

**NYSMPO Director's Teleconference  
Teleconference Meeting Summary  
September 6, 2006**

**Jay Schissell, ECTC  
Hal Morse, GBNRTC  
Steve Gayle, BMTC  
James D'Agostino, SMTC  
John Czamanske, OCTC  
Rich Perrin, GTC  
John Poorman, CDTC  
Bill Tobin, UCTC  
Gerry Bogacz, NYMTC  
Sharon Heyboer, HOCTS**

**John Zamurs, NYSDOT  
Michele Bager, NYSDOT  
Marty Neveu, NYSDOT  
Dave Kimmel, NYSDOT  
Ron Hayes, NYSDOT  
Dick Beers, FHWA  
Tom Kearney, FHWA  
Tanya Zwahlen, BA  
Sarah Siwek, SSA  
Don Camph, SSA**

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. 8/4/06 Meeting Summary**

On page 5, there is a reference to the transit working group. This working group is not yet organized, but if Directors send names to Jim Arey at ECTC (JimArey@stny.rr.com), he will start this group.

**3. NYSMPOs NPRM Comments**

**Siwek**

The group discussed the draft comments to the NPRM. Sarah will edit the letter and send it out for review by early the week of 9/4.

**4. NYSDOT Update**

**a. RPPM/NYSMPOs meeting on Tuesday, 9/19/06**

NYSDOT will hold an internal meeting with RPPMs from 11:30-1:00PM. The meeting will continue from 1:15-4:00 with MPO Directors and RPPMs. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the program update. Ron will send a conference phone number and access code. If any directors plan to attend in person, let Ron know.

**b. STIP Schedule and Air Quality Conformity**

Guidance is in the mail to RPPMs and Directors regarding the STIP schedule and conformity process. The guidance reiterates the schedule and requests first submissions of projects that may be non-exempt in October. RPPMs will work

with MPOs to meet the schedule and include the appropriate time to meet the conformity process. It will be important to make sure MPOs do not start modeling until the ICG and MPO have agreed on the exempt/non-exempt classification. The Directors acknowledged the effort NYSDOT has made to be more cognizant of MPOs update schedules. However, NYSMPOs recommend a debrief to evaluate the process and the schedule for the next update.

### **c. State Planning & Research (SPR) Program**

MPOs will be invited to submit proposals for the SPR program. NYSDOT will decide on projects in December or January. The schedules for SCI and SPR are compatible. The MPOs would request SPR money through a work program and manage the projects themselves. NYSDOT will join NYSMPOs at the October 4<sup>th</sup> Director's meeting to discuss further collaboration and possible projects.

### **d. Transportation Enhancements (TE)**

Ron Hayes requested feedback about the TE process. The major comments were that (1) MPOs need to anticipate requests earlier, as three months was not enough, (2) a cost/benefit analysis should be used as part of the criteria and (3) there should be a public outreach component to the program.

Since the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program mechanics and allocation process is undetermined at this time, NYSMPOs requested a statewide meeting among NYSDOT and MPO SRTS coordinators to discuss the program. Ron Hayes will discuss the SRTS program with Mike Soscia and Henry Hren and report back to the MPOs next month.

## **5. NYSMPOs Brochures**

Tanya requested feedback on the NYSMPOs brochures. Jay Schissell would like to work with a designer to further refine the design.

## **6. Training**

**Siwek**

Sarah reported that 17 staff attended the session on presenting data and materials in New York on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Feedback was positive. There are 2 ESRI courses planned in New York and Johnstown Building GeoDatabases). Tanya will facilitate a brief email evaluation for these courses. The Safety Conscious Training will be offered in early December after an update to the course by NHI. The ESRI course on Working With ArcGIS Network Analyst is now scheduled for November 6-7 in Syracuse, NY.

## **7. Shared Cost Initiatives**

**Siwek**

### **a. Innovative Approaches to Planning Implementation**

Hal will award the contract to Wilbur Smith. Work will begin at the end of this month. Tanya will help to manage the project.

#### **b. Transit Supportive Development**

The proposed final scope was sent to scoping group and NYPTA yesterday. Sarah has requested that NYPTA identify someone to represent the transit association on the project.

#### **c. Bike/Pedestrian**

The bike/pedestrian working group is working with Tanya to redraft the scope. They will have a refined scope by the end of September.

#### **d. 2007-2008 SCI Program**

The group reviewed 13 preliminary concepts and classified them as Tier 1, concepts to be refined, and Tier 2, concepts to be abandoned. Tanya and Sarah will edit the Tier 1 projects descriptions and send to Directors for ranking prior to the October 4<sup>th</sup> Director's meeting.

The Directors will meet separately in mid-September to discuss future expectations for the MPO Association and the proposed 2007-2008 budget for the Association, which includes staffing. Sarah will send the Directors a memorandum by 9/13 which summarizes current staffing and provides a range of options for the future to facilitate the Annual Meeting, training, the working groups and the SCI program. SPR funding could potentially be used to support NYSMPOs work.

### **8. Washington, D. C. Updates**

**Gayle**

- a. John Poorman, Steve Gayle, Rich Perrin, Gerry Bogacz, Joel Ettinger, and Sarah Siwek attended the TRB conference regarding "The Metropolitan Planning Organization, Present and Future: A Conference" in Washington last week. NYSMPOs received good feedback on the Colloquy, and the products of the conference reflect the Colloquy material.
- b. The AMPO Annual Meeting will be in Fort Lauderdale from October 31st- November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- c. Directors should have received AMPO comments on the NPRM.

### **9. ITE/NYSMPOs Conference**

**Zwahlen**

Tanya is planning conference sessions with Steve Gayle and Brian Rowback regarding Transportation Management and Operations, and with the Safety

Working Group and Barbara O'Rourke regarding NYSMPOs/NYS DOT collaboration on safety planning. Tanya will send registration to Directors when it's finalized.

**10. Other Business**

**All**

- a. Tanya and Sarah will follow up by email with information about venues for the 2007 NYSMPOs Annual meeting. The goal is to book a location by mid-September.
- b. Tanya and Sarah will be setting up a demonstration of the FHWA E-STIP system for the December Director's meeting.
- c. The group agreed to meet at NYMTC on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Sarah has blocked rooms at the **Best Western Seaport Inn Downtown (33 Peck Slip, New York, NY 10038)** on 11/30. Gerry Bogacz will reserve a room at NYMTC for the meeting. Sarah will send MPOs information on how to reserve a room.

**11. Next Meeting Date/Time**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2006**

**8:30 a.m. – 12:00**

Quality Hotel and Suites at the Falls

240 Rainbow Boulevard

Niagara Falls, New York 14303