



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council Seeks Public Opinion on Issues and Future Needs of Transportation in the Area

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Planning for the Greater Syracuse Metropolitan Area's transportation future involves careful planning and visioning. How does transportation affect our air quality? What kinds of facilities and services are needed to support planned growth? How can we all play a role in improving the safety of our transportation system? These are just some of the questions that will be addressed as the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) continues work on the *2004 Update* to its Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – a “blueprint” that guides the area's transportation development over a 25-year period.

Updated every three years to reflect changing conditions and new planning principles, the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) specifically looks at major urban transportation planning concerns that include, but are not limited to air quality and environmental issues; complete access to transportation; alternative transportation modes (e.g., air, rail, water, bicycle, pedestrian); the impact of land development on the transportation system; highway congestion; and maintenance of the existing infrastructure.

Throughout the production of the *LRTP 2004 Update*, the SMTC will be reaching out to the community-at-large in an effort to gather the informed views of the public regarding preferences for future development and transportation needs. “Technical analysis and policy support from our local and state transportation decision-makers represent only part of the equation,” states SMTC spokesperson Wayne Westervelt. “The informed views of the public are necessary in any planning process.”

In support of this claim, the SMTC has developed a project specific web site where interested citizens will have the opportunity to get the latest *LRTP 2004 Update* news and information. Log on to www.smtcmpo.org/LRTP2004 and share your thoughts regarding the issues and needs surrounding transportation in the area. The site also has a *Public Opinion Survey* that can be filled out online and e-mailed back to the SMTC. This Survey seeks to gauge public views, perceptions and preferences relating to the transportation system.

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For more information about the *LRTP 2004 Update*, or to obtain a Public Opinion Survey via mail or fax, contact Wayne Westervelt of the SMTC at (315) 422-5716.

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What is the SMTC?

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. The SMTC is comprised of elected and appointed officials, representing local, state and federal governments or agencies having interest in or responsibility for transportation planning and programming.

**Log on to the SMTC web site for the latest in transportation
planning in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area: www.smtcmpo.org**