

NYSMPOs AGENDA
August 4, 2006
10:30AM-3:00PM
Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Study
Union Station
321 Main Street
Utica, NY 13501

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Welcome and Introductions | All |
| 2. | July 7th Meeting Summary (Attachment A) | All |
| 3. | NYSMPOs Comments on the FHWA/FTA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Metropolitan Transportation Planning | Siwek |
| 4. | NYSMPOs/RPPM Meeting Follow-up | All |
| 5. | NYSMPOs Corridor Meetings Debrief | All |
| 6. | NYSMPOs Brochure | Zwahlen |
| 7. | NYSMPOs Annual Meeting Debrief | |
| | a. Finances | Siwek |
| | b. Evaluations (Attachment B) | Zwahlen |
| 8. | Shared Cost Initiatives | Siwek |
| | a. Current Projects | |
| | i. Innovative Approaches to Planning Implementation | |
| | ii. Transit Supportive Development | |
| | iii. Bike/Pedestrian | |
| | b. 2006 SCI Program Status Update (Attachment C) | |
| | c. 2007 Project Development Schedule | |
| 9. | ITE/NYSMPOs Annual Meeting | Zwahlen |
| | a. Status Update on Conference & Sessions | |
| | b. Lunch ceremony | |
| 10. | 2006 Training | Siwek |
| 11. | Washington, D.C. Update | Gayle |
| 12. | Status Reports | |
| | a. Air Quality –Peer Review | Siwek |
| | b. Safety | Schissell |
| | c. Travel Demand Model Users Group | Salomon |

13. Other Business
 - a. TIP Selection Working Session
 - b. Context sensitive planning update
14. Next Meeting
 - Conference Call on September 1, 2006 at 1:00PM
 - Call in Number: (712) 580-1800
 - Access Code: 697676

 - October 4, 2006 – Buffalo

Siwek
Beers

**New York State Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Conference Call Summary
Friday, July 7, 2006**

Participants:

Hal Morse, GBNRTC
Rich Perrin, GTC
Mary Rowlands, SMTC
Harry Miller, HOCTS
Fernando de Aragon, ITCTC
Jay Schissell, ECTC
Bill Tobin, UCTC
John Czamanske, OCTC

Kealy Salomon, PDCTC
Janine Simonsen, NYSDOT
Ron Hayes, NYSDOT

NYSMPOs Staff:

Sarah Siwek, SJS & Associates
Don Camph, SJS & Associates
Tanya Zwahlen, Bergmann

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. June 9th Meeting Summary**
- 3. NYSMPO/RPPM Meeting**

This meeting will take place on 7/26 in Schenectady from 9:00AM-3:30PM. Ron Hayes reserved a block of rooms at the Schenectady Holiday Inn for the night before the 7/26 meeting. There are currently 8 items for the agenda:

1. Program update
2. Transportation Conformity
3. Commuter/Trade corridors
4. Protocol for financial plans for projects
5. Overview of NYSDOT Transformation
6. Implications of FHWA proposed rulemaking about Metropolitan Transportation Planning
7. Strategic Highway Safety Plan
8. Safe Routes to School

Action: Ron will add the Transportation Enhancement Program to the agenda.

MPOS are planning to submit their comments on the Proposed Rulemaking to AMPO. Action: NYSMPOs and NYSDOT should coordinate. Ron Hayes will send NYSDOT positions to MPO Directors prior to the 7/26 meeting. The MPO Directors will discuss this issue more on August 4th in Utica.

The NYSMPOs TIP meeting will not take place on 7/27.

4. 2006 NYSMPO Conference

Sarah does not have final financial figures yet on the 2006 Annual Meeting, but reported that NYSMPOs covered expenses and may have collected revenue because of the sponsorships. She will provide a full summary in August.

Most meeting evaluations have been positive. Tanya will provide a full report in August.

5. Training

a. 2006 Training

Sarah is scheduling a training session right now. She will provide more information once it has been finalized.

6. Shared Cost Initiatives

a. Innovative Approaches to Planning Implementation

The Innovative Approaches to Planning Implementation project will go to bid on July 17th. The RFP will be posted on the NY Contracts Reporter and on the NYSMPOs web site.

b. Transit Supportive Development

Sarah and the working group are working on this scope and will report on this project in August.

c. Bike/Pedestrian Study

The Bike/Pedestrian Scope is the next SCI project for advancement. Sarah and Tanya will reconstitute the working group to formalize the scope. Action: Jay will send minutes from the State on the Landis system. Jason Purvis at CDTC and Danielle Krol at SMTTC should be included in this group. Action: Tanya will set up a conference call on this scope. If anyone has information about this subject from current literature, please send it to Tanya and Sarah.

d. Plans for 2007 SCI Program and schedule

Tanya and Sarah will initiate a process between September and November to develop the 2007 SCI program. Action: Sarah will provide a status or projected status on the current program so the Directors have an update before deciding what to add. The Safety Working Group will be proposing a project.

