

The I-81 Challenge

May 2013 Public Meeting

Appendix D – Meeting Evaluation

Prepared for: Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

July 2013

This document was prepared with financial assistance from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation through the New York State Department of Transportation. The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council is solely responsible for its contents.

For further information contact:

James D'Agostino, Director

Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

126 N. Salina St., 100 Clinton Square, Suite 100, Syracuse, NY 13202

PHONE: (315) 422-5716 FAX: (315) 422-7753

www.smtcmpo.org

Meeting Evaluation Results

1.) I learned something useful about The I-81 Challenge today.

1 = Strongly Agree, 6 = Strongly Disagree

Average Rating: 1.7

Comments:

funding for project, where will it come from

Learned more from talking with personnel. The displays are too nuanced & use too much "jargon." A video overview of the info displayed, before entering the displays would have been helpful.

just here to get the new info

It's a lot of information, too much. Need to look at the website

It is a much larger undertaking than I had imagined by listening to the local press.

I understand the options much more clearly

I really needed an "acronym" sheet of definitions

I learned much more about the details of each plan. Well done, analysts

I had no idea mass transit was going to be considered. I love that that was thrown in there.

I didn't realize the blvd. option involved 6 lanes through the whole city.

I already knew a lot, as I have been following this issue closely.

a lot of information to absorb, but it was well-presented and clear.

good posters, charts, etc

Mostly I learned that it's a very complex collection of problems/issues. My confidence that we'll do the smart/proper thing is low (I'm a Chiefs fan) but I remain hopeful.

First meeting - I learned a LOT

excellent access to knowledgeable presenters

Early info is without context. Did you think about reversing the flow - start with a final option and then show pluses & minuses that contribute (or detract) from it?

DOT seems to have made up its mind.

comparison of schemes & feasibility & cost comparisons.

Bld = 81 (former) north & south of termini becomes state highway, no change

attractive & highly informative

As Urban planning Master's student I have researched in depth the I-81 issues. This workshop/meeting has improved my knowledge of the current & future issues regarding Syracuse infrastructure.

All the information was well presented and easy to understand. Allows more people to make better decisions/think critically.

about the same as all

Having just moved to Syracuse, I went into the meeting with very little knowledge of the concerns/issues or the proposed solutions. Now, I have a much clearer idea of what is going on.

the blvd. is favored

you are doing a fabulous job of slowly creating consensus

well structured, clear, organized

visuals were very informative. Good Historical context.

Useful one sided propaganda. Yes, I found this loaded with one side opinion. Telling us that a great design is a division. That quick travel for fire, police, MET, north south east & west is really not that important

this was very informative!

This meeting was announced as last public input! Info available is not ready or available to evaluate different scenarios

This is my 3rd I-81 Challenge meeting. The review was very helpful, though. This time, I was smart enough to bring a camera

There was a lot of information to go over. This is very important for our city and needs to be taken seriously.

there has not been much info on where (approx.) 81 N would end (apparently not far from E. Adams). I do not support a Blvd. option

The staff were very well informed and knowledgable

loved the maps and old photos

The choice between blvd and recon costs outweigh a tunnel option

most of it was a rehash of the last meeting

That only 2 options are being carried forward.

talked to a guide helped answer specific questions

staff was very helpful

some of it a bit too high level for everyday people. Thank goodness for your team members!

solid understanding of options on road & transit side

so we are down to two options, reconstruct or boulevard

road improvement impact more than downtown

Pictures & words to help define sound bites

OMG, it is complicated. Appreciat public being involved.

Nicely set up. Organized. Straight language.

you have always wanted the boulevard & its going back to when I was a kid

The presentation, current stakeholder information & logistical data was helpful to a make a more educated decision

2.) I was able to provide meaningful input about The I-81 Challenge today.

1 = Strongly Agree, 6 = Strongly Disagree

Average Rating: 2.72

Comments:

I did BUT I doubt anyone will listen

If you choos the option that I like, then I believe my input was meaningful!

I was heard

I tried to do this....if helpful?

I raised a couple of questions & the staff was not able to answer and appeared genuinely interested in

I hope my input will be considered

I honestly don't feel public opinion matters, only the politicians. It'll end up as a boulevard no matter what.

