SMTC for completing the report. He stated that State is working on a report also. He stated that he was surprised by the low numbers coming in from Canada. Mr. Colone stated the data includes where it is originating and where it is ending up. Mr. Colone believes it could be an issue with the Transearch Database.

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

C. CENTRAL DEWITT MOBILITY PLAN – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. D'Agostino stated that this report was undertaken at the request of the Town of DeWitt. Mr. Alexander gave an overview of the project.

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

D. WORK LINK – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. D’Agostino stated this is also a new type of study for the SMTC looking at gaps in the transit system for those seeking employment and how to address those gaps. This project was at the request of SOCPA and the City of Syracuse. Mr. McKeon gave an overview of the study.

Mr. Fayle thanked Mr. McKeon for going to the Regional Council. He inquired if Providence has seen this and have they reacted to it. Mr. McKeon stated that Ms. Hundley has seen the report, but there is no commitment at this time. Ms. Costa stated that they worked with Ms. Hundley to bring this project to the SMTC. Mr. Fayle inquired about the subsidizing of Lyft and Uber. Mr. McKeon reviewed what happened in Summit, NJ. They subsidized Uber rides for city residents to free up parking in their garages. He reviewed the aspects of the program. Mr. Fayle stated that the Alliance for Economic Commission met for the first time yesterday and he thought that group would be interested in this presentation. Ms. Costa inquired if the private sector gets super involved in the Uber/Lyft proposition. Mr. McKeon stated that they have not examined that.

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

E. OPERATIONS PLAN UPDATE

Mr. D’Agostino stated that a few modifications needed to be made to the existing Operations Plan. The major issue to update is SOCPA becoming a voting member of the Executive Committee. Mr. D’Agostino stated that several years ago the Regional Planning Board asked to be added as a voting member and SOCPA requested the same consideration. It will not change the quorum definition. Additionally, the Plan has been updated relative to our Public Participation Plan, the FAST Act legislation, change in a City of Syracuse department title, and the inclusion of Sr. Transportation Analyst to the Central Staff graphic.

Mr. Fayle moved and Mr. Lee seconded a motion that the Policy Committee adopt the updated Operations Plan at their July meeting. Motion carried.

F. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MODIFICATIONS

Mr. D’Agostino stated that modifications to our Functional Classification System were needed after the NYSDOT Main Office reviewed the changes approved by the Policy Committee in February and December 2016. We are seeking approval of the whole thing again. Mr. Deshaies gave an overview of the process.

Discussion occurred over the last time we had real functional classification changes. It was in 2004. Mr. Coley inquired as to when we are expecting FHWA approval. Mr. Frechette stated that they are hopeful this will all be in place by the time of the next TIP. Further discussion was had over official maps. Maps are not the official documentation, the database is.

Mr. Frechette moved and Mr. Coley seconded a motion that the Policy Committee adopt the Functional Classification revisions. Motion carried.

G. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY OUTREACH INITIATIVE – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Mr. D’Agostino stated that this effort is different from anything undertaken at the SMTC in the past. We worked to create a series of public service announcements (PSAs) that ran on Spectrum Cable during the month of May. Mr. Alexander gave an overview of the work performed and shared the PSAs.

Mr. Frechette stated that the Department spends money on educational components, he noted that this adds to the commercials the State has out. Rebroadcasting would be supported by the Department. He commends the SMTC. The Chairperson stated it would be great if we publicized it more.

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

H. JAMESVILLE HAMLET TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT

Mr. D’Agostino stated that this effort was performed under our Comprehensive Plan Assistance line item on the UPWP on behalf of the CNY RPDB and the Town of DeWitt. Ms. Vitale gave an overview of the work SMTC completed for the Jamesville Hamlet master plan.

Mr. Coley inquired if anyone made the suggestion that the old fire house become municipal parking. Ms. Costa stated that she believes that in the CNY RPDB Plan they were looking at that building. Ms. Costa stated that there were discussions about moving the train station and bringing it closer to Route 173.

Mr. Bottar moved and Ms. Costa seconded a motion to recommend that the Policy Committee acknowledge the completion of the work. Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairperson thanked the interns for working on the Centro surveys.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.