

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SMTC Completes University Hill Bike Network Project and Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan

Syracuse, NY: The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) Policy Committee met on December 10, 2008 and acknowledged the University Hill Bike Network Project and the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan as complete.

The University Hill Bike Network Project was conducted at the request of the City of Syracuse as a result of the University Hill Transportation Study. This study examined the concept of a comprehensive bike network in the University Hill area. The network was designed to link to the community's greater bike lane and trail system, improve bicyclist safety, elevate the priority of bicyclists over cars, and encourage alternative modes of transportation. The project also created a tool for evaluating city streets for inclusion in the bike network.

Additionally, the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan was completed in order to meet federal mandates. The impetus for the Coordinated Plan originated with the 2005 passing of the current federal legislation: SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users). The legislation requires that all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) seek to "identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low income, provide strategies for meeting those local needs, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation." The SMTC, the area's MPO, undertook the lead effort in developing such a document for the planning area.

Copies of the final reports are available at the SMTC. Additionally, the report may be downloaded from the SMTC web site at <http://www.smtcmpo.org/finalreps.asp>. For further information, contact Mr. Colone at 315-422-5716 or via e-mail at mcolone@smtcmpo.org.

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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 and small portions of Madison and Oswego Counties. 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