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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Volunteer Bicyclists Invited to Attend Public Meeting; Help the SMTC Rate Roads in Terms of Bicycle Travel**

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) will be holding a public meeting for all those interested in participating in rating selected road segments in Onondaga County based on their suitability for individuals traveling by bicycle. The meeting will be held on:

**Thursday, October 11, 2001 @ 5:30 p.m.**

**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC)**

**126 N. Salina Street, 100 Clinton Square Bldg., Syracuse, New York**

*(across from the Syracuse Newspapers Building)*

Parking is free. Refreshments will be served at the meeting.

What will be covered at the meeting? Staff from the SMTC will be explaining to volunteer cyclists the purpose of their volunteer efforts, as well as outline what is expected in the rating of selected road segments. Volunteers will be asked to collect both quantitative and qualitative data, such as posted speed limits; determine if shoulder stripes exist on the stretch of road being rated; reference if available space is favorable for riding; indicate if sewer/drainage grates are present; specify if steep hills are present; provide their general level (feeling) of comfort/safety on a given stretch of road; and point out any other additional comment that the cyclist feels is worth noting.

Through the data gathering efforts of volunteer cyclists and the information provided by local agencies, the SMTC will develop a bicycle suitability map. This map will rate the streets on the existing road

network as being ‘good’, ‘fair’, ‘poor’, etc. for commuter bicycling. This process **will not** result in the designation of particular bicycle routes, but will enable the general public to determine which roads are currently the most suitable for their bicycle travels. In addition, the map will enable the SMTC to recognize and visualize the current status of cycling throughout Onondaga County.

“By looking at the resulting map, will we be able to determine where the ‘holes’ exist in the current system and where to focus future efforts,” said Danielle Zebley, Project Manager of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – a two-year effort being conducted by the SMTC. “The Bicycle Suitability Map will serve as a first step and starting point towards accomplishing the goal of a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly environment for our area.”

**Interested in attending the 10/11 meeting? For more information, contact SMTC’s Danielle Zebley today!** Phone:(315) 422-5716 or e-mail at [dzebley@smtcmpo.org](mailto:dzebley@smtcmpo.org).

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