I guess filling out the comment sheet could be considered meaningful.

I gues the answer is yes, if writing something on a post-it counts as "meaningful"

I don't know how much, my opion might have on the decision

I didn't have time to submit full commentary

?

I did get to speak with 3 representatives.

It will be hard to make this decision

I asked questions

I agree that it appears that I can provide inputs. I will go home and look at the website.

how do you compete with propaganda vidio at every corner, really

Engineering and design questions and concerns were not really considered by myself and other technical and project managers on site

Don't really know how to solve this massive problem.

Cited Boston example of their removal of their elevated subway

Bridge rebuild with relocation of part of traffic will disperse concentration of vehicle pollution effects again, a bit over my head.

advocated for phased rapid transit plan to complement I81 plan. Wich will reduce the cars on the highway

A lot of people to answer questions but real input.

I did not feel there was any good to give your opinio. I would have liked a more town hall feel.

Representatives were very attentive to what I said

This was definitely provided with comment sheets. I'm not sure I'm qualified to give meaningful input

This meeting seemed primarily informational, which is fine and understandable

this has been going on for so long nothing else should be added.

the Stantec people of the floor are knowledgable and good to talk to

The post-it notes and friendly staff made me feel like I was contributing, along with this form

The boards for posting comments publicly was a neat idea. It was fun to read what other people had to say.

That remains to be seen, as one individual versus the commercial interests, especially Destiny & Norther suburbs

talked to people

staff was open and informative

see attached suggestions

I'm suspecting that the "deck is stacked" leaning towards a specific proposal. Not sure about input.

Reps were more concentrated on speaking with guests who where dressed in "professional" attire - not very interested in input of others. After constantly waiting to make a suggestion we left.

It remains to be seen how meaningful public input is...

People were certainly available.

only because I don't yet know enough to have an informed opinion.

only b/c I'm not as informed. Took a lot away, hope to input more in the future.

not sure really how significant my input is, frankly

noise abatement issues. With redirect of 481 becoming 81.

na

mostly learning mode so wasn't trying to provide input

made substantial connections w/ SMTC staff over last year now, able to be comfortable, share input

Made good argument against obnoxious fellow from Destiny who wants rebuild option.

Just as good as other meetings, but great to see analysis across the board.

to be determined

Reps were too consumed to talk to others - when one asked where we lived, we stated Armory Square, the she said that it would not impact us - Really? Please explain how!?

3.) As compared to other meetings I have attended, this event was:

1 = Much better than average, 6 = Much worse than average

Average Rating: 2.18

Comments:

I liked the ability to follow the reasoning.

Great that it's all online as it's A LOT of information

had not gone to one

hands on, really got to talk to everyone about interest and they answered all questions

have attended in Buffalo & NYC & by far this meeting has been more informative and interactive than others

have not been to other meetings

I am not in favor of the blvd, but the event was great

I did not attend any other meetings

I did not attend the public meetings. I did attend a lecture about the I-81 challenge at the CNY engineering expo.

I like the part that any question I had was answered by someone with a name tag!

N/A - 1st meeting

I liked that it showed many viable options for the future of I-81. It gave me more options to think about and choose which I like.

Good people around for questions.

I liked the forum and the proactivity of the initiative

I liked the updated planning with greater specificity.

I think there need to be more Q & A opportunities!

I'm happy we learned some options are off the table, but I'm bitter that we can't have tunnel.

input

Likes - overall interactive "kiosk" format; approachable facilitators and visually appealing displays.
Dislikes - limited distribution of some of the more technical details (i.e. decision matrices used in feasibility studies, etc.)

Lots of information - impossible to process it all

N.A.

1. parking great/across street 2.coffee/water/cookies - excellent 3. people helpful 4. Some graphics TOO MUCH to digest - but not bad. 5. missed one sign - at entering point, a BIG sign should have been posted telling everyone everything here is on ONLINE

I liked all the information. Wish there were more ways to express your opinion.

did not attend

1st meeting

1st meeting attended

1st one I've been able to attend. Wish more people would become interested.

a more brief overview at the beginning that would have leading questions or ideas to help process the deluge of information coming in. The people providing explanation were great tho

about the same

about the same - not a criticism

All of these meetins have been excellent in that there were plenty of people to answer questions and many different options presented.

