Today’s presentation will consist of three components:
• I will give an introduction;
• Frank Kobliski, Centro Director, will discuss the agency’s operations and transit plans;
• Jim D’Agostino, SMTC Director, will present an update of SMTC’s transit study.
• NYSDOT and Centro are two separate transportation agencies that primarily interact at SMTC.
• There we conduct business related to continuous and comprehensive transportation planning with other transportation entities.
• We collaborate on numerous efforts such as: the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan, transportation planning studies, and funding of highway and transit needs.
• On occasion centro and DOT work together on specific projects. I-81 is one such project.
• Centro is a participating agency for this project. As such we have been coordinating with them along with other participating agencies. (smtc, city of syr, salina, etc)
• During the scoping process, NYSDOT and Centro had frequent discussions about how transit might be enhanced as part of the I-81 project.

• We discussed the range of alternatives being considered, future plans for transit in Syracuse, and the types of transit investments that might be included in the project.

• Also, we agreed that whatever highway work occurs through the project it would not preclude any future transit improvements planned by Centro.

• Ultimately DOT seeks to make the right investments at the right time relative to transit.

• We also desire to minimize the social, economic, and environmental impact of whatever is constructed as part of the project. The project’s Environmental Impact Statement will disclose potential impacts.
During our public outreach effort we heard many comments about the need for transit to be part of the project.

• We were told about transit experiences in other cities.
• We heard that light rail should be part of the project.
• We heard that improved transit services would reduce congestion on our roads.
• We were often asked how transit will be addressed in the project.

As a result of public comments, we established a transit related project objective: “Maintain access to the existing bus system and enhance transit amenities (i.e., bus stops, bus shelters, etc.) within and adjacent to the I-81 viaduct priority area.”
Coordination and cooperation between CENTRO and NYSDOT aim to enhance highway and local street performance by improving the interface with transit. For example:

- We will explore providing bus pull-outs and park and ride opportunities
- We will explore improving pedestrian safety through enhanced lighting, sidewalk connections, and bus stop improvements. These actions are also consistent with NYSDOT’s goal to enhance livability in greater Syracuse.
- As the design of the project alternatives advances, specific improvements will be developed.