



Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SMTC Begins Development of 2003-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) has officially begun work on the development of the **2003-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** for the Greater Syracuse Metropolitan Area.

The 2003-2008 TIP for the SMTC area (*which includes all of Onondaga County and a small portion of Oswego County*) is the agreed upon five-year list of transportation improvement projects for which federal funds [e.g., Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)] are anticipated. Required by federal law, the TIP represents the transportation improvement priorities of the Syracuse Metropolitan area and includes multi-modal projects, bridge, highway, pavement and transit projects, as well as bicycle, pedestrian, clean air, safety and freight-related projects.

In addition to requesting project proposal submissions from its member agencies (e.g., City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York State Department of Transportation, CNY Regional Transportation Authority, etc.), the SMTC is also seeking input from the community. A "call-letter"

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*Press Release – SMTC’s 2003-2008 TIP
November 27, 2002
page 2*

was sent to town, village, city and county officials throughout the area in November 2002. In an effort to educate those municipalities, the SMTC and the New York State Department of Transportation recently held a workshop on the TIP Development Process and the newly completed TIP Guidebook - a one-stop reference manual to guide you through the process. A copy of the TIP Guidebook, which includes all of the necessary information, applications, and work sheets to apply for federal transportation funds, is available on the SMTC web site - www.smtcmpo.org.

“The TIP is the culmination of the transportation planning process and represents a consensus among local, state and regional offices as to what improvement projects to pursue,” said Wayne Westervelt, SMTC Communications/Public Information Specialist. “A project’s inclusion on the TIP signifies regional agreement on the priority of the transportation project and establishes eligibility for federal funding.”

The deadline for project submissions is December 13, 2002. It is important to note that all projects must be submitted by a municipal sponsor, using a specific “Initial Project Proposal (IPP)” form. To obtain a copy of the IPP form and accompanying submittal information, please contact 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: www.smtcmpo.org