7. Washington, D. C. Updates

Gayle

The FHWA/FTA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Metropolitan Transportation Planning was published on June 9th. Action: Sarah will email summaries of the proposed rulemaking and begin drafting comments for NYSMPOs.

8. ITE Conference

Siwek/Zwahlen

The date and location for the ITE/NYSMPOs conference have not been finalized. There is some concern about the lack of progress by the planning group. The theme will be Safety and Operations. The Safety Working Group is organizing a session. Tanya and Sarah will provide a status update on the conference planning in August, and the Directors should discuss if the MPOs would like to plan anything during the lunch, either before or after the ITE awards ceremony.

9. Other Business

All

Tanya and Sarah will send a request to Directors for information for inclusion in the NYSMPOs brochure this month. MPOs should highlight 2-3 projects that completed in the last few years.

The group discussed corridor meetings with Gerry Cioffi, and whether or not MPOs are asking the Planning Committees to approve the corridors. The group agreed to have a discussion about individual MPO corridor meetings at the August 4th meeting.

10. Next Meeting Date/Time

August 4, 2006 from 10:30AM-3:00PM
Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Study
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ATTACHMENT B

2006 NYSMPOs Annual Meeting Conference Evaluation

Total Evaluations Received: 14 (11.7% response rate)

1. Did you think the content of the conference sessions was appropriate and informative? Please explain why or why not.
 - Concurrent tracks provided opportunity to attend relevant sessions at all times.
 - Some were a little too general for MPO staff (the day 2 material). If more policy/planning committee members had been there, they may have gotten more out of it. The value for me was meeting other MPO & AMPO staff in person
 - Content was informative for a range of people from those just becoming familiar with MPOs to those deeply involved with MPOs. Issues addressed were timely.
 - I'm glad the focus was on how do we sell transportation and land use integration rather than the technical aspects of doing transportation-LU integration
 - Yes, both in challenging us to expand our MPO horizons and finding out about practices of other NYS MPOs.
 - Yes, it identified and discussed issues that are critical to our understanding and addressing myriad of transportation questions facing us today and into the future.
 - The Colloquy sessions were especially good for covering emerging issues for planners.
 - It encouraged those in attendance to think outside the box and expand their thinking beyond that required by our bureaucracies
 - Yes. The sessions provided insightful information (Colloquy) regarding future activities and involvement for MPOs.
 - Yes. The sessions provided a good range of topics that dealt with MPO operating issues and emerging policy issues. The former were presented in a manner that was beneficial to both policy and technical committee members and the latter were more geared to MPO staff – which is what I believed we strived to do.
 - Yes. The Safety Forum was very helpful. It provided a lot of information in a short amount of time. Our organization came away with a lot of contact information and tasks to be accomplished in the next couple of years. Additionally, the theme of “making MPOs more relevant” was very timely. Relevancy and effectiveness go hand in hand.

2. How satisfied were you with the speakers and presenters? Please explain.
 - Speakers were generally excellent, with the possible exception of the AASHTO representative
 - Nice diversity of professionals, practitioners and others. The ARTWalk speaker, Doug Rice, added a fresh and entertaining perspective. It was interesting to hear about the process from his point of view.
 - Very satisfied. I appreciated the novel approach (for conferences) focused on the communication, rather than the technical. They provided a great chance to find out about what's going on and were very accessible.
 - Very good speakers that represented different perspectives.
 - Very good mix of presenters. I attended the ITS and congestion management sessions on Friday, and both were very good.
 - I was satisfied with the speakers. However, some of the topics were redundant
 - The speakers and presenters were excellent – I have not been to any other conferences that have included the NYSDOT Commissioner, AMPO executive director, Florida's

MPO association executive director, and Mort Downey along with a host of relevant speakers from NYSMPOs.

3. Did you feel the length of the conference was too long, too short or just right?
 - *All respondents noted that the length was just right.*
 - A two-day event with sessions starting at lunch on the first and ending at the same time on the second seemed to work well. We may want to consider starting earlier on the first given that the state is large and it appeared many participants came in the night before.

