

New York State Association of MPOs
Climate Change Working Group
December 12, 2012

MEETING NOTES

Participating:

A/GFTC - Kate Mance

CDTC - Sreekumar Nampoothiri, Jennifer Ceponis

GTC - Joe Bovenzi

HOCTS - Jeff Quackenbush

NYMTC - Larry McAuliffe

PDCTC - Mark Debald

NYS DOT - Colleen Smith-Lemmon, Elizabeth Kolb

NYSERDA - Adam Ruter

1. TCI update: EVSE Materials & Siting Guidelines

Adam Ruter presented information:

NYSERDA is part of Transportation and Climate Initiative (11 NE states + DC). Working 2½ years on projects to reduce GHG from transportation sector. Received DOE grant for electric vehicle (EV) readiness planning. Working with Clean Cities Coalition and state agencies and Georgetown Climate center. Hired consultants for this project (Energetics, WXY Planning & Urban Design)

Project is to identify barriers to EV and charging station deployment; and to help states and locals implement new policies to support. Focused on EV infrastructure/charging stations, because there are a lot of local policy barriers (as opposed to electric vehicles, where consumer barriers are prominent).

Worked with Coalition to gather stakeholders that have worked on EV charging station installation; used DMVs to gather vehicle registration information; created an inventory of charging stations.

Resulted in 5 reports (Adam will send link), each of which are relevant to MPOs.

1. Analysis of current EV and EVSC deployments in Northeast.
2. EV cluster analysis – looks at 9 different land use types (CBD, medical campus, college, commercial office, regional transportation center, fleet/freight depots, multifamily developments) that are well suited for EVSC.
3. Siting and design guidelines for EVSC – key design criteria at site level (location, signage)
4. EV ready sample codes for the built environment
5. Guide to Planning & Policy Tools for creating EV-Ready Towns and Cities. For all government practitioners; related to building codes, zoning, permitting

Highlights: Most relevant to MPOs is regional analysis of location of EV, EV dealers, EVCS. Demographic analysis, community characteristics where EVs currently are.

Cluster Analysis: talked to experienced installers ; highlight what about each LU cluster makes positive consideration for EVSC

Guide: share with MPO municipal partners; look at best practices regarding update zoning codes for EVSC; parking ordinances supportive of EVSC; building codes/permitting rules (feedback from stakeholders: an example is that variance from location to location makes difficult for retail store chains or developers)

Brief documents targeted to different audiences (from public to contractors to work place owners)

TCI planning a webinar on these documents for MPOs in January.

Mance: Is there a timeline for media rollout?

Ruter: MPOs should use now; final versions on the web, will send link.

There was a discussion on electric vehicles, market preferences, and consumer demand.

NYSERDA is putting \$8M toward charging stations (~900). Announced first half of awards.

Announcing second round soon.

ACTION ITEM: Follow up questions via Kate to Adam

2. Status of Goals

Mance: Working Group goals and work program were presented to MPO Directors; adopted.

3. Round Table Updates (incl. DOT Business/Announcements)

Mance: A/GFTC working with Jenn Ceponis at CDTC on Clean Cities effort in Albany. Largest effort intended to do climate adaptation/vulnerability assessment; did not get much traction with members, so back burned. Soil Water Conservation in one county contacting Towns at a micro-scale (individual culverts) using GPS to identify at risk culverts; replacement funded by DEC. Don't want to duplicate, reproduce methodology in other counties.

Kolb: Interested in vulnerability assessment, reference FHWA pilot project requests.

Bovenzi: Participated in webinar on FHWA pilot program. GTC does not intend to apply, but developed UPWP project to do assessment of critical infrastructure. The required 50/50 match is a barrier. Will use FHWA model, identify risk, follow up by identifying risk mitigations. Will look at all natural hazards (use County hazard mitigation plans as basis).

McAuliffe: NYMTC will apply for FHWA pilot. Sandy experience has changed perspectives, advanced climate change agenda. HUD Sustainability grant \$800K for NYC to develop strategies on flood/surge protection – focuses on land uses, not transportation facilities.

Looking at sea gates to protect harbor (\$10B). FEMA recovery for transit: \$11B, of which \$5B is for hardening transit facilities to prevent flooding, including potentially raising stations in NJ.

NJTPA has been a leader in adaptation, good source of information.

Quackenbush: HOCTS has concluded that flooding will be the major issue in future; less ice and snow storms. Looking at transportation impacts, especially bridges; there is less system redundancy in rural areas.

Nampoothiri: CDTC has nothing on UPWP. They combine vulnerability with security planning and operations management.

Debald: At PDCTC, climate change has not been an issue for MPO members. Working with Dutchess County Planning Dept, host agency take lead with County emergency response staff. Focused more on managing results; an example is detour planning.

Gayle: Mentioned the work at UVM Transportation Research Center, which hosts the Vermont statewide travel model; they have developed a Network Robustness Index.

4. Resource review (attached)
5. Other Business/Announcements
None
6. Set Date/Time/Agenda Items for Next Teleconference
Feb 13, 2013
7. Adjourn

RESOURCES

Leaner and Greener: Sustainability at Work in Transportation

<http://downloads.transportation.org/LAG-1.pdf>

This AASHTO report describes the ways transportation agencies are simultaneously cutting costs, helping the environment, and strengthening communities. The report showcases innovative design, maintenance, operations, and planning steps taken by state DOTs, MPOs, and transit providers.

Energy Department Launches Alternative Fuel Planning Tool for Fleets

<http://www.afdc.energy.gov/prep/>

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has developed an online tool designed to help fleet managers choose from a range of methods for reducing their fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and operating costs. The Petroleum Reduction Planning Tool allows fleet managers to evaluate the benefits associated with five alternative fuels and several efficiency measures, including idle reduction and fuel economy improvements. The new tool also allows fleet managers to evaluate different fleet improvement options and create a comprehensive plan using several fuel saving methods.

FHWA Solicits Additional Pilot Projects, Updates Vulnerability Assessment Framework

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/climate_change/adaptation/ongoing_and_current_research/vulnerability_assessment_pilots/2013-2014_solicitation/solicitation/index.cfm

The Federal Highway Administration is seeking applicants for a second round of pilot projects to assess vulnerability of transportation infrastructure to climate change and extreme weather and to assess options for adaptation. FHWA is seeking pilot projects to conduct analysis two areas: 1) assessments of transportation vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, or 2) developing options for improving resiliency of transportation facilities or systems to climate changes and/or extreme weather events. FHWA also has completed a draft updated framework to assess vulnerability and adaptation options.

NARC Issues Synthesis of Regional Livability Implementation Tools

<http://narc.org/wp-content/uploads/Livability-Report-FINAL.pdf>

The National Association of Regional Councils has published a literature review of resources available to implement and integrate livability concepts at the local and regional levels. The report describes how states and localities define, plan, and implement livability initiatives and presents current tactics and mechanisms from a review of over 180 livability reports and documents.

FHWA Posts Summary Reports on Climate Change Peer Exchanges

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/climate_change/mitigation/workshops_and_peer_exchanges/2011-2012_summary_report/index.cfm

FHWA has released two summary reports on a series of climate change peer exchanges held from June 2011 through May 2012. The mitigation peer exchanges featured discussion by MPOs and state DOTs about greenhouse gas analysis, incorporating GHG analysis in the planning process, and climate change mitigation activities. The adaptation peer exchanges addressed strategies to assess and reduce the vulnerability of transportation assets and services to projected climate change impacts. Both reports synthesize key themes and lessons learned and provide examples of effective and innovative practices.