

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 12, 2014 10AM – 11AM

SUBJECT: NYSAMPO Freight Working Group Conference Call

ATTENDEES

- Howie Mann, NYMTC (Chair)
- David Rosenberg, NYSDOT
- Jim Davis, NYSDOT
- Aaron Frankenfeld, A/GFTC
- Leah Mosall, CDTC
- Jerry Kres, ECTC
- Jody Pollot, GTC
- Rich Guarino, GBNRTC
- Mario Colone, SMTC
- Mike Alexander, SMTC
- Peter Plumeau, RSG
- Christine Sherman, RSG

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Primary Freight Network Comments
2. Statewide Freight Plan
3. Federal Freight Data (Maria Chau from FHWA not available but sent Peter update information to share about FAF and the Commodity Flow Survey.)
4. Individual Agency Updates
5. Topics/Items for the Next Call
 - National Transportation Authorization – Legislature not supporting a fuel tax increase.
 - Performance Based Planning – FHWA has committed to provide a two day workshop on March 6 and 7 for planners in the NYMTC region. (Sessions will not solely be on freight, but will be significant.)
 - Inform the Working Group if there is anything going on (e.g. - workshops) in your region.
 - Oil movement via rail has been a growing trend over the past decade, with the last four or five years significantly shifting commodity rail due to the much higher level of exploration here domestically (ND, PA, etc.)

NYSAMPO FREIGHT WORKING GROUP COMMENTS ON THE PRIMARY FREIGHT NETWORK (HOWIE)

- Comment period was extended to February 15.
- Comments were provided from NY at every level: NYSDOT, MPOs, Statewide MPO group, NYMTC, individual member agencies (port authorities), and other agencies.
- The comments form into overarching categories and issues, including: gaps in the network, the methodology employed by USDOT to derive the primary freight network had a lot of shortcomings, lack of multimodal consideration, and the lack of drivers of freight activity included in the network development. Attention must be brought to these areas so that

awareness for the need of information and detail is known by the Federal Govt/House Committee for future development of such networks.

- Unsure of current timetable, but will keep the Working Group updated.
- NYSDOT will be putting comments into the docket today, based on last minute comments.
- Have MPOs sent theirs on their own? - CTDC noted they will be submitting comments.

NYSDOT STATEWIDE FREIGHT PLAN (JIM)

- Federal Government provides a 25% match Incentive for State Freight Plans
- NYSDOT is at the beginning of the procurement process and will be issuing an RFP shortly and will closely following what is in the federal register guidance.
- The plan will not entail starting from scratch. NYSDOT is looking to coordinate the regional efforts taking place and coordinate what is in the pipeline led by MPOs. NYSDOT plans to work with MPOs in the development of the plan, including incorporating goals and objectives of regional plans, ensuring the stakeholder and outreach, and identifying efforts across the state for project identification.
- Throughout the procurement process NYSDOT obtained comments on the RFP from MPOs who recently provided comments from the regional freight plan. Following this round of input and comments, the RFP will be released in a month to a month and a half.
- Once NYSDOT is working with the consultant, they will create a working group that includes MPO representation and also collaborate with this Working Group.
- The development of this Statewide Freight Plan is a major opportunity to learn about the freight needs and dimensions of the freight economy to apply intelligently to our activities.
- Contract negotiations should be wrapped up in late summer so the project effort can begin.

FEDERAL FREIGHT DATA – FAF AND CFS (PETER)

- The FAF data is being updated and refined. The upcoming version will be known as FAF4.
- FHWA headquarters has had two listening sessions on the needs/issues associated with FAF in December 2013 and January 2014.
- The targeted completion is 2015, so we are still two years out from a working product. Not sure about beta versions.
- FHWA will hold quarterly meetings moving forward.
- The CFS (Commodity Flow Survey) is in the midst of its five-year update. The preliminary data was released last year, and final data is scheduled for release at the end of this year.
- FHWA has issued a notice of a broad agency announcement to invite bidders at public and private agencies to submit topics related to use and applications of freight data for planning. More information is located on the FHWA Freight webpage.
- FHWA has offered to give the Working Group a specific presentation on both the FAF update and the CFS.

INDIVIDUAL AGENCY UPDATES

NYMTC

- NYMTC is still working finalizing the first phase of their Regional Freight Plan. A series of reports will be released soon. Each product was called for in the scope of work with respect to each mode.
- One product was a data analysis commodity task, which took an in depth look at specific commodities and the characteristics of those commodities in terms of trip making within the



overall regional freight delivery system. The five specific commodities that were studied included: refined petroleum products, building products, food, and two others.

- NYMTC is currently moving toward the second phase of the plan, which will include an in-depth look at the delivery of freight from element like the last mile to climate change.
- The result will be a program of projects (may not be prioritized), programs, and policies that will govern the region's decisions with regard to freight.
- Right now in the consultant selection aspect. The second phase will hopefully begin in 2014.
- Cautionary note: If you have purchase or are thinking about purchasing from the Global Insight database for commodity flow information, it will be critical to define a quality control process for the data analysis. NYMTC produced a series of these reports in final draft form but ran into an issue regarding one specific commodity group (RPP). The consultant identified the problem as it was clear these exports were not coming from King County. The consultant had to go into the database and identify the issue, as well as a process to clean it up. All of the reports required revisiting and re-finalization. Please make sure that the trends that come out of the database reflect your region and your particular MPO.
- Mike SMTC – What was the year that you purchased? - 2007/2040.

CTDC

- The CTDC Freight Program will begin in the spring. It has been slightly delayed. Similar to DOT hopefully have something out and in action in the summer.
- Freight Advisory Committee is active again (quarterly basis). The Advisory Committee has been used to help with the development of the scope of services in the RFP. Going forward CTDC will use them to help validate findings (data, etc.) to help to identify and prioritize issues within the region. The Committee consists of a few private entities, but also NY State, Motorized Truck Assoc., the Port of Albany, the airport authority, the Independent Drivers Assoc., etc. Actual fleet members and private sector individuals have been difficult to reach.

Buffalo

- Buffalo/Niagara Partnership in charge of the International Gateway Organization freight study looking at the opportunity for a logistics center in the region. The regional economic development council has been on this effort for 2-3 years to implement this portion of the freight plan.
- Different subcommittees have been formed (e.g. – marketing, infrastructure, etc.). The subcommittees are deriving lists of action plans and looking to establish funding for three years to get an executive director and get this effort underway. Updates will be provided.
- The effort includes logistics companies, private industry, and various other representatives. Will collaborate with other established freight advisory groups to avoid duplication of effort.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT CALL:

- FAF/CFS Presentation From FHWA. Peter will follow up with Maria Chau.
- Next call tentatively set for Wednesday, May 14 at 10AM.
- Other Calendar Items:
 - Webinar on Ensuring Productive Regional Freight Operations and Economic Benefits
 - FHWA Talking Freight Webinar on Mega-regions (February 19)
 - Videos/PowerPoints from Freight Conference in Atlanta
 - TRB Webinar on Accommodating Large Trucks and Oversized Loads at Roundabouts (March 7)
- Collaboration with the NYSAMPO Modeling Working Group. Peter will follow up with Steve Gayle for detail.

