

# New York State Association of MPOs

## Climate Change Working Group

December 4, 2013

### MEETING NOTES

Participating:

A/GFTC – Kate Mance

BMTS – John Sterbentz

CDTC – Sree Nampoothiri, Chris O’Neill

ECTC – Jim Arey

GTC – Joe Bovenzi

HOCTS – Jeff Quackenbush

NYMTC – Larry McAuliffe

PDCTC – Mark Debald

NYS DOT – Cathy Kuzsman, Colleen Smith-Lemmon

NYSERDA – Adam Ruder

#### 1. Preliminary results of MPO sustainability interviews

Gayle reported: 12 of 13 MPOs have been interviewed. The draft that was circulated is an initial synthesis, will be edited based on additional input and comments. Wants to pull out noteworthy practice to be shared among the CCWG members.

Mance notes the project has two values: (1) all sorts of work being done by MPOs, this is an opportunity to highlight it; put on NYSAMPO website; (2) determining how this affects the CCWG work plan in terms of adding value to the MPO work.

O’Neill notes that among MPOs throughout the country, some cannot even talk about this topic because of policy pushback. It would be positive to more strongly state the support of NYS MPO members and/or Policy Committee, understanding that ranges from very positive to passive support.

McAuliffe notes that many support environmentally friendly practices, but there remains a barrier to paying for projects (like Complete Streets). The reality is in transition. This is a potential role for the CCWG. Notes that NYC used their own forces to construct CS projects.

O’Neill suggests that we don’t diminish value of local policies like CS ordinances, even when there is no early implementation. Cleaner Greener program has not provided a lot of funding, but is a significant policy direction.

Mance: Not sure what the outcome of the project will be; not expecting as much variability among MPOs as reported. Have not discussed what this info will be used for. Seeing results, how can we get the information out? Website with link to MPOs? Paper, presentation?

Debald suggests that a White Paper of noteworthy practices would be useful to share with MPO technical committees. Not just projects, also local laws like CS, EV.

Gayle notes that Gary McVoy (PB, formerly NYS DOT) did a presentation on the topic at the AMPO Annual conference. At our invitation, he will be doing that on Friday for the MPO Directors, and for the CCWG in the first quarter 2014.

Kuzsman notes that NYS DOT has been involved in GreenLITES, a long effort to define sustainability and reach consensus. Is it of value for the CCWG to come up with an agreed-upon definition? Perhaps this would be part of white paper?

Smith-Lemmon noted in response to a question about GreenLITES that NYS DOT design practices have been affected, but MPOs are doing things differently, reflecting their own approach. A standard definition would not prevent this.

#### 2. 2014 Work Plan – discussion

Mance notes that each Working Group is expected to produce a 2014-2015 Work Plan. These are merged into one document that is shared with NYSDOT, and offers guidance to all of the working groups. She sent out a revised edition, based on the current Plan, suggesting that only small modifications are needed.

Reviewed with the Group, asked for feedback.

#1. Emerging issues . Is there value in calling out ridersharing as an example? Arey: Important to ECTC because of pilot rideshare projects. BMTS concurs. Consider adding other examples – EV, resilience.

#2. Retain statewide applicability. Reference linkage to integrated planning. Note the importance of scope and scale.

#5. Added to highlight value of partnerships and the ongoing dialog that occurs.

Work Plan has been generic. Is there interest in adding specificity regarding products, presentations? There is a need to align with staff services resource in terms of potential output.

Waiting for input on Directors.

Mance notes that with a move to quarterly meetings, it may be reasonable to shift from including resources on the agenda to creating a monthly email or website postings.

### 3. NYSDOT/NYSERDA Updates

#### NYSDOT

Smith-Lemmon reports that there is no date on release of Draft NYS Energy Plan, but work is being done.

Anticipates it being out soon.

Kuzman: GreenLITES in Design is active, internal management tool. Design, maintenance, Regions compete with each other. Feedback has gotten more positive from Regions. Planning – not taken off. Tool is on website.

Neveu sent email to MPO Directors regarding NY Rising Communities. Involvement of transportation is variable depending on circumstances. See <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/community-reconstruction-program>

NYSDOT did 4 Complete Streets workshops in the fall. The CS website will include workshop findings.

NYSERDA: No update

### 4. 2014 Schedule

Will shift to quarterly meetings as agreed, starting in March.

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

Mance will check with other WG chairs on their Dec 17 meeting to avoid schedule conflicts, then do a poll for a March date.