4. What did you like most about the 2006 NYSMPOs Annual Meeting? Please explain.
 - Transportation planning specific, liberating to not have to find a place somewhere within an engineering conference
 - The opportunity to meet the other MPO staff members and the AMPO staff was fantastic. The sessions on the Colloquy material were also well done.
 - I enjoyed the land use/transportation integration workshop. It shed some light on how much work we still need to do to break down the barriers and truly think about how to improve the planning and implementation processes. Discussions and interactions with people from various backgrounds were interesting.
 - Workshop prior to conference. Hands-on exercise very useful.
 - Providing me with the chance to talk to my colleagues from around the State.
 - New areas of emphasis – PPP
 - Discussion of the Colloquy
 - Great format, with the available training session the day before, and the kickoff sessions on the Colloquy that everyone attended, followed by your choice of sessions on Friday, made it especially worthwhile.
 - Breakout sessions and the ability to select the ones of interest to me.
 - The knowledge and breath of experience of the speakers.
 - I enjoyed meeting people representing NYSDOT and NYSMPO organizations
 - The sessions provided useful information regarding MPO activities. The Safety Roundtable was very informative and provided the much needed MPO involvement with GTSC, NYSDOT and NYSDMV.
 - Primarily the content and the speakers. Although, we may want to consider bringing in more out-of-state speakers for one to two major plenary sessions if this becomes wholly geared to MPO staff (with the understanding that this can get expensive).
 - The Safety Forum – it was pragmatic.

5. What did you like least? Please explain.
 - AASHTO presentation and Commissioner's content; not many folks are drinking the PPP Kool-Aid. However Commissioner Madison was a very good speaker
 - The policy session on emerging uses was a disappointment. I expected something different than what I got.
 - The location of sessions and room layout was a bit confusing. I understand the venue is under construction and there is very little to be done about that. However, it did feel like too many conferences were going on at the same time and space was tight.
 - Some of the plenary sessions were a bit dry and I did not relate to the topic
 - The weather
 - The conference lacked the presence of downstate regional concerns. The upstate region of New York is vastly different than the downstate region. Speakers from the upstate region had differentiating issues and concerns than we have here on Long Island.

- A few of the sessions could have benefited with more time allotted in order to provide for Q and A.
- It was difficult to get Board and Planning Committee members to participate and I don't feel this was completely because of the timing or a lack of notice. However, I feel it would have been very beneficial to have had a networking-type event for the local electeds to be able to get together and discuss issues that they are facing in their respective regions.
- Nothing -I liked it. It was the best MPO conference I have attended in my career.

6. How would you rate this meeting compared to other conferences of this type that you have attended? Rate 1-10, with 1 = worst and 10 = best. Please explain.

- *Average rating was 8.25. No score lower than 7.*

7. Please provide suggestions for the 2007 NYSMPO Annual Meeting.

a. Suggested locations:

- Saratoga Springs (3), Troy, Anywhere but Syracuse, Syracuse, Lake Placid (2), Ithaca, Albany, New York City (3)

b. Suggested session topics:

- Small MPO modeling applications
- Statewide initiatives under the state transportation master plan and the new governor, more statewide policy level material
- Planning Communication 201
- A mix of new and challenging topics with status updates on more familiar topics.
- Environmental processing
- Follow up on SAFETEA-LU implementation and what it means for transportation planners.
- Demand Response Operations, Taxis & Limousines as alternative modes of mass transit.
- Financing our systems; how to integrate planning and NEPA, how to bring principals to the table in a meaningful way.
- Further discussion on Land Use and transportation integration (with courses on an urban perspective)
- Developing effective Long-Range Plans

c. Session formats (e.g. plenary session, panel discussion, roundtable discussion):

- *The 2006 format was complimented by several respondents*
- I like the idea of more roundtable discussions rather than traditional presentation sessions. This would distinguish our annual meeting from traditional conferences.
- The variety of formats at this year's conference worked well: workshop, plenary sessions, walking tour, etc.
- More hands-on activities for participants.
- Roundtable discussion setting is preferable
- Roundtable discussions are not typically well-suited to large numbers. Given that we want this to be for a large and diverse group of participants, I think the panel discussions and plenary sessions (when a recognized speaker is available) should be the primary formats.
- Panel Discussion

d. Other ways to improve the 2007 Annual Meeting:

- Continue outreach efforts to engage MPOs outside of NYS to add to the conversation
- I think roundtable formats on various topics (like we did for safety) would highlight some of the differences between the MPOs, would identify areas for potential improvements or new partnerships and may help the NYSDOT/MPO relationships across the state. Again, I would also ask who is the audience and gear the program toward that. If it's largely consultants, NYSDOT and MPO staff, presentations on rural transit systems, for example, are not terribly informative. We learn about these things at other NYS conferences and we should distinguish our annual meeting from a traditional conference. Perhaps our annual meeting should consider focusing on more statewide policy issues.
- More hands-on exercises.
- More opportunity to network with other MPOs in an informal setting.
- Have specific USDOT sessions that address emerging issues from the federal prospective. Could be done from the state side as well.
- Added downstate representation
- A bit more advance notice and starting earlier on the first day to get more in.

