

# New York State Association of MPOs

## Climate Change Working Group

October 9, 2013

### MEETING NOTES

#### 1. Participating

- A/GFTC – Kate Mance
- BMTS – John Sterbentz
- GTC – Joe Bovenzi
- HOCTS – Jeff Quackenbush
- PDCTC – Mark Debald
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- NYSERDA – Adam Ruder

#### 2. MPO Sustainability Review – discussion

Mance: The group had discussed doing an outreach/survey to MPOs to learn what each was doing in terms of sustainability. Mance had drafted survey, few comments on survey structure, including MPO member activities

Mance spoke to Chris O'Neill from CDTC who offered the perspective of trying to answer questions. He felt likely to put respondents on defensive. Need more open ended questions instead of multiple choice. Proposed phone interviews instead.

Mance concurs in this approach, since the Working Group does not need statistics, just information. She will reach out to Directors to determine best contact.

This approach is supported by those on the call. What is the end product?

Mance sees this as a Synthesis, with noteworthy practices called out; info for website.

RSG will support this task by assisting in preparation of an interview guide, conduct of interviews if desired. Mance will discuss with Steve and Peter.

#### 3. Follow-up on EV Network Fact Sheet

Mance: distributed the 4 TCI fact sheets provided by Ruder. Notes there is not one for MPOs. Each has useful information for MPOs.

If NYSAMPO is to produce a fact sheet, need to decide on audience and content.

Other NYSAMPO Fact Sheets are aimed at MPO members; is that what we want here?

Agreement that the Fact Sheet could be geared toward local decision makers who may be considering EV actions.

The TCI fact sheet on local governments is pretty thorough. Ours could focus on MPO role – put it in a regional context, provide information like statistics on CC benefits of EVs. Provide model codes.

Ruder: This would supplement/complement NYSERDA local government outreach. Not every municipality needs to have a completed program. There are different levels of participation that range from not obstructing to supporting to advocating. Offer information on what tools go with each level of support.

Mance will work with RSG on draft content. More synthesis than new info

#### 4. NYSDOT/NYSERDA Updates

NYSDOT: McAllister reported (on behalf of Colleen): State Energy Planning Board met at the end of August; draft plan progressing. Intent is for Draft Plan to be released for public review in fall, action in spring 2014.

NYSERDA: Ruder reported:

- Solicitation for EV enabling technologies, proposals due to NYSERDA in 2 weeks. Intent is to improve value proposition of owning/driving EVs. Not about new vehicle or charging technology
- Cleaner-Greener – opportunity for municipalities for up to \$5K to update parking and zoning ordinances to EV friendly language (can be on fact sheet).
- Reviewing submissions under Cleaner Greener implementation program.
- Planning on opportunities to fund CNG stations. Release in the next month or so.

#### 5. 2014 Work Plan and Training Needs – discussion

Mance proposes holding off on rewrite until sustainability review. Gayle reported information from the Directors' meeting on October 4. They want Working Group work programs to (1) work with the UPWP development schedule, which means starting soon; and (2) to reflect when possible the goal of the Integrated Planning effort to make the most efficient use of M:PO and State planning resources.

Mance – can be responsive to that direction.

Mance – Notes the Association has a training budget; asks for input. Gayle notes the Directors are interested as well. They will be surveyed on training needs of staff, including both technical and non-technical. RSG will also be investigating e-learning opportunities, since travel can be an issue for classroom-type training.

#### 6. Resource review

(See attached). Mance reviews VTrans and UT reports on EV. She will see what applies to Fact Sheet.

UC Davis funded to work with consortium of Universities to lead a research group on extreme weather and CC. Ruder – US Davis also launching a ZEV market activation project – initiative to assist government agencies and NGOs on how to expand use of ZEVs in their communities. – Infrastructure needs and consumer acceptance.

#### 7. Set Date/Time/Agenda Items for Next Teleconference

Mance proposes moving to quarterly call with more time, in order to accomplish business and also permit presentations/roundtable.

The group concurred with this approach, noting there may have to be meetings in between if action is needed, but can be done on ad hoc basis.

Bovenzi proposes adding MPO updates as a standing agenda item.

Next meeting: Dec 4 – 10:00 – 12:00. RSG to assist in finding presentations.

## RESOURCES

### **IPCC Releases 2013 Climate Change Report**

A newly-released assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that it is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. The Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC Working Group I assessment report, [Climate Change 2013: the Physical Science Basis](#), reports that each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850. The evidence for this has grown, thanks to more and better observations, an improved understanding of the climate system response and improved climate models.

<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/#.UkwqjRDBw74>

### **VTrans Report Finds Need for Investment in EV Charging Stations**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has issued a report devoted to fostering funding and installation of electric vehicle charging equipment. The report determines that the EV sector is likely to grow substantially, although plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) currently represent a small fraction of the overall passenger car fleet in the state. The report, which identifies potential sites for EV charging equipment, finds that public investment is needed to grow the EV sector before the private sector builds charging stations and networks.

<http://goo.gl/euJk8>

### **University of Texas Report Assesses U.S. Electric Vehicle Adoption**

The Center for Transportation Research at the University of Texas at Austin has released a report discussing future roles for electric vehicles and public charging stations within the US transportation system. According to the report, several convergent political, economic and social factors are spurring renewed interest in electric vehicles. However, the report also finds that public charging stations will not be built unless a critical mass of drivers adopts electric vehicles.

<http://d2dtl5nnlpr0r.cloudfront.net/swutc.tamu.edu/publications/technicalreports/600451-00064-1.pdf>

### **CMAQ Program Information Provided on New FHWA Web Pages**

FHWA has developed three new web pages with information on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program. Each web page provides basic background on CMAQ and emphasizes that the program, a collaboration between FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration, offers funding for transportation programs that enhance air quality and lower congestion. The new web pages cover three topics: changes to CMAQ under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, using CMAQ for public transit funding and using CMAQ for diesel retrofits.

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/)

### **New center to prepare national transportation for extreme weather, climate change**

The UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies has been selected to lead a two-year, \$11.2 million research consortium for the U.S. Department of Transportation, focused on addressing and preparing for climate change. The new National Center for Sustainable Transportation will help the federal agency reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from passenger and freight travel, and also prepare U.S. transportation infrastructure for the extreme. The other consortium members are UC Riverside; University of Southern California; California State University, Long Beach; University of Vermont; and Georgia Institute of Technology.

[http://www.its.ucdavis.edu/?post\\_type=slide-show&p=17078](http://www.its.ucdavis.edu/?post_type=slide-show&p=17078)

### **California's Sustainable Transport Incentives Leave Other States in the Stone Age**

The Palo Alto city council recently enacted a law which would require new single-family homes to be pre-wired for a Level-2 EV charging station. Most homes already are wired for the 220-volt line needed for a so-called Level 2 charging station, to power washers and dryers. It costs just \$200 to wire a new home for an EV charger, but can cost upward of \$1,000 to retrofit an existing home. This article also describes several other recent state-wide efforts to increase the sustainability of transportation in California, including EV readiness, HOV lane sticker program extensions, a "Cash for Clunkers" style program, and others.

<http://www.wired.com/autopia/2013/10/california-bills-ev-ready/>