

**NYSMPO Director's Meeting**  
**March 30, 2007 10:30AM-3:00PM**  
**Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study**  
**Meeting Summary**

**In person:**

Steve Gayle, BMTS  
Jim D'Agostino, SMTC  
Harry Miller, HOCTS  
John Czamanske, OCTC  
Bill Tobin, UCTC  
Jay Schissell, ECTC  
Rich Perrin, GTC  
Kealy Salomon, PDCTC  
Fernando de Aragon, ITCTC

Janine Simonsen, NYSDOT  
Ron Hayes, NYSDOT  
Dick Beers, FHWA  
Sarah Siwek, SSA  
Tanya Zwahlen, SSA

**By teleconference:**

Larry McAuliffe, NYMTC  
Hal Morse, GBNRTC

**1. Introductions**

**2. Meeting Summary**

The March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting summary was accepted pending correction of a typo under 8A.

**3. 2007 NYSMPOs Annual Meeting**

**a. Training and Working Group Meetings**

Sarah will schedule a half or full-day visualization training on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. The training will focus on different approaches to and uses of visualization through software.

The Transit Working Group has scheduled a meeting in West Point at the Thayer on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM.

The West Point tours cost \$9/person. NYSMPO will not organize a formal tour but will provide tour information in the registration packets.

**b. Agenda & Speaker Invitations**

The agenda was reviewed and refined. Sarah and Tanya will invite speakers. They will provide contact information for all speakers and ask moderators to schedule and hold teleconferences with speakers for each session.

**4. Staff Consultant Contract**

**a. Status of RFI**

The draft scope of services was reviewed by MPO directors and the NYSDOT MPO Bureau in March.

## 5. Shared Cost Initiatives

### a. Community Design Phase I

Tanya will check on the status of posting the Community Design Phase I product on the NYSMPO web site with Dave Jukins and Peter Plumeau.

### b. Innovative Approaches to Planning Implementation

The group approved the Task 3 scope amendments presented by Hal Morse.

### c. Transit Supportive Development

The Roundtable Discussion is tentatively scheduled to take place before or after the NYPTA conference in Rochester on June 6. The consultant team will attend the NYSMPOs conference in West Point to discuss results and meet with downstate participants that could not travel to Rochester.

NYSMPO scheduled a session for 8:30-11:30AM on Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Tanya will work with Larry McAuliffe to schedule plan for these sessions. MPO Directors should send contacts for potential demonstration projects to Tanya so these individuals can be invited to the June 6<sup>th</sup> or June 14<sup>th</sup> session.

### d. Training

There are four courses scheduled for April, May and June.

NYMTC is hosting the NHI/NTI Metropolitan Transportation Planning course June 26-28<sup>th</sup> in New York. There is no fee to attend this course, but space is limited. NYSMPO will host this course in the fall if there is interest.

An NTI course on Transportation and Land Use is being scheduled for the fall at NYMTC. Details will follow shortly.

There is \$115,000 in the training budget currently. Sarah will draft a letter to Dave Kimmel from John Poorman stating that the additional FTA PA funds should be included into the NYSMPO training budget. The training budget will increase to approximately \$150,000 with this addition. Once reconciled, Rich Perrin will provide the amount to Sarah and NYSMPO.

## 6. NYSDOT Update

- 1) NYSDOT is advancing the effort to obtain ESRI ArcInfo licenses for NYSDOT and MPO staff. Ron will report on this initiative when a decision has been finalized.
- 2) The joint RPPM/MPO meeting was well attended. The next meeting will take place in Syracuse in September.

- 3) SPR requests have been reviewed and are waiting for the Commissioner's review. NYSDOT expects to release awarded projects in the next week.
- 4) NYSDOT EAB has drafted CMAQ guidance. NYSDOT invited MPO representatives to review the proposed guidance. Rich Perrin volunteered to serve on the review team.
- 5) John Zamurs anticipates emissions factor tables from NYSDEC by 4/15. Conformity determinations must be coordinated with TIP advancement.
- 6) The program updates from NYSDOT regions were submitted on 3/3. The fiscal constraint review will be complete by the middle of April. NYSMPO requested a meeting with NYSDOT to evaluate the TIP process evaluation.
- 7) NYSDOT will work with Tanya to put together a calendar of training through September 2007. This calendar should be distributed electronically and posted on the NYSMPO web site. All agreed to better coordinate and share information on training between NYSDOT and NYSMPOs.
- 8) The Safe Routes to School program proposal from the NYSMPOs remains under development.

## 7. Washington Update

The AMPO/AASHTO 3-day National Summit will take place on April 11-13 in New Orleans and the AMPO Policy Committee will be held in Chicago the week after. The summit will focus on future transportation funding and implications for statewide metropolitan planning. The AMPO Policy Committee meeting will focus on what to say to Congress in 2009 on Reauthorization. If anyone has input or thoughts on the policy issues, let Steve or Rich know.

Max Williamson and Fred Wagner from Beveridge & Diamond LLC (<http://www.bdlaw.com/>) offered their services are available (at a cost) to MPOs needing assistance with SAFETEA-LU compliance. They can identify best practices and safe harbors that are designed to win federal approval. They have expertise in fiscal constraint, NEPA, interagency consultation, and transportation conformity.

Sarah will send a summary of the new planning rule to MPOs.

The group discussed outreach to state resource agencies for consultation per requirements of SAFETEA-LU. The state is developing a list of agency contacts. This list will be ready by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Rich will send GTC's names of agency contacts to MPOs and NYSDOT, since there may be some overlap.

The group discussed the March 19<sup>th</sup> notice to states of the rescission of federal transportation funding and the need to program and spend unobligated CMAQ funding.

## 8. Working Group Updates

### a. Safety

The safety group is meeting next Friday. The SWG requested that Directors review the draft comment letter to NYSDOT regarding the NYS Strategic

Highway Safety Plan and provide comments by early next week. Tanya will email the letter next week. BMTS will provide comments regarding the lack of discussion about 5% hazardous locations or the High Risk Rural Roads programs, which are both required by SAFETEA-LU.

## **b. Transit**

The transit working group met on 3/21 in Utica. They do not recommend advancing the SCI project, which seeks to find best practices for the coordinated human service plans. They have found it beneficial to meet and discuss status on plan development.

The group asked about the status of the 2/27/07 draft "Dear Colleague" letter regarding the new FTA formula program notice. Janine Simonsen will check on the status of this letter.

## **9. Brochure**

Tanya will work to have the brochure printed by the annual meeting. She will send inserts for review next week.

## **10. Priorities for Remainder of Current Contract**

Sarah will send a memorandum regarding staff priorities for the remainder of the contract. The big priorities currently are the Annual Meeting, the Transit Supportive Development SCI project. The Safety Working Group and Air Quality/SIP Development Working Group also require staff support. Sarah also has work to do on interagency consultation for conformity and will get materials to MPOs.

The Community Design Phase II project should also be advanced. NYSMPO would like to develop a scope for the RTP financial planning after the conference. Steve Gayle and Gerry Bogacz will develop the process and scope for the MPO self assessment and evaluation.

## **11. Other Business**

- a. OCTC is looking for a planner. The job description is posted at <http://www.orangecountygov.com/orgmain.asp?storyID=3382&orgID=142&storyTypeID=1&sid>.

## **12. Next Meeting Dates/Times**

Teleconference on May 4, 2007 at 1:00PM EST  
1-712-580-1800 Participant Access Code 697676

Teleconference on June 1, 2007 at 1:00 EST  
1-712-580-1800 Participant Access Code 697676

