



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

WORKING GROUP: Transit

MEETING DATE/TIME: Monday, February 13, 2017, 10:00 to 11:30AM

MEETING LOCATION: Conference Call (1-719-234-7872, Code: 6135021939)

ATTENDEES:

Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council – A/GFTC: Jack Mance
Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study – BMTS: Scott Reigle, Cassandra Gascon
Capital District Transportation Committee – CDTC: Anne Benware
Elmira-Chemung Transportation Council – ECTC: Tina Hager, Jim Arey
Genesee Transportation Council – GTC: Not Present
Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council – GBNRTC: Not Present
Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Study – HOCTS: Not Present
Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council – ITCTC: Dwight Mengel
New York Metropolitan Transportation Council – NYMTC: Not Present
Orange County Transportation Council – OCTC: Not Present
Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council – PDCTC: Not Present
Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council – SMTC: Mario Colone
Ulster County Transportation Council – UCTC: Brian Slack
Watertown Jefferson – WJCATC: Jennifer Hodge
New York State Department of Transportation – NYSDOT: Jim Davis, Tom Vaughn, Barb Gerowe

AGENDA ITEMS:

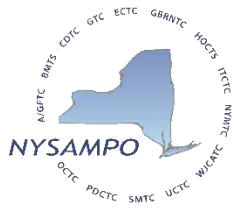
- 1. Introductions (All)**
- 2. 5310/11 Timeline, Process, and Updates (Vaughn)**

5310

- MPOs with funding remaining will be able to carry it forward.
- NYSDOT is working to get the solicitation out as soon as possible, which will likely be in the next two to four weeks.
- The solicitation period will likely have a June 30 deadline. (This is the FTA deadline for getting grants into the system, which gives the FTA three months for review.)
- NYSDOT hopes to have the ratings and rankings done by early July. (NYSDOT will not be able to push back to August or September.)
- The application will be available online for download and will be a PDF fillable form with minimal attachments.

5311

- Responses are due in early April. NYSDOT will put a grant into FTA as soon as possible after the due date.
- There are a few changes this year:
 - Application will be a PDF fillable form.
 - There are spreadsheets for capital requests.
 - There is more rating and ranking required than in the past.



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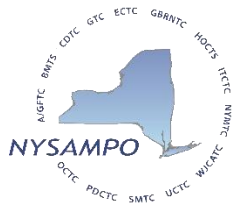
- Changes and requirements will be explained in the webinars and materials distributed for the solicitation. NYSDOT encourages attendance at the webinars for more information.
- Question: Who does 5311 ranking and rating?
 - Response: NYSDOT and state agencies (e.g., Office of Aging and Department of Health). NYSDOT is reaching out to these other state agencies now to make sure they are available for the evaluation.
- Question: Does NYSDOT have a sense of when 5310 webinars will be?
 - Response: Not at this time. They are likely to be in early March. There will be two or three webinars.

3. Overview of 511NY and Transit and Ridesharing Components (Davis/Vaughn)

- 511NY is a branded “regional storefront” of travel information associated with various sub systems and programs operated under different contracts through NYSDOT.
- Information used to manage the transportation system is aggregated and made available via the smartphone application, website, and dial-in option. Information includes speed data, incidents/construction events, cameras, the transit trip planner (open-source), and feed information (GTFS) sent to Google and third party outlets.
- 511NY provides a statewide map and database. It functions as a multifaceted effort to get the best information available from NYSDOT and its partner information out to as many people as possible.
- Aside from the overall 511NY management contract, there is a separate contract to specifically support transit operators. This contractor works with the transit operators around the state to get their data into GTFS. (GTFS editor is the main platform.) They provide technical support and assistance to agencies trying to get their feeds into these formats. As a result, about 90% of transit operators in the state have their information in the system. This provides a comprehensive database of transit services, which can be helpful to MPOs for planning activities.
- There is also a contract that provides technical support for extending the downstate travel management program upstate areas. MPOs are frequently the agencies on the frontline for travel demand management. This program tries to take the tools developed in the downstate program and make them available to upstate programs.
- NYSDOT is working with MPOs on how to support their regionally-branded programs—working to roll out TDM tools under transit, rideshare, and active transportation efforts. NYSDOT is starting a statewide bike route mapping effort that can also be incorporated into tailored local TDM efforts.
- Question: MPOs are interested in TDM (ridesharing/transit), but that creates concern in terms of involvement and funding the 511NY efforts from a long term perspective. MPOs have limited resources.
 - Response: There may be opportunities available for MPOs to partner with transit agencies or NYSERDA. NYSDOT will continue to provide support through statewide contracts. CMAQ funds may also be eligible. NYSDOT is also looking to learn from partnerships.

