

OCL *Rethinking I-81* Study  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes  
University College  
Jan 14, 2009

Present: Phil Bousquet, Dennis Connors, Bill Egloff, Karen Kitney, Sarah McIlvain, Clyde Ohl, Donna O'Mahoney Rohde, Steve Schroeder, Doug Sutherland, Sandra Barrett, Eric Persons.

Bill Egloff update the committee on the status of the I-81 Northern study. They expect to have PS&E in 180 days; think it's a match for the stimulus package.

Captain Shannon Trice, traffic director of the Syracuse Police Department, spoke about traffic issues related to I-81 closures during highway construction. He noted high volume of traffic on city streets and blocked intersections because drivers failed to follow rules of the road.

Interstates in the City represent the greatest number of calls to SPD for crashes, disabled vehicles etc. There are 5000-7000 crashes annually in the city; about 2000 involve personal injury. Average 360-400 crashes annually on I-81; a little less on 690. These figures do not include calls for disabled vehicles, debris. The State Police in the Syracuse region used to have 2 cars but they were taken away and the troopers "do not take calls" on the Interstates in Syracuse, though the "State has priority." In Rochester and other areas, however they do patrol and respond to calls on the Interstate,. The SPD takes care of accidents in the city on the highways, but gets only a portion of the fines collected. "A lot of our fatalities come from the highway."

During I-81 closures were there volume peaks on other roadways as people got off 690 and I-81? Volume issues existed all over downtown.

Discussion of issues related to traffic, parking downtown, expectation of being able to park close to destination, traffic problems at Clinton Square, park-and-ride systems, study related to adding exit off of 481 to South Campus. If I-81 "goes away" 481 is the way out of town guests would arrive at Syracuse University.

Questions to Captain Trice: How would you improve traffic flow in downtown area? In Armory Square, for instance, restrict deliveries to the morning. (Hard to hear the rest of this.)

Will there be roadway changes in the Carousel Mall area? No decision regarding this. w/o

Update on Connective Corridor plans; SMTC has contracted with consultant for public participation study. Rich Landerkin met with representatives from NYSDOT consultant Stantech re: their strength in the mass transit area. The Corridor Study follow-up, including two-way traffic and Almond narrowing, will be available in about 2 weeks, per Eric.

How will transportation funding information be included in the report? There will be an explanation of how current transportation funding works but to try and write about how it will change would be guesswork. At OCL Board meeting, positive concern was expressed that as we strategize on how we are going to convey our findings to the decision makers. Next week, we will discuss conference.