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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2001-06 Transportation Improvement Program for Syracuse Metropolitan Area is Adopted

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) has officially adopted the Syracuse Metropolitan Area's 2001-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The document was officially endorsed by the SMTC Policy Committee on May 14, 2001.

The 2001-2006 TIP for the SMTC study area (all of Onondaga County and a small portion of Oswego County) is comprised of a staged five-year program of capital transportation improvement projects (totaling \$236 million in federal funding) together with a five-year estimate of transit capital and maintenance requirements. The TIP contains all Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) transportation projects in the SMTC study area, expected to use federal, state and local funds in the next five-year period.

There are 147 projects on the 2001-2006 TIP. A small sampling of the projects includes:

- *Clinton Square Transportation Improvements -- (City of Syracuse)*
- *Creekwalk [Phase I], Armory Square to Carousel -- (City of Syracuse)*
- *Onondaga Lake Canalways Trail project -- (Onondaga County)*
- *Henry Clay Blvd. @ Wetzel Road -- (Onondaga County)*
- *I-481 (from I-690 to I-81) paving project -- (NYS Department of Transportation)*
- *I-481: Rehabilitation of Bridge Decks -- (NYS Department of Transportation)*
- *Replacement of 29 Diesel Buses with Clean Fuel-Powered Buses - (CNY Regional Transportation Authority)*
- *Passenger Waiting and Transfer Facilities -- (CNY Regional Transportation Authority)*
- *Kinne Road bridge over Butternut Creek -- (Town of DeWitt)*
- *West Genesee Street Corridor Improvements -- (Town of Camillus)*

All projects on the TIP were subject to a systematic selection process. The SMTC conducted an extensive screening and project selection process for all projects submitted in response to an October 2000 “call letter” that sought project input from local municipalities, as well as Policy and Planning Committee members. Projects were evaluated based on a matrix comparing the projects to the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century’s (TEA-21) *Seven Planning Factors*, and the SMTC Long-Range Transportation Plan goals and objectives.

The process also allowed for public input. In addition to the community involvement on the municipal level, citizens and other interested agencies/organizations were encouraged to review the draft TIP and submit comments during the publicized 30-day public comment period (April 10, 2001 through May 10, 2001).

Those interested in receiving a copy of the final, adopted TIP should contact SMTC Communications/Public Information Specialist Wayne Westervelt at (315) 422-5716. **Copies of the 2001-2006 TIP can also be requested on CD-rom; viewed on the SMTC web site at [www.smtcmpo.org]; and are available for viewing at the Onondaga County Main Branch Library on S. Salina Street (Galleries) in Downtown Syracuse, N.Y.**

The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council was formed in 1966 as a result of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 and Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964. Serving as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Syracuse Metropolitan Area, the SMTC provides the forum for cooperative decision-making in developing transportation plans and programs for Onondaga County. Its committees are comprised of elected and appointed officials, representing local, State and Federal governments or agencies having interest in or responsibility for transportation planning and programming.

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