

New York State Association of MPOs
Climate Change & Sustainability Working Group

February 15, 2017

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- CDTC - Jen Ceponis, Chris O’Neill
- ECTC – Jim Arey
- GTC – Joe Bovenzi
- NYMTC – Leslie Fordjour
- NYS DOT – Colleen Smith-Lemmon, Cathy Kuzsman
- FHWA – Heather Holsinger
- NYSDEC - Pam Hadad-Hurst
- NYSERDA – Adam Ruder
- RSG – Steve Gayle
- Clean Fuels Ohio – Matt Stephens-Rich

2. Smart Cities – Clean Fuels Ohio will present overview of SMART**COLUMBUS** project
Matt Stephens-Rich presented the project (slides attached)

He explained that Clean Fuels Ohio participates in Clean Cities Coalitions to promote use of alternative-fueled vehicles.

The US DOT Smart Cities project awarded \$40 million to Columbus. Clean Fuels Ohio was involved in a separate parallel process that was awarded \$10 from Vulcan, which focused on vehicle electrification and grid decarbonization. He also noted that one of the things that was unique in the Columbus application was their approach to AV. Their focus is on using AV to connect citizens, particularly in underserved neighborhoods, to jobs and services.

Q&A

Gayle asked about the public access EV charging station element, noting that some recent statements suggest that with improving battery technology and longer EV range (Tesla, GM), most people will charge at home or the workplace.

Stephens-Rich responded that he agreed at least in part. Their work reveals that residential is the #1 charging location, and that workplace has significant untapped potential. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), Columbus’ MPO, has a program to invest \$800K or more in public access EVSE, tripling the number of locations. He also noted that the focus has shifted to Interstate and regional corridors where people are driving longer distances; and to locations at event and tourism attractions.

Ceponis noted that Clean Cities Coalition is working with NYSERDA on workplace EVSE.

Ruder noted that currently 70% of the market in New York is plug-in hybrid, which has a much shorter range. Also, seeing public access charging station can have a market impact, boosting the confidence of consumers that charging is widely available, even if they do not end up using it.

Ruder asked how much of the project is in the City of Columbus versus surrounding communities.

Stephens-Rich responded that the majority is in the City, but with an eye on surrounding communities. For example, the fleet electrification project addresses the City first, but then provides consultation and education for neighboring municipalities regarding their fleets. This part of the project pays for personnel costs, not vehicles.

Stephens-Rich noted that their goal is to replicate successful programs first with other cities in Ohio, and then more broadly across the Midwest.

3. NYSAMPO Conference Planning

Gayle reported that the Conference Planning Committee is meeting tomorrow to begin assembling the technical program. They have a list of potential session topics, and some presentation ideas.

a. Resiliency and Transportation Technology sessions

Ceponis reported she had circulated a request for input to the Working Group. She had proposed that this group lead a session on transportation technology.

Bovenzi noted he would be willing to do a presentation on the Genesee-Finger Lakes Critical Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment; he had done a preview presentation at the 2015 conference, could now report on findings.

Gayle noted the thought is to do a full session on resiliency planning, since that is a new Planning Factor for MPOs in the FAST Act. It could include Bovenzi's presentation, NYSDEC on CRRA, perhaps something from NYMTC on post-Sandy planning, and possibly an MPO outside of New York that is doing noteworthy work.

Holsinger said she could provide contacts with other MPOs doing adaptation pilots.

Fordjour said he would check with his leaders at NYMTC.

Bovenzi spoke to the Transportation Technology session. He is writing a white paper that synthesizes current thinking on connected and autonomous vehicles. He would involve the TSMPO group is developing the session.

Gayle noted he thought that a good connection for the Climate Change group is how CV/AV/EV may affect GHG emissions. It was agreed that a presentation by the Clean Fuels Ohio group could be good.

Ceponis asked about Mobility as a Service. Gayle responded that the Transit Working Group had met earlier this week and proposed to lead a session on that topic.

b. Training Topics

Bovenzi suggested that while not related to climate change, he would appreciate training on the AVAIL NPMRDS tool.

Gayle responded that the Modeling Working Group had suggested the same thing.

c. In-person meeting?

Gayle reported that there was consideration of setting aside time on either the day before or after the core conference for Working Groups to meet, especially those that do not have regular in-person meetings.

There was interest from the group.

4. Partner Agency Updates

a. NYSDOT/NYSDEC

Smith-Lemmon and Hadad-Hurst reported on Community Risk & Resilience Act (CRRA).

Sea level rise regulations have been adopted, go into effect February 22. This is the first instance of scenario-based approach to sea level rise. Projections are high, but some reviewers think may be not high enough. They are sharing the information to use in planning.

Kuzsman noted the sea level rise projections are only for four regions: Long Island, New York City, Lower Hudson Valley, and Mid-Hudson Valley.

Hadad-Hurst noted that CRRA also covers riverine flooding.

There will be guidance issued, now in Executive review.

Hadad-Hurst also reported on the DEC municipal EV rebate program, funded in the current fiscal year at \$3 million. It provides rebates for purchase of Zero Emission vehicles (ZEV) and EVSE installations. They have awarded a number of grants in each category.

There is funding in the draft Executive Budget to continue the program for 2017-18.

b. NYSERDA

No report

5. Other Items/ MPO Updates

Mance reported that at the May 2016 meeting there had been a presentation by Dewberry on the development of a Statewide Asset Criticality Tool. He has been informed that the tool is nearing completion, Dewberry was appreciative of the MPOs that completed a survey.

Looks to be interesting, a good first step for regional analysis.

Should become available in March.

6. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for May 17.