

New York State MPO Association
Friday, May 6, 2005
Teleconference Meeting Summary

Participants:

Dave Jukins, CDTC

Joel Ettinger, NYMTC

Larry McAuliffe, NYMTC

Ku-ann Chiao, NYMTC

Jay Schissell ECTC

Steve Gayle, BMTS

Jim d'Agostino, SMTC

Rich Perrin, GTC

Eoin Wrafter, PDCTC

Harry Miller, HOCTS

Kate Schmidt, OCTC

Michelle Badger, NYSDOT

Dick Beers, FHWA

Tom Kearney, FHWA

Aaron Frankenfeld, AGFTC

Irwin Kessman, FTA

Staff:

Sarah Siwek, Don Camph, Jon Makler

1. SCI-CMS

Jon distributed information from the project's consultant (ICF) recent email survey of NY MPOs that currently deal with CMS. One item was the key transportation challenges that each of these MPOs identified. The second item, which was discussed for several minutes, was the list of MPOs that the consultant plans to interview as one element of their work on this project. It was widely felt by conference call participants that Chicago should be used as a useful complement to NYMTC. Other perspectives were that interviewees should reflect different regions of the county, a variety of sizes, and particularly progressive MPOs. When the list of eight is set, it will be distributed to association members for comment.

2. SCI-Data

Jon reported that the Cornell student hired to perform the first task of Phase Two has submitted a draft memo identifying and evaluating a sample of statewide data clearinghouses. Steve explained that the next step will involve a discussion of how to move forward with a web-based data clearinghouse for the association. Ku-ann Chiao (NYMTC) described his agency's Strategic Data Initiative and the work of a TRB group with which he is affiliated. A task force including Jon, Steve and Ku-ann as well as Tom Kearney (FHWA), Rich Guarino (GBNRTC's webmaster), and Tom Westhuis (NYSDOT, tentatively) will begin meeting on this subject.

3. Training

Sarah presented two issues related to statewide training opportunities. A table indicating how many staff would attend each course from each MPO demonstrated strong interest in travel modeling, air quality and some other areas. Sarah also raised a concern about the fact that each SCI needs to be hosted by an MPO. Some spoke to the frustrations associated with host agency protocols for contracting logistics. The timing of choosing SCI initiatives and developing UPWP's was also raised as an issue for future consideration. Sarah will be talking to Tom Kearney to explore options that meet federal requirements.

4. Statewide Staffing Survey

Jon distributed a matrix illustrating in shorthand each MPO's responses in the "interesting practices" section of the survey. The matrix identifies the agencies that had accomplishments and/or frustrations in each of the 24 identified topics. In the discussion that followed, a decision was reached to ask each MPO that identified an "interesting practice" to elaborate (1 or 2 paragraphs) on its experience. Jon will prepare a format for collecting these descriptions. There was also interest in using these findings as the basis for future conferences/panels as well as to facilitate information sharing between agencies on specific topics.

5. Upcoming Conferences

- ITE: Sarah and Rich are going to work together to identify session topics
- Safety Forum: Jon/Steve will be asking MPOs that have not yet rsvp'd to estimate their likely attendance numbers via email
- NYPTA: Sarah/John in a recent meeting identified 3-4 areas of interest

6. Calendar

- 6/9-10 Safety Forum (Poughkeepsie)
- 6/10 (lunch and afternoon): June Directors Meeting (Poughkeepsie)
- 7/8 @ 1pm: July Directors Teleconference
- 8/4: CMS Workshop (Syracuse)
- 8/5: August Directors Meeting (Syracuse)