

**NYSMPO Meeting Summary – December 5, 2003**  
**NYSDOT Offices**  
**Schenectady, NY**

**Present:**

John Poorman	Sarah Siwek
Steve Gayle	Marty Neveu
John McNeill	Don Camph
Jon Makler	Kealy Salomon
Larry McAuliffe	Timothy Trabold
Mary Rowlands	Aaron Frankenfeld
Richard Beers, FHWA	Dennis Doyle
Kate Schmidt	Tim Gilchrist
Phil Clark	Brian Rowback
Harry Miller	Mike Fay

- 1) **Meeting Summary for October 3, 2003** – The meeting summary was approved without comment.
- 2) **Update on Reauthorization of TEA-21/AMPO** – Steve Gayle reported on the multi-faceted legislative activity underway on the re-authorization. He shared the perspective that a full reauthorization is unlikely in the spring and therefore before the elections. The good news is that an increase to 1.5% of P.L. funds has been widely accepted. The House version of reauthorizing legislation (TEA-LU) includes lots of programs, lots of money, but little information on how to fund the proposal.

**Handout: AMPO analysis of TEA-LU.** Of interest, JARC is becoming formularized and \$20M/yr is being provided for an environmental cooperative research program. A Representative from Dallas has introduced a complimentary bill to address pieces missed by TEA-LU, specifically as relates to congestion relief. Steve noted the valuable contributions of Nancy Ross of NYS DOT's Federal Relations Bureau. Regarding AMPO, membership (184) is healthy and the annual meeting went well.

- 3) **FHWA Statewide Planning Finding** – Dick Beers mentioned that the Administration is conducting a customer survey, the third phase of which will include New York. Surveys will go out to MPOs in mid-2004. **Handout: Draft NY Statewide Planning Finding.** The draft document is an update to the planning findings of the FHWA in August 2002. There is some progress in some areas. MPOs should review the document and get back to Sarah with any comments.
- 4) **NYS DOT Presentation on Transportation Process/Activities** – The process has led to a mitosis into two functions: operations and integrating, the latter being much smaller and focused on policy and planning issues. Brian Rowback of NYS DOT described how analysis is being conducted in three areas on the basis of five measurement concepts. The areas are trade, upstate and downstate and the measurements include mobility/reliability,

safety, economic stability (not development), security and environment. A “dashboard” is a management tool NYSDOT has adopted for organizing the analysis and the information it produces. The PowerPoint presentation illustrated how the dashboard works, how the performance measures should be operationalized and how this analysis intersects with the diverse set of stakeholder groups. Of consequence to the MPOs is that this is likely to lead to reorganization at NYSDOT to improve relationships to geographic stakeholders such as MPOs. It was stated that the dashboard is meant to “bolster” regional transportation plans and to (“dynamically”) replace the statewide plan.

5) **UPWP Development** – Marty Neveu explained that policy approval is required by March 15 so the February NYSMPO meeting will be timely for finalizing issues.

**Handouts: 12/27/02 status spreadsheet for SCI projects; NYSDOT to email Sarah a more recent version of the document.** MPO recommendations for SCI projects.

- a. NYSMPO staffing
- b. CMS Project (possibly \$80K)
- c. Staff training
  - i. Geodatabases
  - ii. Travel Demand (intro and advanced)
- d. Transportation and Community Design Phase II
- e. Statewide Data Phase II
- f. Travel Behavior Factors (w FHWA)
- g. ITS Integration
- h. Performance measures (customer research)

It was noted that a CMS task would be valuable as a study but not for specific direction to MPOs. Larry McAuliffe noted that Southwest Connecticut MPO recently received recognition for its CMS effort. It was also recommended that the MPOs set aside funding for a research task concerning intercity corridors that pass through metro areas.

***Follow-up: Sarah to prepare a memo and attachment to all MPOs showing the current and planned projects and FHWA and FTA planning funds to pay for these activities.***

6) **NYSDOT Data Initiative Presentation** – NYSDOT’s Bureau of Highway Data Services has developed a relational database for its library that is being made available (first internally, later through intradot, eventually to MPOs) through a “data store” that allows ad-hoc querying of data without any threat to the actual data. **Handout: Packet on highway data and the data store.** In response to a question, Mike Fay of NYSDOT explained that it is possible to incorporate locally collected data to be queried. Also in response to questions, he explained that MPOs will not need to buy software but individual accounts for staff will need to be established for secure internet connections. There were several questions about how this will help with data that they don’t normally include, both self-collected and available from ITS sources. NYSDOT explained that this could be accomplished on the basis of connections via unique identifiers (intersections, other “features”). In the discussion that followed, there were concerns expressed about the limitations of this service. Training and guidance (user’s manual) were deemed worthwhile under the scope of the data-library SCI task (**Handout: Makler memo on**

**scope of service for data-library task**). Several members noted that a service such as this should be tied into ITS, GIS and transformations data libraries.

- 7) **SCI Project Status** – This discussion was abbreviated by the shortage of time and urgency of heading home ahead of the snow. The data-library task was covered in the discussion of the NYSDOT data store (see above). The other tasks were discussed in the context of reviewing the UPWP, including affirmation of the GIS Training and the progress of the community design task.
- 8) **Website Update** - *Sarah will put a memo together for the MPOs to consider and take action on at the next meeting. In the meantime, Sarah will work to update the site as much as possible prior to that meeting*
- 9) **Next Meeting Date & Location** – The next meeting is planned for Friday, February 6, 2003 in Binghamton.