

New York State Association of MPOs  
Climate Change Working Group  
November 19, 2014  
MEETING NOTES

1. Participating

- A/GFTC – Kate Mance
- CDTC – Sree Nampoothiri ,Chris O’Neill
- GTC – Joe Bovenzi
- NYMTC – Larry McAuliffe
- NYSDOT – Colleen Smith-Lemmon, Cathy Kuzsman
- NYSERDA - Adam Ruder

2. NYSDOT/NYSERDA/NYSDEC Updates

NYSDOT: Kuzsman reported on Governor Cuomo’s Community Risk and Resiliency Act. It affects only state agencies, requiring them to address sea level rise and storm surges in permitting and project development. NYSDOT has added these criteria in Smart Growth evaluations. The process begins in 2017; NYSDEC must promulgate guidance, and forecast sea level rise by 2016. DEC will also prepare model local laws that communities can use to prepare for climate issues.

Mance: Does this include flooding response?

Kuzsman: No, only sea level rise and coastal events.

Smith-Lemmon: DEC is engaging other state agencies in developing the program

Kuzsman: LAFA projects will need to include that assessment. This would apply only in Regions 1,8,10,11

NYSERDA: Ruder reports

- No Cleaner Greener announcements at this time.
- Planning for EV infrastructure with Upstate MPOs (Albany to Buffalo) focusing on facilitating both intra and inter-regional travel.
- Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) toolkit being developed to help communities with resiliency; for example to protect flood plains and other vulnerable areas.
- Solicitation in the next couple of weeks for EV enabling technologies, and research and policy studies on barriers to EV adoption. Other EV solicitations in 2015.
- Project of interest – Feasibility study on EV tourism, completing in the next couple of months. Hudson Valley, partnering with MetroNorth and car rental companies. People take the train, then rent EV. Then working with businesses with charging stations, developing routes and sample itineraries. This could be replicated in other parts of the state.

Mance: Timeline for TDR toolkit?

Ruder: late 2015

McAuliffe: For Hudson Valley project, consider tie in to multiuse trails; EV chargers in access parking lots. Putnam County has excellent rail-trail network. Will connect to Westchester North County Trail.

Bovenzi: Inquires about EV Infrastructure project.

Ruder: Genesee Region Clean Communities is a partner.

3. EV Fact Sheet - distribution

Gayle will handle distribution and printing

4. 2014-2015 Work Program

Mance notes the Sustainability white paper is underway. Gayle responds he has heard from only 2 MPOs so far; this may be because many are not doing anything new.

McAuliffe: Will the paper include resiliency and adaptation? Mance: Yes

McAuliffe: NYMTC participating in major adaptation and vulnerability transportation study, FHWA funded, case studies and assessment of sea level rise impact. To be completed in 2015-16.

Gayle suggests it can be included as a work in progress.

McAuliffe to send details.

Mance asks if this year's changes in schedule and content-rich format should be continued. Group response is positive.

a. Upcoming Topics/Focus Areas

McAuliffe proposes MPO focus on dense and TOD development as having a positive impact on GHG emissions.

O'Neill concurs. Notes opportunity for coordinating with Modeling WG, as noted in the Draft Work Program, by looking at declining per capita VMT trends. Implications for LRTP and GHG forecasts. Using MOVES to measure GHG emissions. CDTC is taking credit in modeling for CAFÉ standards.

Also coordinate with M&O WG to work on how best to capture operations contribution to emissions reduction.

Gayle reports on Connected Vehicle and autonomous vehicle sessions at AMPO and the UTRC Symposium in Albany. It is clear that the focus is on technology, with little research on the potential impacts on travel demand. However, by the horizon years of MPO plans – 2035, 2040 – the fleet may be as much as 25% autonomous. An opportunity for Climate Change, Modeling, and M&O Working Groups to work together on this topic.

O'Neill reports that CDTC has started looking at VMT impact of autonomous vehicles in terms of effective capacity of roadways increasing. He notes that Lynn Weiskopf has spoken about NYSDOT considering this in design standards.

Bovenzi: GTC update 2040 plan will include connected and autonomous vehicle technology.

O'Neill: There can also be an impact on CMP with respect to facility planning.

Mance: This topic will be included in Work Program

Mance suggests an opportunity to collaborate with GIS WG for in-person training on field culvert assessment. Webinar two weeks ago on vulnerability assessments (New Hampshire) on GPS/GIS data collection. This shows the value of increasing culvert size and maintenance as an adaptation response.

Discussion of role of local governments and MPO in collecting this data. There are resource constraints for both, depends in part on geographic size on MPO planning area.

Gayle: The Work Program activity could focus on exploring models of how to implement a culvert vulnerability assessment program.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mance will revise Work Program and send it out to the WG by early next week for review and revision prior to submission to Directors on Dec 19.

b. MPO Projects of Note

Bovenzi reported on the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Transportation Infrastructure Vulnerability study, which cover 9 counties. Steering Committee meetings have been held, involving road owners, enforcement. The consultant is now collecting information on critical assets and hazard extent. Tech memos in December.

Mance reported that A/GFTC has completed EV charging station location analysis. Data collection complete. Ranking urbanized area public parking lots.

Gayle: reminder that the CCRPC web presentation on their sustainability planning work will be presented on Dec 11 at 1:00 PM; he will be sending out a Global Meet invitation. He will ask Michelle Boomhower about presenting on the Drive Electric Vermont program for the next Working Group meeting.

McAuliffe: Reviewed the CCRPC material online. Noted the value of the Vermont EV charging station map. Asks if there is anything similar for New York.

Mance notes there is a national map. Sree provides the link <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/locator/stations/> where one can search for all alternative fueling locations by State, Zip code, or address.

5. Next meeting 02/18/2015