All the meetings have been informative. It's a tough challenge to meet everyone's needs.

an awful lot of info! - go for better & worse

good staff at many locations to answer questions

Could not get close enough to boards, when I did get close enough I couldn't stay long enough to read the whole things; when I could read it all I wasn't sure what order to read it in.

good photos

did not attend other events

fancy, nice sales pitch

feasibility of boulevard concept

first meeting attended. Like overall presentation.

first meeting I've attended

First one. A lot of pictures. Good reading. But very empty with detailed possible issues.

first timer!

full explanations, logical, clear good graphics

good job of explaining how arrived at 2 alternatives. Both need more work, but a good start.

n/a my first meeting. I liked the evaluation of each option: all the details, followed by a summart.

better publicized, but it should be even more so. Also, I had no idea that there was free parking in the garage. It should have been mentioned on the news reports.

TV info not loud enough with all the conversation. Maybe put in separate rooms.

the lay out & progression of ideas

the same, but w/ a "few" "decisions" made.

the simplicity of the comparison chart

There was more info and I liked the layout.

This was more fact finding for me. The people I talked to were very helpful in answering my questions.

this was my first & I greatly appreciate the efforts that have gone into these events. Kudos!

This was my first meeting.

Too crowded. Displays too small - should have had multiple sets.

too little space for the new stuff too crowded. The recapitulation should be condensed.

N/A

Traffic flow of the room was not thought nor planned out. Upon arrival at 4 pm we left by 6 pm due to not being able to look at displayed materials.

the displays began to look alike thruout the area. Verbal presenters were helpful.

very good into

very packed crowd, could not really see boards without being step upon. Suggest next make it a two day event. This would allow more to come and easier to read board if crowds had time to thin out.

very well organized, laid out

very well organized; easy to find information, as well as sort out what I areday know with what is new; LOTS of people around to ask questions of

video sound was terrible

well executed. This is an opportunity for the community and I'm glad that there is consideration of options rather than continuing the status quo.

Well thought out stations & it was very helpful to have people available to help us understand the concerns & issues

while helpful the people assigned to each area are crowding the presentations

You had a huge challenge to explain this in ways we could comprehend. Logical, visual, helpful panels. Great clarity. Thanks. Looks like the boulevard has the nod.

too much repeated context

not applicable - this was my first one

N/A. First one attended.

N/A. first time

N/A. Have not attended other meetings

na

NA, did not attend previous meetins

Need more of the COOKIES!

needed more space around the options

never attended a meeting previous to today's but I did not expect this to be such a great experience.

Never attended anything similar - this was very well done.

the information layout was wonderfully done and the workers were very informative

No info regarding challenges for people with disabilities at all!

The graphics along with supported data have always been great quality. The flow of the room to room was poorly executed as people congregated around displays for so long, we walked past as well as other attending guests did.

not at other mtgs

not enough orientation about where process is vs. where it's going....

Ran as smoothly as the others

Same. Only more old info.

seemed like the same.

similar - but turn out seems greater - already packed at the beginning/early on

sometimes it was too crowded and hard to see the posters.

sources of traffic and projections not available or known to be being developed

The cookies were AWESOME! This meeting was more interactive than others I have attended. I was able to move through the displays at my own pace.

you have give lot of different scenarios. I commend that.

new info presented instead of just reiterating old info, keeping public updated

4.) I believe that the The I-81 Challenge process is being structured in a transparent and accessible manner.

1 = Strongly Agree, 6 = Strongly Disagree

Average Rating: 2.17

Comments:

I agree that the meetings are fair and transparent. Though the feel of special interests outside the meetings makes one woner if these will matter.

1st meeting

It is however presents as slanted toward blvd. recommendation

It is great to see public input being collected and encouraged in a project of this magnitude.

I'm glad that so much effort has been made to include public input and interaction with the process as possible

If only you could take this on the road to those citizens who are skeptics

I think everyone is looking for realistic ideas of why NYS is really considering

I like that the community is being asked their opinion.

I feel at least the public has the opportunity to speak and be listened to, even if we don't get to decide in the final decision, at least public was made aware of it

I do think that the results are being slanted to the advantage of the "boulevard" concept.

