

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

WORKING GROUP: Freight

MEETING DATE/TIME: Friday, January 29, 2016, 1:00PM to 2:30PM

MEETING LOCATION: Conference Call

LIST OF ATTENDEES BY ORGANIZATION:

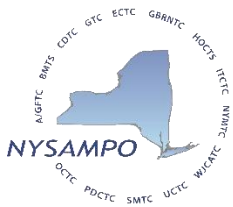
Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council – A/GFTC: Not present
Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study – BMTS: Not present
Capital District Transportation Committee – CDTC: Chris Bauer
Elmira-Chemung Transportation Council – ECTC: Jerre Cress; Jim Arey
Genesee Transportation Council – GTC: Jody Binnix
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: Geoff Rick
Orange County Transportation Council – OCTC: Ashley Long
Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council – PDCTC: Mark Debald
Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council – SMTC: Mario Colone; Mike Alexander
Ulster County Transportation Council – UCTC: Not present
Watertown Jefferson – WJCATC: Not present
New York State Department of Transportation – NYSDOT: Dave Rosenberg

MINUTES:

1. Introductions (All)

2. 2016 Working Group Plan Review (Sherman)

- a. Site Visit Organization – Ideas: Port of Albany. Others that have been discussed previously were intermodal yard in Syracuse and UPS or Fedex sorting facility.
 - Colone and Alexander volunteered Syracuse as a central cite and will think about a potential location.
 - Other suggestions previously mentioned included: Port Albany; Norfolk Southern RR Mechanicville Intermodal Terminal; Port of Oswego
- b. Quarterly Newsletter Development
 - Develop about six weeks after last FWG meeting.
 - The audience will be the working group and website visitors.
 - Gayle mentioned that it would also be useful to the MPO Directors.
- c. Website Content
 - Check out the current website to make sure agency information and links are up to date. Scan for any additions that you MPO would like to see on the webpage.
 - Rick asked about freight plan updates. Sherman responded that MPOs should send freight plan updates for linkage on the website.
- d. Other
 - Gayle mentioned that during the MPO Director call Friday, January 22, the MPO directors accepted all plans. The final NYSAMPO 2016-2017 Working Group Work Program will be sent out to the Work Groups shortly.



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3. FAST Act and Performance Measurement Briefing (Gayle) (Attachments 1 & 2)

Gayle presented on the implications of the new FAST Act transportation bill. The following bullet points summarize the basis of the briefing. See Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 for full details on the FAST Act.

- There was expectation that Congress would pay more attention to freight in the FAST Act. MAP-21 laid the groundwork with initial elevation of the freight world with the creation of the National Freight Advisory Committee and Freight Strategic Plan to support freight movement and economic vitality. This included improvement of the national freight network, and drawing attention to the fact that freight is related to the economy. This also helped to bring attention to not only urban but rural freight, as well.
- There are two funding programs: one formula and one discretionary. NY receives \$266 million over the five years of the act. This is new money and something on the order of \$50+ million per year to be spent on the primary freight network, including critical urban and rural freight corridors. (Primarily looking at the NHS subset.)
- It is possible that up to 10% may be allocated to intermodal freight projects. There are also eligibility statements outlining that projects must address congestion, reliability, and safety. Legislation also set aside 10% for smaller projects.

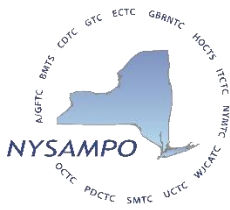
4. TRB Conference Briefings (Bauer/All) (Attachment 3)

Bauer presented on the 2016 TRB Annual conference.

