

AGENDA
New York State Association of MPOs
Friday, June 6, 2003
10:30 am – 3:00 pm
Genessee Transportation Council
60 W. Main Street, Suite 8112
Rochester, NY

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| 1. Welcome and Introductions | |
| 2. Meeting Summary April 4, 2003 (Attachment A) | All |
| 3. Update on AMPO Activities | Gayle |
| 4. SCI Projects | |
| SCI Meta-Library | All |
| Travel Behavior Factors Update | Poorman/Siwiek |
| Integrated Community Design Study | Poorman |
| Long Term Funding Needs Update | Gleason |
| GIS Training | Salomon |
| 6. Discussion of SAFETEA | All |
| 7. TEA 21 Works Coalition | McAuliffe |
| 8. Long Term Needs Communications Strategy
(to be distributed under separate cover) | Camph |
| 9. Other items | All |
| 11. Next Meeting Date and Place | All |

**NYS Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Meeting Summary
April 4, 2003**

Attendees:

John Poorman, Capital District Transportation Committee
Steve Gayle, Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Council
Jay Schissell, Elmira-Chemung Transportation Council
Mary Rowlands, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Fernando de Aragon, Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council
Hal Morse, Greater Buffalo-Niagara Frontier Transportation Council
Larry McAuliffe, New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
Aaron Frankenfeld, Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council
Eoin Wafter, Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council
Marty Neveu, NYSDOT

Alicia Nolan, FHWA

Carolyn Bourdeaux, Sarah J. Siwek & Associates
Sarah J. Siwek, Sarah J. Siwek & Associates
Don Camph, Sarah J. Siwek & Associates

1) Welcome and Introductions

2) February 7, 2003 Meeting Summary

It was requested that the minutes be changed to reflect that the three-year TIP was an “unacceptable” risk, not an “acceptable” risk.

3) Update on the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Activities

Several AMPO policy documents were distributed and the MPOs briefed members on the current status of the “T-3” reauthorization as well as current efforts by AMPO to reach out to Congressional staff. Key issues discussed included the timing of reauthorization, the possibility of additional transportation funding, AMPO’s position on air quality conformity regulations, and other possible changes to TEA-21 programs in the next reauthorization. The “T-3” bill is currently still being reviewed by OMB. It was noted that the AMPO position on STP suballocation may be interpreted as a ceiling on STP funds to MPOs which would be detrimental. It was also noted that the TEA-21-required collaborative revenue estimation needs improvement.

Action: Sarah Siwek said that she would e-mail anyone who requests it the Administration’s draft T-3 (SAFETEA) proposal.

4) Update on Meeting with Senator Clinton’s Office

The meeting with Ken MacIntosh, one of Senator Clinton’s transportation aides was

briefly discussed. Mr. MacIntosh worked for many years in the Cuomo Administration and appreciated learning about the MPOs. The Senator's office also wanted to know how to prioritize on earmark funding requests. NYSDOT sends in a list every year for appropriations and solicits suggestions from regions and authorities in the State. It would be helpful for the MPOs to see this list prior to submittal.

5) FTA-MPP (Section 5303) FY 2003 Funding

There was a consensus that the \$17,900 in FTA funds be set aside for a fifth workshop on "Integrated Decision-Making Training." There was also a brief discussion on NYSDOT letting the MPOs know their Planning Funds allocation. NYSDOT staff was still waiting to receive final tables from FHWA. It was requested that all future tables be dated to avoid confusion.

Action: A letter will be sent to NYSDOT on the \$17,900 FTA funding.

6) Report on Shared Cost Initiatives

a) Advanced Technology Data Needs Study

Steve Gayle handed out the final report. There was some discussion about following up on the report and looking for some way to finance a "meta-library" of various data sources, but no resolution was reached on this matter.