I believe the transparency is there however still feel a conclusion is already drawn & these meetings are just trying to placate the public

I am very concerned that Destiny and/or other powerful business interests may derail the planning and suboptimize the result. They should have only an EQUAL seat at the table!

It seems to be, but how transparent will it be when it comes down to the final decision-making

I am on email list, so I feel Challenge process has been reaching out to me. The people not on-line may feel left out.

It takes more study than is possible in this method

high-level presentation/? Of the "plan to develop the framework to develop the plan" was well executed. Thank you

great community involvement brought into equation

except that final decision seems to rest w/ NYSDOT - instead of multi-disciplined planning team looking at much more than just traffic.

Congel per Rubin's op ed in the Post Standard

Better than it was before - SMTC + DOT have been dragged into more public discussion, kicking & screaming

appears that way. See comment 1.

Accessible, yes. Transparent questionable. See answer #2.

About "transparency": WHO is it who's making these decisions? Are they here? Where are they?

A bit overwhelming for a person coming in that didn't know much. Maybe more detailed description/pros/cons for each option.

4.5 I believe the outreach portion of the project is doing an excellent job of involving the community, however I don't believe in the end it will carry much weight

4.5

I am pleased that the process is laid out so clearly. I am skeptical that the public has a lot of real input, but it's nice to be asked anyway.

Plenty of information but very hard to visualize

While I do agree with the transparency of The I-81 Challenge process through design -overall this is not a choice that is going to be made by the public - so define that line of input vs. final approval?

we'll see

We know what Syracuse Legis thinks - can we throw them out of the group? Have members attended any of these sessions?

wait & see - this could all be window dressing, to look good - if any decision is made that is NOT the boulevard option, then it is all a Potemkin Village

Until now most meetings have had little advertisement to residents in the area most affected.

This is the most transparent public consultation I've seen

The recent vote by the Onondaga County Legislature is the primary reason for making this a 3 rather than a 1 - and I should have voted it a 5 for that reason

The public information meetings are a great tool for citizens to see how complex issues can really be. Being able to voice suggestions, concerns, or ideas helps the process versus common criticism.

the process seems quite long and maybe a bit drawn out - but has been very transparent and allowed for plenty of public input & opps. For to share responses

The challenge is to rehabilitate!

sort of

It is refreshing to see this much effort placed on gathering public input.

Presuming we have access to view digital images and info as we procede.

yes, but part of me is doubtful on how the DOT will arrive at their final decision. There were a lot of lobbyists with an agenda that I hope don't trump what's best for the community.

please do not get influenced by Congel and his kind of greedy people

Perhaps to people who attend this event, but there is a lot of propaganda out there by "people in the news."

Out of the largest development companies in Syracuse, who's got their hands farther in the mayors cookie jar?

not sure!

not sure - there are many factors other than public participation

No, I thought the planners are leaning to the demands of the university elite and ill-informed politicians that want "economic development" without considering the full impact of this

never trust a polotician or the government 100%

keep up the good work!

I've been concerned that the blvd is desired by powerful interests who want to cheap out the city under the guise of fixing historical wrongs.

It's a lot to take in, but I think a lot of/most of the information is pretty clear. Just LOTS of it.

It took all options into consideration.

Seems to be strongly slanted toward ideas that do not include rebuilding the current road.

5a.) Where did you hear about this meeting? (Selections)

Response	Number
Newspaper	113
TV	74
Other	59
Listserv/e-mail	56
Word of Mouth	49
Radio	46
Social Media / Website	36
Community Meeting	23

5b.) Where did you hear about this meeting? (Comments)**Comments:**

electronic signs on highways

(Wescott Neighborhood Association) (WNA meeting)

mailing

mailer

Mailed flyer

mail on the list from the last meeting

lighted sign on Route 690

interstate 690 elec sign

I-690 public electronic sign

I690 billboard

highway signs

highway sign

mailing piece

friend

my high school teacher

electronic signs along the side of the road & YNN

electronic sign on Rt. 690

driving

DOT workers

channel 3

Centerstate CEO

billboards on 690

billboards

billboard on highway (electronic)

bars

at work

angry business people

highway alert system

signs along 81 advertising the meeting

USPW mail - attended other meetings

US history teacher

Traffic sign on 690 west by Bridge Street

then I looked it up via Google

Syracuse.com

social media

snail mail

SMTC mailer

signs on the highway

signs on rte 81 7 rte 690

signs on roadways

mailing + the light sign on I-81 northbound

signs along road

WSYR

sign on side of road

sign on highway

sign on 690 going east

sent notice in mailbox, then saw on 690.