- The amount of information/presentations on freight grew since prior Annual Conferences.
- Some of NY's MPOs are looking to use HERE data. Other areas are grappling with using this data, too. AVAIL is working to aggregate the data so it is useful to the state's agencies.
- There is a shift to thinking about fully-automated vehicles and what specifically planners should focus on in terms of implementing the technology.
- Philly FreightFinder is an easy-to-use, open source program. The fact that it's open source allows other areas to create similar interfaces for their region. For example, Wilmington, Delaware, used DVRPC's code to create something similar.
- RPI described a tool for freight planning – working on NAICS code disparities for trucking and warehousing portions of industry codes.
- The intersection of public health and freight issues was well-represented. For example, Vision Zero work in NYC and London showed side guard requirements. Check out Volpe site for great resources.
- Gayle noted that automated technology is mostly related to passenger vehicles, but in testing stages for freight vehicles and platoons in some states.

5. MPO Freight Plan Updates (All)

- a. CDTC (Bauer) – The draft Freight Plan was released last November. CDTC is working through process of giving presentations to the Planning Committee, Freight Advisory Committee, and the Policy Committee. There are several concurrent comment periods, which remain ongoing, including the public comment period. After March, the next Policy Committee meeting will be the official adoption of the plan.
- b. NYMTC (Rick) – NYMTC is developing a new regional freight plan. The Regional Freight Plan will be a component of NYMTC's next Regional Transportation Plan, entitled Plan 2045, which is currently in development. Current work includes the draft outreach plan. Outreach includes informing stakeholders about the future of freight transportation and using outreach methodologies in conjunction with the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. NYMTC is coordinating with NYSDOT on the coordination of stakeholder interviews between the regional and statewide plans. NYMTC is moving into the needs assessment,



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which involves profiling the region's key industries. The agency just held a Freight Transportation Working Group meeting, which is a group of private and public stakeholders and gave a presentation about the plan. Rick will send the presentation to Sherman for distribution to the group. Rosenberg asked about sharing datasets with the statewide plan. Rick responded that they used the same Infogroup and Transearch data. Rick will organize a coordination call with NYSDOT to further discuss the stakeholders and data sharing items.

6. NYS Freight Transportation Plan (NYSFTP) Updates (Sherman/Rosenberg)

- Sherman requested that each MPO identify one or two major private sector contacts in their region for consideration in the stakeholder interviews for the NYSFTP. FWG members should send suggestions and contact information to christine.sherman@rsginc.com and David.Rosenberg@dot.ny.gov.
- Sherman requested that FWG members look at the NYSFTP website and comment on the draft Goals and Objectives and/or the Freight Atlas <https://www.dot.ny.gov/freight-plan>. NYSDOT recently added rail weight limits and vertical clearance information to the Atlas. There is a document discussing the development of the draft Goals/Objectives.
- Rosenberg noted that the Web Atlas had statewide rail clearance and weight, so the state is looking to QAQC the information. The GIS layer came from the NYSDOT rail group, which obtained the information the railroads. The Freight Atlas is undergoing review from the operators, which will add an extra layer of QAQC. FWG members should look in their area in case anything is misrepresented.
- Rosenberg updated the FWG on the NYSFTP. The team is in the data processing/analysis phase. Regional meetings will take place in March or in the spring.
- Noted that www.regionalgoodsmovement.org contains the finished product of on bi-state regional goods movement and captures the action items as far as synergies between the three states. Rosenberg mentioned that the website to GMAP information is included on the NYSFTP site under "Additional Links."

7. FHWA Updates (Sherman)

On behalf of Maria Chau: FHWA has no major updates for the group. FHWA is awaiting guidance on the new Freight Program from FHWA HQ. HQs has not yet provided a date on the release.

8. Roundtable Discussion (All)

Gayle mentioned that a labor action occurred today (Feb 29, 2016) in which 1,000 long shoremen at various terminals walked off the job and started a strike. Inbound and outbound traffic is suspended at Fort Newark

NEXT MEETING/ACTIONS:

Mid-March – Newsletter
Late April – Next Meeting
Mid-June – Newsletter
Late August – Meeting
Mid-October – Newsletter
Late November – Meeting