4. Transit Session for the June 2017 NYSAMPO Conference (Colone/All)

- The NYSAMPO Conference will be held on June 20-21, 2017 in Syracuse, NY.
- Mario distributed an email to the Transit Working Group members, as the Conference Committee is in the process of identifying, prioritizing and determining which sessions to include in the conference agenda.



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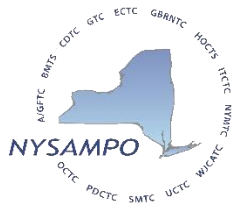
- One idea included a discussion of mobility as a service. This could include the online mobility marketplace of trips (paratransit or other types of services), demand response programs, and other human service programs. Other MPOs seconded interest in this topic.
- Another idea included a session on understanding electronic farebox systems—specifically in terms of how electronic farebox systems work, different elements/features that can be included in these systems, and the best ways to use these systems to get information out to riders.
- Action Item: Transit Working Group members should email Mario and Christine with any additional session ideas. Christine will pass on to Steve Gayle to move forward with organizing ideas and identifying presenters.

5. Implications of Ride Hailing App Legislation (Colone/Hodge/All)

- The Senate passed the bill allowing rideshare in upstate. It is likely that the Assembly will soon, too. Transit authorities may be interested to work with Uber/Lyft/Etc. from a first and last mile approach to cover suburban outer fringe/rural areas where there is limited or no transit service.
- There is a national website where ride hailing system drivers/operators can discuss the places where they are operating, their service strategies, and how they attempt to maximize their revenue. This could be helpful for upstate larger urbanized areas. On the other hand, ride hailing systems may not be effective in small urbanized areas, as local area drivers may already contract with Medicaid or offer transportation services.
 - Action Item: Link will be distributed to the group.
- This could be a topic for the NYSAMPO Conference. Representatives from Flint, MI, could present as they are in the process of buying 200 cars, setting up their own ride hailing service, and reorganizing fixed services.
 - Action Item: Dwight will send information about this to Mario and Christine.
- A/GFTC is currently conducting a rural mobility transportation analysis. There are no conclusions to share at this time, but the consultant is looking at ways to adapt the urban model for rural use. This could be through a volunteer driver program or similar method. Once the project wraps up in the next few months, will provide an update to the group.

6. Ideas and Practices in the Consolidation of Public Transit Services (Sherman/All)

- Brian Slack noted that UCTC is currently engaged in a study to look at integration of the MPO's two FTA designated recipients. It will require a significant public process and roll out of findings. The project is due for completion in April or May.
 - Action Item: Brian will report back at the next meeting.
- Dwight Mengel noted that about 20 years ago, Tompkins County consolidated county and city services. Ridership subsequently doubled.
 - Action Item: Dwight will look into this and report back at the next meeting.
- Christine Sherman noted that she was involved in a Miami-Dade Transit route consolidation project that involved development of performance measures including passengers per trip, farebox recovery ratios, operating costs per revenue mile, and operating costs per passenger to identify routes for consolidation. This also involved looking at regional corridors and identifying overlapping routes. The brochure can be located here for those interested: <http://miamidadempopo.org/library/studies/transit-bus-service-evaluation-study-executive-summary-2011-10.pdf>



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7. TransportationCamp Ithaca Update – June 17, 2017 (Mengel)

- This is an “unconference” that provides very engaging, interesting, and relevant material.
- Dwight Mengel published videos and related information/resources from the 2016 Mobility Solutions Summit. It is a useful resource on shared-use mobility, community mobility services and strategies. <http://www.nymobilitymanager.org/>

8. MPO Roundtable Discussion/Updates (All)

- Anne Benware provided a link to the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) sponsored state mobility management study. Please feel free to send thoughts and considerations related to the recommendations to Anne or the working group.
- The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) conference will be held in Detroit from June 11-16, 2017.

9. Wrap Up