

**NYSAMPO FREIGHT WORKING GROUP
CONFERENCE CALL
OCTOBER 16, 2015 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Meeting Summary

Attendees

AGFTC – Aaron Frankenfeld
BMTS - John Sterbentz
CDTC - Chris Bauer
GTC - Jody Binnix
GBNRTC - Rich Guarino, Chair
NYMTC - Geoff Rick
OCTC - Ashlee Long
SMTC - Mike Alexander, Mario Colone
UCTC - Brian Slack
NYS DOT - David Rosenberg, Vanessa Saari
FHWA - Maria Chau
RSG - Peter Plumeau, Christine Sherman

Discussion Items:

1. Welcome and Changes to the Agenda – **Rich Guarino, GBNRTC**
2. Review/Acceptance of Notes of April 2015 Working Group Call – **Rich Guarino, GBNRTC**
 - Notes accepted.
3. Discussion of FHWA U.S./Canada Freight Planning Peer Exchange (May 2015) – **Rich Guarino, GBNRTC**
 - This was the result of a 2014 meeting between USDOT and Transport Canada to discuss freight planning. They developed an agreement to (1) exchange best practices, (2) share information, and (3) coordinate planning in implementing respective national freight systems.
 - The meeting took place in Detroit. Participants were from local, state, and federal agencies from both the US and Canada. The meeting focused on data and data needs.
 - The exchange established a path forward for government transportation authorities and freight stakeholders to discuss opportunities and threats. The following is a list of opportunities identified at the exchange:
 - Extend analysis beyond the 11 border crossings to include all 35 states whose primary partner in trade is Canada.
 - Create a web-based clearinghouse to supply border data and regulations.
 - Utilize NITTEC (from western New York)'s work related to freight operations (e.g., border crossing times and ITS).
 - Foster and promote the development of informal partnerships, border master plans, and champions/stakeholders on both sides of the border.
 - Approve availability of weight data.

- Create metrics for border crossing performance measurements.
 - Rich Guarino presented at the conference as one of two MPOs. Rich presented on GBNRTC's freight plan and the ITGO process.
4. Presentation and Discussion of NYSDOT Web-based Freight Atlas – **Christine Sherman, RSG**
 - Christine Sherman presented the Freight Atlas and illustrated how to navigate through the contents.
 - Each MPO should look on the Freight Atlas in the next week and identify anything incorrect, missing, or other comments by the end of next week.
 - The Freight Atlas is accessible at <http://freightatlas.availabs.org/>.
 - In collaboration with RSG, SUNY AVAIL built the interactive site, which will be transferred to DOT at the conclusion of Freight Plan project.
 5. Discussion of Changes to FHWA MPO Freight Program Assessment – **Maria Chau, FHWA NY Division**
 - Maria sent out an attachment with the questions from the revised Freight Program Assessment. Many of the questions are rephrased for clarity. FHWA added questions in several sections and added new focus areas (e.g., institutional organizations)
 - The funding no longer only considers CMAQ funding and includes an option for discussion of specific funding.
 - The focus areas will change from year to year. This year the focus is freight data and performance measures.
 - The due date for the assessment is Friday, November 13.
 - FHWA Headquarters requests the Freight Program Assessments. The information gathered goes into a system to provide a national snapshot of MPO practices and benchmark progress over time. It assists in highlighting where MPOs need resources.
 6. Update on Federal Activities – **Maria Chau, FHWA NY Division**
 - NY's Jason's Law Study (required by MAP-21) is complete but findings not released.
 7. Update on NYSDOT Freight Plan – **David Rosenberg, NYSDOT**
 - The website up and running, including the Freight Atlas. NYSDOT is in the process of gathering stakeholder input via the Freight Atlas and the public involvement effort. User friendly way to get input. Web Atlas – develop multimodal core freight network. Stakeholder input it will be more informed.
 - The planning process will create criteria for facilities and infrastructure to include in the analysis. The current Freight Atlas content is most likely more than will actually be in the analysis because the criteria will weed out facilities that are not relevant from a statewide view.
 - NYSDOT will provide updates on meetings. Direct any questions to Dave Rosenberg.
 - Transearch Training will be on Tuesday (10/20). NYSDOT purchased the data, so they would like to share it with the MPOs and provide training on how to use it.
 8. Information on Urban Freight Planning Sessions at 2016 TRB Meeting – **Peter Plumeau, RSG**
 - Peter is the session coordinator for the Urban Freight Committee. The Committee is finalizing sessions. There are no specific dates yet, but the following is a list of sessions to look out for at the TRB meeting:

- Panel Session on Integrating Freight Needs into Transportation Plans for Healthy and Active Communities
- Panel Session on Urban Freight Transportation Innovations and Best Practices (based on four best papers received by the Committee)
- Session with an international perspective on Accommodating Freight Early and Often in the Phases of Planning and Redevelopment.
- Poster session with ten research projects on Urban Freight Innovations.
- Four-hour workshop (Sunday) working on with people from Los Angeles
- The Subcommittee Meeting will also include a presentation.
- TRB will be January 10-14 in Washington DC. TRB.org has information listed except the sessions.

9. Roundtable – **Members Share Items of Interest**

- NYMTC issued the new contract for their regional freight plan, which is a continuation of the interim planning, which included the regional freight planning context. Current work includes commodity flow analysis and outreach.
- CDTC’s Freight Study is close to the first draft. Once this prepared, the draft will move through the process of Freight Advisory approval and then move through the Planning and Policy Committee. The SHRP2 local data improvement project is in the works and may be a presentation topic at a future FWG meeting.
- Next Week Peter will be in Long Beach for the International Urban Freight Conference by the UCRS. There will be a number of people from RPI at the conference.
- One of the FWG’s goals is to take an annual site visit tour. Rich and Peter will look to plan something for early-spring.

10. Topics/Focus for Next Call - **All**

- Next call will occur after TRB, so there is an opportunity for presentations from those who attend.

11. Set Next Call Date/Time – **Rich Guarino, GBNRTC and NYSMPO staff**

- Peter will distribute poll to determine next meeting for end of January.

12. Adjourn