

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations: Updates

DeLania Hardy, Executive Director
Nicole Waldheim, Senior Program Manager
1029 Vermont Ave., NW
Suite 710
Washington, DC 20005
202.296.7051
dhardy@ampon.org

AMPO Advanced Travel Modeling Research – Pooled Funding Initiative

- AMPO initiated a pooled funding research project to address recommendations in TRB's Special Report 288.
- We have collected \$120,000 from nine MPOs.
- This research will identify and research the specific MPO activities and experiences with advanced modeling and design a Phase 2 study that will determine the costs and benefits of advanced models.
- RFQ for contractor services was developed and the steering committee selected VHB.
- Work is set to begin this month.
- NYMTC is a contributor and steering committee member.
- Other Travel Modeling Workgroup (sponsored FHWA) will meet in the fall

FTA Sustainability

- Partnering with FTA and APTA to evaluate “sustainability” programs and partnerships of MPOs as they incorporate transit program elements.
- Identify MPO partnerships that address the Administrations “livability” priorities.
- Interview MPO and transit providers to identify sustainability strategies and metrics.
- Develop a self-assessment checklist for MPOs on effective sustainability and livability practices.

Operations Work Group

- Information sharing among MPOs regarding the linking of planning and operations.
- Last met on April 30 – May 1 at CMAP.
- Discussed M&O projects under ARRA, climate change and M&O, and other ways MPOs are linking planning and operations.
- NY members include NYMTC, Albany, and Rochester MPOs.

Air Quality Work Group

- Recently applied to FHWA for additional funding to continue the Work Group.
- Hot topics include transition to EPA's new MOVES emissions model, climate change planning, and coordinating reduction strategies for CAA pollutants and climate change.
- NY member – NYMTC.

Safety & Security Planning

- Four MPOs received awards over the previous two years to conduct projects that incorporate safety and security in the MPO process.
- All four have completed or partially completed their work.
- Session at 2009 TRB annual meeting devoted to these projects, with AMPO staff and each MPO presenting.
- Greater Buffalo-Niagara RTC received an award for Accident Surveillance System Enhancement and Integration with Transit project. Work substantially complete.

Resources on the Web

- Slides and Audio from Climate Change is Heating Up webinar– AMPO & NADO
- Notes and Resources from 2008 Integrating Transportation and Land Use Workshops
- All of the recent legislation and policy information relating to ARRA, transportation authorization, the climate bill, and metropolitan planning in general

AMPO Annual Conference

- October 27-30, 2009 in Savannah, GA (AMPO & NADO)
- Something for everyone – sessions on air quality, finance, travel modeling, effective partnerships, innovative plans, performance measures, etc.
- Two “Highlight” sessions – one on mega-regions and the other on small/medium metros
- Nominations are now being accepted for the AMPO Annual Awards
- 2010 Annual Conference will be in St. Louis, MO from October 19-22 (AMPO & NADO)

Publications and Other Services

- aMPO eMAIL every other week
- Updates on new legislative and policy items relating to metropolitan planning
- Ask Us – send any and all transportation related questions to staff@ampo.org
- New and improved *Metros Newsletter*
- Updated surveys on a host of MPO issues

Follow-up

Welcome Kuo-Ann Chiao & Rich Perrin to new AMPO leadership seats!

Program issues – nwaldheim@ampo.org

Technical issues – rdenbow@ampo.org

Policy and other issues – dhardy@ampo.org

...or just call 202-296-7051

THANKS!