8. Additional comments

- Thanks to everyone who worked hard on putting together an excellent conference
- I like bringing other disciplines into planning. This conference made me think that we need to do more as planning professionals in terms of communication – e.g. making technical materials accessible and interesting to general public, persuasion of elected officials, utilizing various forms of media, etc. Perhaps we could learn from consultants in the following areas: Communications, Public Relations, Advertising.
- I liked the diversity of professionals who participated in the conference. From Wednesday's workshop, it was clear that though we work in the same field, we come at it from different perspectives.
- Great idea sending the evaluation form over e-mail.
- I think its worth doing this kind of conference regularly. The walking tour of Saratoga Springs with commentary on planning activities was excellent.
- Facility was great, decent food, and a very nice happy hour reception on Thursday night.
- I found this conference very informative and helpful in my work. It was definitely worthwhile attending and would like to be kept informed of future conferences.

SHARED COST INITIATIVE STATUS - 2006/07

Expenditures and obligations of federal funds only

TASK	PROGRAM YEAR----->	FHWA PL SCI SET-ASIDES								FUNDS	AVAILABLE	
		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	TOTAL	EXPENDED*	BALANCE
NYS MPO Association Staff		\$213,721	\$245,000	\$206,279	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$785,000	\$518,558	\$266,442
Attitudinal & Preference Survey		\$105,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$0
Long Term Funding Needs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transportation & Community Design - Phase I		\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$102,283	\$22,717
	Phase II	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Statewide Data Collection (high tech) - Phase I		\$0	\$0	\$51,542	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$51,542	\$51,542	\$0
Quantifying Bike\Ped		\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Travel Behavior Factors		\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$77,813	\$22,187
Linking Transportation and Development		\$0	\$0	\$165,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$165,000	\$0	\$165,000
CMS Research		\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80,000	\$40,090	\$39,910
Staff Training:	General	\$0	\$50,000	\$1,170	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$51,170	\$0	\$51,170
	Freight Data	\$0	\$0	\$1,009	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,009	\$1,009	\$0
	GIS Training and Software	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Strategic Dec. Making Initiative	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
	Safe Routes to School	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Innovative Approaches to Plan Implementation		\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
	OBLIGATED	\$318,721	\$550,000	\$750,000	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,738,721	\$946,294	\$792,427
	UNOBLIGATED	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	XXXXX	\$0
TOTAL		\$318,721	\$550,000	\$750,000	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,738,721	\$946,294	\$792,427

TASK	PROGRAM YEAR----->	FTA MPP SCI SET-ASIDES								FUNDS	AVAILABLE	
		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	TOTAL	EXPENDED*	BALANCE
NYS MPO Association Staff		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Attitudinal & Preference Survey		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Long Term Funding Needs		\$0	\$49,997	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$149,997	\$149,997	\$0
Transportation & Community Design - Phase I		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Phase II	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Statewide Data Collection (high tech) - Phase I		\$0	\$50,000	\$48,458	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$98,458	\$86,985	\$11,473
Quantifying Bike\Ped		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel Behavior Factors		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Linking Transportation and Development		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
CMS Research		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Training:	General	\$0	\$50,003	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,003	\$0	\$50,003
	Freight Data	\$0	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
	GIS Training and Software	\$0	\$40,000	\$73,137	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$113,137	\$113,137	\$0
	Strategic Dec. Making Initiative	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,930	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,930	\$17,930	\$0
	Safe Routes to School	\$0	\$0	\$11,863	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,863	\$11,863	\$0
Innovative Approaches to Plan Implementation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	OBLIGATED	\$0	\$200,000	\$238,458	\$0	\$17,930	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$456,388	\$394,912	\$61,476
	UNOBLIGATED	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	XXXXX	\$0
TOTAL		\$0	\$200,000	\$238,458	\$0	\$17,930	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$456,388	\$394,912	\$61,476

* - From Fin 421 reimbursements requests received by NYSDOT through 12/08/05