road signs

road sign

reminder on road signs

PVMS on I-81 WB

previous attendee

on the mailing list already

NYSDOT

my wife attended a previous meeting

signs on highway

6.) Any other comments.

Comments:

"Many people are learning portions of I81 are nearing the end of their life span." THAT is the OPENING LINE in the "I81 Challenge." If you are going to present propaganda, might as well start at the beginning.

Boulevard option; Next step: tackle Erie Blvd.

By listening to the presentations of the people here...they are pushing for the boulevard access. Please just rebuild it and leave well enough alone.

can't wait to see the more detailed analysis

consider long-range impact of I-481 (future I-81) improvements - consider dedicated thru traffic lanes with local service roads

Crossing under the highway now is dangerous. It would be nice to see mass transit expand in our city. We already have way too much vehicle (except commerce) traffic. Tear it down. Put up a highway designed solely for trucks. Have people think outside the

fantastic P.R. campaign to make public aware of this meeting

feel all groups involved are working well & informing the public very well. Good over view with all elements covered - history, impact, environmental, transit, & travel time. More on expected cost to taxpayer could be elaborated on.

Feel as though boulevard option has been set in stone. (Done deal)

for better data collection they should design an app for Syracuse and Metropolitan area residents to track driving - simple - easy - free. Your welcome and sign me up.

free bus trip to get here & home (like free parking for those who can own cars)

GO WITH NEW BRIDGES! NO BOULEVARD!

godspeed

good concepts challenge to find the right one

good job on the publicity

good location at Oncenter to have info meeting on this

good luck! Close viaduct area for 1 month to access alternative routes for people concerned about going downtown.

great turnout. This community CARES!

hopefully we make a great decision in the new future.

How can you seriously consider a tunnel/depressed roadway? H2O issues; costs; depressed roadway makes "division" of Syracuse even worse

I came to complain about why I didn't want I-81 to come down. I'm always on 81 or 690 but I have changed my mind TAKE IT DOWN

I changed my original support from tunnel (depressed) to reconstruct due to review of materials presented.

I find the boulevard concept/plan very attractive. If the reconstruction route is chosen, I hope that there will be provision of ample walk signals provisions as well as bicycle lanes in the streets underneath the reconstructed viaducts.

I hope more people from outside the downtown/university area will get involved in the process

I hope that when a decision is made, that it is explained in a way that makes it clear why? How the decision made

I hope we take this opportunity to address the failings of the 81-Viaduct and create a solution that starts to heal some of the wounds caused to Syracuse neighborhoods and economic vitality by current placement of Rt I-81.

I like the boulevard option

I like the IDEA of a boulevard, but think the environment/social consequences need to be more fairly assessed. PLEASE strongly consider the pedestrian impacts of a 6-lane surface level roadway. Especially if surrounding development doesn't happen immediat

I love this city. We have all the makings of a great place to live and/or raise a family.

I still feel reconstructing the current 81 should be the way to go. Add more lighting etc. below 81 to make it more pedestrian friendly.

I think the absence of alternatives that remove cars almost completely, or that make cars LESS convenient than walking, biking and mass transit, means we are NOT making a decision for the 7th generation from now. Sincerely, David Reed 315-414-1338

I think you're going to have a tough fight with pre-conceived opionions & agenda

I thought this was going to be your typical type meeting where by when you voice an opinion the whole room hears it. I didn't like this one.

I very much favor the blvd. option.

I'm glad the west side loop was ruled out. It would have been too disruptive and is not needed.

Impressed with all the excellent work that has been done in working through the options.

information sharing was well done

It is well organized & helpful, just a lot to consider

It isn't really clear just how the final decision will be made. Unfortunately politics is likely to play a large role. And people with lots of money will probably have undue influence.

it so far appears to be handled well, with thorough thinking and evaluation. Keep it up!

