

**New York State MPOs
Teleconference Minutes
July 8, 2005**

Participants

Jon Makler	Dave Kimmel
Sarah Siwek	John Poorman
Rob Griffith	Don Camph
Harry Miller	Kealy Salomon
John Samanski	Michelle Badger
Fernando de Aragon	Tom Kearney
Mary Rowlands	Larry Mcauliffe
Jay Schissell	Hal Morse
Bill Tobin	

1. Meeting Summary

Tom MANK spelled wrong!

2. CMS Draft Task #1 Report

Jon (Makler) reported that the draft report for task 1 of the CMS shared cost initiative has been submitted by the consultant (ICF). The report has already been reviewed by members of the study advisory committee. Jon requested feedback from each director so that the statewide forum (**which has been postponed from August 4 to September 16**) can be tailored to areas of interest. Several directors commented that the report held appeal for every kind of MPO, whether or not CMS was relevant. It was noted that there don't appear to be any references to the Texas Transportation Institute's report on CMS. **The deadline for providing feedback is July 22.**

3. CMS Workshop

As noted above, the CMS workshop, original scheduled for Thursday, August 4th, has now been rescheduled for Friday, September 16th.

4. NYPTA Meeting Sessions

Sarah reported that the initial agenda for this conference appeared to segregate MPOs from transit agencies in concurrent sessions, which is counter to the reason for MPOs to be involved. MPO-relevant sessions are being concentrated on one day (Thursday, November 17th). The theme of apparent mutual interest is the use of GIS in transit planning. Several MPOs (SMTC, PDCTC, CDTC) identified themselves as doing work in this area while others (ECTC) suggested there could be a useful link to asset management as a subtopic. Another possible topic was raised: Title VI reporting, based on experiences of some MPOs doing this work for their transit partner. There was some concern about a schedule conflict with the mid-Hudson offering of the safe routes to school course. There was also a question about whether a one-day discount would be available.

5. PL Allocations

There was a discussion concerning the fiscal outlook, particularly for the smallest MPOs in the state. ECTC, ITCTC and UCTC all shared concerns about the consequences of stable or declining funding levels in light of increasing burdens. The absence of new federal transportation legislation compounds this concern. Some discussion followed about possible courses of action, including re-negotiating allocation formulas and recent changes in FHWA/FTA rules about certain types of expenses and certain methods of providing matching resources. Action: Jon will follow-up with Tom Kearney about recent changes in federal rules.

6. Training Status

Sarah mentioned that GTC has agreed to amend its UPWP in order to host the general-purposes training SCI budget. There is some concern about low registration numbers for the upcoming regional emissions course. Asked if the course could have benefit for conducting the energy plan analysis, regardless of air quality status, Sarah suggested that it might and that (Action:) she would look more carefully at the agenda/curriculum and then advise.

7. NYS ITE Meeting Sessions

Sarah pointed out that Rich sent out some session topic ideas. The conference is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5th in Rochester.

8. Staffing/Operations Survey

Jon summarized the work that he and Don have been doing since the interviews were conducted in March. Data from the information request segment of the survey are being compiled. This includes job descriptions, committee structures and composition, salary comparisons and other information derived from the data submitted by each MPO. In the “interesting practices” area, Jon distributed a memo asking each director to write brief descriptions of the areas of interesting practice that were identified during the March interviews. These entries will be compiled into a reference document that will be distributed to all members. **The deadline for submitting entries is Monday, August 1.** There was also dialogue how the study’s findings can help one agency learn about another’s interesting practice; also, if the study’s findings illuminate minimum level of effort that an MPO must invest in any given planning topic.

9. Other Business

Sarah reported that she has been working with Senator Clinton’s office on CMAQ language for the reauthorization but that it is very low and the agenda of critical issues.

10. Upcoming Meetings

August 5: Syracuse (Discussion of Association activity and staffing)

September 6: CMS Forum

October 5: ITE Conference

October 7: Rochester