



New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations **WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES**

WORKING GROUP: Freight

MEETING DATE/TIME: Friday, December 16, 2016, 10:00 – 11:30AM

MEETING LOCATION: Conference Call/Web Meeting

ATTENDEES: *Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council – A/GFTC: Not Present*
Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study – BMTS: Casandra Gascon
Capital District Transportation Committee – CDTC: Chris Bauer
Elmira-Chemung Transportation Council – ECTC: Jerre Cress, Jim Arey
Genesee Transportation Council – GTC: Jody Binnix, Joe Bovenzi
Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council – GBNRTC: *Not Present*
Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Study – HOCTS: Not Present
Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council – ITCTC: Not Present
New York Metropolitan Transportation Council – NYMTC: *Not Present*
Orange County Transportation Council – OACTC: *Not Present*
Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council – PDCTC: Shelby Tompkins
Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council – SMTC: Mike Alexander
Ulster County Transportation Council – UCTC: Not Present
Watertown Jefferson – WJCATC: Scott Docteur
New York State Department of Transportation – NYSDOT: Vanessa Saari, Jim Davis
FHWA: Maria Chau
RSG: Christine Sherman, Peter Plumeau
AVAIL: Eric Krans, Alex Muro, Kate Lawson

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Introductions (Bauer/All)

2. Presentation of Performance Measurement Tools Related to Freight (Eric Krans, AVAIL)

- The tool has been in development for a year and a half. It is a project that AVAIL is working on with NYSDOT and NYSAMPO Modeling Group to develop tools for viewing the NPMRDS data. All MPOs have access to the tool throughout NYSDOT.
- NPMRDS is a large dataset. The AVAIL tool provides the opportunity to cloud host NPMRDS and provide a window to that data with additional analytics qualities. The tool has the ability to organize the data in many different ways.
- If an MPO staff member would like access to the tool, s/he can reach out to Eric Krans. Eric can provide a username and password.
- The tool is designed to look at the federal performance measurements that came out in February. Users can look at these performance measures at the MPO level.
- The data comes from Traffic Message Channels (TMCs), which are segments that vary from a half a mile to a couple of miles long. There are 17,000-18,000 TMCs in NYS that have coverage in the dataset. About every 6 months, new TMCs are added.
- Freight congestion and reliability (only interstate) are the performance measures required for reporting. The other performance measures are in the tool to provide additional detail.
- Users with a login will be tied to his/her MPO and automatically get data specific to that MPO.
- The reporting requirement is for an entire year, but the tool allows users to look at different increments of time.



New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations **WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES**

off. CDTC is looking at ways to better prepare for the next round. Smaller MPOs may have trouble with engaging regional stakeholders in the process. In other instances, the state share is not very high.

5. Designation of Critical Urban Freight Corridors (All)

- In November, CDTC began consideration of what to include and develop their process.
- Question: How is NYSDOT going to coordinate information with the MPOs?
 - o Response: The state is looking at Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors based on the criteria suggested federally. At this time, NYSDOT is not sure what related to Critical Freight Corridors will be included in the Freight Transportation Plan. It will depend on the timing of the Plan in relation to the progress on designating these corridors and how long it takes to get input from the MPOs to arrive at a consensus on what works best for the state.

6. Discussion of Freight-Related Safety and Security (All)

- Mike Alexander suggested that safety/security/resiliency is a topic the group should keep in the discussion. The current Syracuse system is designed for importing, but—with the potential for an inland port—the region may become more heavily involved in exporting. From this standpoint, it is important that the region thinks about how to ensure security—particularly with increase automation, goods movement, and reliance on ITS. Some of this is outside of the MPO's realm of planning, but MPOs are able to provide assistance to municipalities with land use decisions and safety and security.
- Chris Bauer notes that CDTC played a small role with their county agency to help identify the effects on traffic and mobility that would be caused if an interstate or interstates shut down due to an accident with crude oil tankers.
- There is an opportunity for coordination with the Safety Working Group as they develop a safety plan. Chris will reach out to Sandy Misiewicz, as there may be coordination between the two working groups.

7. MPO Freight Updates (All)

- CDTC continues to have quarterly FAC meetings. They are advancing a study identified in their regional Freight Plan for March and will coordinate with the FAC about which other studies to pursue in the scope. CDTC is also working on a coordinated effort with their environmental justice staff to tackle freight-related environmental justice issues occurring south of Albany.
- NYMTC – See Attachment 1 for an update on the NYMTC Freight Plan
- The group has approval to develop a Freight 101 Fact Sheet, which would target smaller MPOs or municipalities/local jurisdictions/agencies that are not involved in much freight planning or coordination. It would include content that describes low-cost and easy ways to take freight into account in day-to-day planning activities and plans. Part of freight program is to make freight planning a regular thought in everyone's planning practices, so this would be targeted in that sense.
 - o Christine Sherman will distribute an example Fact Sheet with the meeting minutes. Working group members are encouraged to send ideas for the Fact Sheet

8. Roundtable Discussion (All)

- No further comments.

9. Schedule/Next Meeting

- Working group members should look out for the poll in March.



ATTACHMENT 1

NYMTC Regional Freight Plan – Project Update: December 12, 2016

- **Plan 2045 Timeline and how it relates to the Freight Plan (by the End of Feb 2017)**
 - Drafts of all components of Plan 2045 to be completed including the Freight Plan Summary Report
 - June 2017 PFAC Recommendation and Council Adoption
 - September 30, 2017 – Plan 2045 Effective!
- **Improvements and Solutions**
 - Identify strategies or policies that could meet identified needs
 - Short-Term, Mid-Term, and Long-Term Needs of the economy, logistics, transportation, and regulation
 - Project, Policies, and Programs
 - Capacity Expansion/planned or proposed such as adding turn lanes
 - State of Good Repair Projects
 - Workforce: Better Trained
- **Full List of Potential Improvements and Solutions**
 - Working on a proposed list of projects (derived from the TIP and Public Outreach sessions)
 - The Long List will be sent out once it has gone through an internal review process. Long List - see what fits within the constrained plan (and vision too)
 - Evaluation Objective and Steps
 - Major fatal flaws/significant
 - Much of our four regions freight needs will appear outside of the NYMTC jurisdiction
 - Desired Freight Outcomes
 - Reduce freight contribution to traffic, congestion and pollutants that affect air quality
 - Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from commercial and service vehicles
 - A strengthened position of the region as a global and national gateway for goods
 - Goods movement integrated in region's strategic growth
 - Improved efficiency of goods movement in the region
 - Skilled workforce prepared to meet the needs of freight and logistics industries
 - Evaluation Methodology
 - More efficient system
 - Alternative reduces peak-period freight trips on highways
 - Land Use and Development policies
 - ❖ Score relative to how well they meet the prioritization factors
- **Next Steps:**
 - Revise and distribute draft “long list” of improvements and solutions to the PFAC Freight Subcommittee (wk of December 19th)
 - Develop and distribute evaluation methodology memo
 - Proceed with evaluation process, consistent with PFAC Freight Subcommittee recommendations