

**NYSAMPO Climate Change Working Group Teleconference
6/20/2012 | Meeting Summary**

Participants

- Kate Mance, A/GFTC (chair)
- John Sterbentz, BMTS
- Chris O’Neill, CDTC
- Joe Bovenzi, GTC
- Cathy Kuszman, NYSDOT
- Colleen Smith-Lemmon, NYSDOT
- Elizabeth Cole, NYSDOT
- Lynn Weiskopf, NYSDOT
- Steven Gayle, RSG
- Grace Wu, RSG

Discussion Items

1. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

- Agenda – no changes to agenda
- April meeting summary – no changes.

2. Discussion – Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI) update (Lynn Weiskopf, DOT)

- Kate – Introduced the TCI update, mentioned the meeting in Baltimore last week
- Lynn – NY representative to TCI. Brief background on the TCI cooperative collaboration: environmental agencies, from Maine to Maryland, covers 11 states with four working groups to carry out the activities. The four groups met last Wednesday to flesh out plans for the upcoming year.
 - Clean vehicle and fuel—Implementing NYSERDA grant and working with 16 clean city coalitions, developing electric vehicle (EV) readiness grant, identifying deployment, charging stations, permitting, zoning for regions, and stakeholder partnerships. Also studying other alternatives to fuel. Surveyed the state about natural gas efforts. No workplan yet, but will be ongoing and have workplan by Feb 2013.
 - i. As part of the Clean Cities Coalitions, the group is working on permitting and zoning criteria, to be completed by Dec 2012. TCI also issued an EV pledge that went to public and private entities, eliminating barriers to EV deployment. So far, 60 organizations (cities, commercial entities) have pledged. Next is to follow-up on specific actions for those who have committed. Funding winding down at the end of 2012, so group will continue to seek grant funding.
 - Sustainable communities group – Developing a metric for sustainable policy and planning activities. Prepared white paper and, in December 2011, had workshop presenting promising indicators and metrics. Centered on 11 metrics, ranging from broad greenhouse gasses, to health benefits from transportation. Technical issues regarded specifics about each definition and how metrics can be applied across different regions. Next step to address those questions.

- Freight – Contracted with Dr. James Weinbrecht on freight study. Findings are not groundbreaking for the transportation community, but paper provides a good baseline for energy and environmental agencies. Next step is to apply modeling to energy and emissions to freight loads and travel throughout the region. Have applied through TCI with I-95 Corridor Coalition on a multistate corridor application grant and are still waiting to see if awarded. Looking at monitoring of emissions of freight flows and will provide to other coalitions in NY and other states.
 - Information and Communications Technology – Focused on smartphones and GPS and merging with real time activity info, to help travelers make more energy efficient travel choices. However, one identified issue with the company ArrivalStar, who holds 3 or 4 patents on motion/vehicle tracking. They have sued transportation agencies who want to track vehicles for emissions information. Currently working with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and others to bring broader resources to look into the patent issue. Department of Justice (DOJ) is also looking into the patents lawsuits.
 - Next year – Update the TCI webpage with application information that would assist in the electric vehicle employment, e.g. finding charging stations. Emphasis on featuring apps that are already out there and available, not new development. Looking at broader open source information, e.g. rideshare information.
3. NYSDOT Business/Announcements
- Lynn - No announcements, nothing new to report.
 - Kate – Contacted by NYSERDA Cleaner Greener Communities program. Will be on committee for adaptations.
4. Discussion – Linkage Program White Paper comments (Chris O’Neill, CDTC)
- Kate – Eliciting comments for the Linkage white paper and looking to see if there’s a way to strengthen connection between linkage program and VMT reduction plan. Also, will add information about implementation plan. No responses on comments.
 - Chris – Will address comments from the last call soon. VMT reduction is hard to document for overall revisions plan but recognizes the importance in doing so and state clearly in the paper. Will explain how the linkage program is connected to VMT reduction, though difficult to put an actual number on it.
 - Kate – Added that the study should still try to put a number to quantify VMT reduction, including co-benefits.
5. Discussion/Action Item – Next steps for White Papers on Statewide Initiatives (Kate)
- Kate – Have three white papers, each containing overviews of specific topics related to climate change: Adaptation; Linkages; and Electric Vehicles. May be useful to other MPO’s that are looking to start an effort and would be able to look at the information in the papers and hit the ground running. Mentioned that Fernando deAragón (ITCTC) was interested in seeing the papers, wanted the group to weigh in on whether to distribute to MPO Directors and/or post the papers online to the public. Asked if there was any interest from the group to turn the white papers into fact sheets.

- Kathy – Unsure whether to distribute the papers to the directors. Internally, the group can come up with what to do with the white papers. Fact sheet is one idea. Should include recommendations or action items that come out of the white papers. Synthesize, summarize, and circulate around this working group before sending to MPO Directors.
- Steve - The MPO Directors have included an agenda item on one conference call each month for Working Group Chairs to report significant items or request guidance. July 20th is the next call with this agenda item; Kate could present and request guidance.

6. Discussion/Action Item – Potential new regular agenda items (Kate)

- Sustainability – Idea stemming from the Working Group Strategic Planning meeting and provides opportunity to discuss sustainability on an as-needed basis. Directors also thought it was valid and makes sense to include in the Climate Change Working Group. The group can see if there is anything current that is coming out right now and Kate can give a status update in the next call.
- Climate Change Resources – In looking at ways to make this group more useful for other working group members, Kate suggested the members scan every other month for new resources, e.g. webinars, papers, marketing tools, etc. and collectively come up with a list of what each resource is. The working group already emails these items to each other, but having this type of information in one place may be handy, and particularly including it on the agenda. Kate would put it together and could have the information posted on the NYSAMPO website. Response – people in the group like the idea.

ACTION ITEM: Forward any information for a Climate Change Scan to Kate.

- MPO Roundtable Updates –Similar to Bike/Ped group, the Climate Change group can, twice a year, give a quick roundtable update from each MPO. May take a long time, but useful to have a clear idea of what everybody is doing (even if not directly sponsored by MPO). Perhaps split it up so that one or two MPO gives updates at each call. Steve agreed and as this is one of the original thoughts about holding working groups on specific topics. The goal is to regularly present info from MPO's. e.g. keeping website posts up to date. Kate will email this idea around with a couple options so that it is not a large time burden for people.
- Joe mentioned that Rich Perrin is presenting a webinar next Tuesday, June 26 on Traffic Management Operations, as part of the FHWA series on climate change and planning for MPO's.
- Nobody has anything else to add.

7. Set Date/Time/Agenda Items for next teleconference

- Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 10am.