



## Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### ***Household Travel Survey to Help Determine Transportation Needs***

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** — Are you seeing more cars on the road? Do you spend more time at traffic lights? The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) wants to hear from you as it conducts a regional household travel survey beginning on October 1, 2003. The travel survey is intended to help plan for improved transportation services within Onondaga County.

Over the next six weeks, several hundred households in Onondaga County will be contacted by phone and asked to participate in the household travel survey. According to SMTC Director, Mary M. Rowlands, “We plan on contacting nearly 1,200 households at random and are confident that approximately 400 households will agree to participate.”

Households participating in the survey will be asked to have each household member, who is at least five years or older, keep a travel diary for one day. They will record the destination address, travel time, mode of travel, and vehicle occupancy for their travels throughout the day. Parents will be asked to keep the travel diary for younger children. The results of the household travel diaries will then be used to map the travel patterns of our region, providing a better understanding of how, when and where people travel. All information collected is confidential and individual responses will not be released.

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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 and small portions of Madison and Oswego Counties. The SMTC is responsible for the development of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the annual Unified Planning Work Program; these three items serve as the basis for transportation planning and programming in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area. 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. For more information, log on to [www.smtcmpo.org](http://www.smtcmpo.org) for the latest in transportation planning in the Syracuse Metropolitan Area.