I've heard a lot of questions answered like this: "We/they haven't really figured that out yet."

Keep public informed of subsequent project/planning development; be sure to share evidence of data-driven decisions-making?

Last year, I participated in a "formal" group discussion. (It had a microphone!) There were many small and useful discussions going on, but the ideas will probably get lost. One gentleman suggested to John Sexton to build handball and basketball courts ne

Luke Tynan, 214 Dorchester Ave 1B, 13202, 437-3084

many attendees feel that the decisions have been made and this is a "show"

more meetings

N/A

Need a question and answer, with real people with answers

Need for step back to evaluate air pollution and resulting minimizing needs to be included in each scenario and possible solutions - acceleration-deceleration. Expand ability of minimizing noise - acceleration-deceleration and needed transmission of major

Need to provide scale model of each proposal. Suggest showing roadway, all right of way access locations and visual of surrounding area

nicely done

No one can say that they never had the opportunity to comment and get engaged in the process. I was too young to have an opinion on the "viaduct" but I believe it was a mistake, especially for the 15th ward neighborhoods as was "urban renewal."

not enough cookies, came @ an early time, never got one

not enough people to speak with. Plus, they told me they won't recall or rpt. My comments anyway

only one option serves the CITY well - the boulevard

Please add me to the listserv/email: joellabell@gmail.com

Please don't make decision based on Destiny's needs or the possible impact on motel owners. Please continue to consider the needs of the broader community to make Syracuse a more attractive & viable place to live.

Please help the media understand the project better so they don't confuse their audiences!

Please provide better outreach in support of the boulevard. There are a lot of myths about its traffic impact in circulation. Also, this area is very regressive and entrenched groups will fight for the status quo if the truth doesn't get to them.

Please reconstruct 81 - call me selfish, but I don't want/need a longer commute to/from work; my \$ and time are too precious

Please use this to improve our city. Do not be afraid to make a tough decision. This is our chance to make a difference.

put on comment sheet. A little too much info. Need more straight to point info for those who have already been to other meetings.

Rebuild the Viaduct!

reconstruction with enhancements is the best option

see comment 1

Since I-81 works fine at present it should be rebuilt in the present location except use and earth base similar to I-690 + enhance with landscaping.

Somehow, not the fault of the SMTC/DOT, a huge chunk of the region is still uneducated to many/most components being discussed and are rather reacting violently to very narrow issues...

tear it down & keep it down

The boulevard concept appealed to me. the presentation of the various stages & proposals were informative. Thank you for the presentation.

There should have been more VISIBLE public outreach earlier in the process.

there were a lot of undefined terms thrown around. I would have liked more background.

this eyesore should come down. If we want a city that's liveable, higher quality of life, we don't need auto emissions and noise traveling about ground through the city

this is an opportunity to right a wrong. I wish you would ask background check questions of responders. The views of someone who has both driven the 690/81 interchange AND walked across the city from Syr Stage to Eveson is likely to be different than thos

This was interesting + in some ways inclusive.

underground roundabouts wil work under blvd.

Very impressed w/ the level of public participation. I like the boulevard concept - it seems like the best solution in terms of social & community impacts as well as environmental impacts. Looking forward to seeing some green infrastruictiure solutions in

very nice, very professional, comprehensive

we need N-S highway not a blvd.

well done. Informative, but not too technical

well done. Organized, professional, and staff available to answer questions were helpful!

Well done. Thank you.

when will diagrams be made to show possible solutions?

whoever decides this issue needs to carefully explain all the reasoning that went into the decision, including acknowledging the concerns of all those who participated and maybe didn't get "their way." Ideally our ultimate solution solved the most concern

Why fight it; it's going to be a boulevard. No matter what.

would favor major rehabilitation of present I-81 with attention given to improving present unattractiveness. The present situation of the proximity of I-81 to public housing has a very deleterious impact on air quality for the residents.

Yes: The boulevard scheme (and any scheme) needs to have a component of new zoning guidelines to promote (diverse) small business use (ie NOT just large institutional uses w/ big blank, non-inhabited uses. Add a zoning compliment to enliven the business &

You really need to use vertical space. It is key for a congested planet and city.