Action: Sarah Siwek said that she would send copies to those members not in attendance and it was agreed that the meta-library discussion would be on the June agenda.

b) Travel Behavior Factors Update

This project had been on hold while the Eno Institute reorganized, and USDOT figured out their funding levels available. Now, Tom Downs has been named Executive Director of Eno, and Sarah Siwek said that she discussed with FHWA the MPOs desire to move forward with this project this spring. Sarah Siwek, Don Camph and John Poorman agreed to work together to come up with a list of potential conferees. It was agreed that we would attempt to identify people who would be outside of the immediate circle of public agency and academic highway and transit professionals.

Action: Sarah Siwek, Don Camph and John Poorman will draft up a list of potential conferees for the conference.

c) Integrated Community Design Study

CDTC had scheduled a meeting next week with Peter Plummeau about the initial list of proposed case studies which need to be refined.

d) Long Term Funding Needs Update

The committee members discussed which MPOs had seen final numbers for this study and were satisfied with the numbers in the report. Several MPOs were comfortable with the final numbers for their respective regions while others still needed to hear from CSI. CDTC requested additional conversations with the consultants about the numbers, as did the Directors at ITCTC, NYMTC, SMTC. GBNFTC was still reviewing the numbers and no one had heard from NOCTC.

Action: Sarah Siwek will call Arlee Reno and discuss further communication with the MPO Directors.

e) GIS Training

Erin Wafter with PDTC discussed the MPO staff work on developing the GIS workshops. They planned on five classes in different regions; two classes in basic programming and at least two more advanced classes. It was noted that we need to ensure some classes are offered in the NYC area. The project management team will soon have a staff meeting to try to work out where the different workshops will be located.

9) Update on TEA-21 Works Coalition Activities

Larry McAuliffe reported on the meetings of the TEA-21 Works Coalition. He will attend the Coalition meetings in New York City and John Poorman was planning to attend the meetings in Albany. Highlights of the last meeting included: discussion of the Administration's proposal; a report from staff that the U.S. House would be focusing on programs to improve congestion; an AASHTO briefing, again with an emphasis on trying to improve congestion; and an appeal from the Governor's office (John Faso), that everyone in the State try to speak with one voice since there was likely to be a battle over state funding allocations. In a matter important to the MPOs, it appeared that the State would support a proposed increase in funding for MPOs (i.e., the increase to a 2% draw down for planning funds).

A website for the ISTE A Works coalition has been established:
www.dot.state.ny.us/istea

Also John Faso is interested in comments on the reauthorization, and he can be reached at jfaso@manatt.com.

Sarah Siwek had sent MPO materials and our position on TEA-21 to Nancy Ross for distribution to the TEA-21 works coalition.

10) Meeting with NYSDOT on the Reorganization

The meeting with State Transportation Commissioner, Joe Boardman, was scheduled for April 21st and would be at CDTC. The meeting topics would be limited to the NYSDOT efforts at "transformation" and TEA-21 reauthorization and would emphasize the MPO

Directors' desire for an improved cooperative relationship with NYSDOT. Among committee members there was some discussion of the nature of the transformation effort and how the MPOs saw themselves working more closely with NYSDOT in the future.

Action: All MPO directors were urged to attend the meeting on April 21.

11) Long Term Funding Needs Communication Strategy

Don Camph handed out key points of discussion on the Communications Strategy. The MPO Directors discussed how to best to educate local leaders and media about the MPO's role in transportation planning, as well as about the particular needs of New York State communities. This was also discussed in the context of not knowing when "T-3" would be taken up for reauthorization.

In general, it was agreed that educational pieces that focused on big picture issues that would be useful at both the State and the federal level. Priority was given to developing a 4-6 page document that could serve as part of a briefing packet and could give New York State officials some talking points about transportation finance and policy in New York State.

All agreed that transportation policy really needed to be explained in the broader context of State and local finance and in the context of infrastructure needs placing a significant burden on MPOs.

Action: Don Camph will further develop the briefing materials for the MPOs.

12) Other issues

Alicia Nolan announced that she would be taking over as FHWA's "Northern Border Coordinator," though she would be still based in Albany.

Aaron Frankenfeld announced that he had been officially appointed Director of A/GFTC and was no longer just Acting Director.

13) Next Meeting Date/Place

The next meeting was set for June 6th in Rochester.

