

Who makes the final decision?

The decision about what happens to I-81 involves many parties:



The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT):

The NYSDOT owns the road and will therefore have ultimate responsibility for any decision about the future of I-81. NYSDOT will be responsible for overseeing the decision-making process and, eventually, construction.



The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC):

The SMTC is the federally-designated agency responsible for planning and allocating federal funding for transportation projects in our region. Project(s) that emerge from The I-81 Challenge requiring federal funds will have to be included in the SMTC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) of regional improvement priorities. Approval of the TIP requires a consensus of SMTC member agencies. The TIP is also made available for public comment prior to approval.



Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):

Because federal money will be expended, the federal government, through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other federal agencies, will also have a role in the I-81 decision-making process. The FHWA will oversee the adherence to federal transportation planning and design regulations throughout the process as well as ensuring that the environmental review is conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



Centro, the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, and others:

Any decisions that involve transit solutions and/or alterations to local streets will involve Centro, our local transit agency, and our local municipalities. These entities have ultimate responsibility for transportation decisions within their jurisdictions.



You (the public):

Because this project has the potential to profoundly impact everyone who lives in the Syracuse metropolitan area, the public will also play a role in the ultimate decision about I-81. The public will be central to the development of options for the future of the highway, as well as the iterative process to narrow those options down to the preferred solution(s).