



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs  
MODELING WORKING GROUP  
January 31, 2020**

**Conference Call  
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Participating**

- Chris O'Neill, CDTC (Chair)
- Richard Batchelder, NYSDOT
- Chris Bauer, CDTC
- Lauren Burns, OCTC
- Maria Chau, FHWA
- Michael Chiume, NYMTC
- Rich Denbow, CS
- Jason Deshaies, SMTC
- Emily Dozier, DCTC
- Mark Grainer, NYSDOT
- Eric Krans, AVAIL
- Jay Lambrix, ITCTC
- Catherine Lawson, AVAIL
- Alex Muro, AVAIL
- David Staas, UCTC
- John Sterbentz, BMTS
- Andrew Tracy, CDTC
- Jianghao Zhu, NYMTC
- Alan Warde, NYSDOT

**1. Introductions**

Alex Muro (AVAIL) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

**2. NPMRDS Tool Update**

The AVAIL team provided an update on new and improved tool features.

- All 2019 data is now in the tool.
- Several routes can now be selected at once.
- The team is working on incidents view. They looked at one incident that closed I-81, resulting in traffic being diverted. The tool did not have a good way to account for this type of incident, so the team looked at overriding AADT. This functionality will be useful in looking at other incidents, and for doing scenario planning.

- The team noted that AADT used in the tool is from NPMRDS, which is two years old. More recent AADT is available and they are looking into providing the ability to use both.
- A new view was added that allows the user to look at incidents reported by Transcom. The team is working on getting this data updated in the tool each night. A user can run a report for a single day, for a week, or for a month, and can select individual incidents.
- The team has the conflation view up and running. They showed views of historic measures, and will work to incorporate different networks.

### **3. 2020-2021 Modeling Working Group Work Plan**

Chris O'Neill discussed the draft 2020-2021 Modeling Working Group Work Plan. Prior to this meeting, he incorporated changes that were suggested by WG members during the January 3, 2020 WG meeting, and sent the updated draft to the WG for review. He summarized those updates and asked if there were any additional comments.

Jay Lambrich suggested that the Work Plan include activities to analyze and discuss policies that could have an impact on VMT. Chris added that in the past the WG has discussed the topic of VMT growth. Historically, VMT has grown steadily from year to year, and as planners we projected that growth into the future for long range planning. But VMT growth has slowed in recent years, so there is a question about whether we should project slower growth trends into the future. A lot of people are not aware that VMT growth has slowed. As modelers, we want to be careful to not overestimate VMT, which can lead to overdesigning facilities. Chris said the work plan is written in a way that will allow the MWG to look into these issues, including VMT growth during peak periods vs. non-peak, time of year fluctuations, and possible new performance measures that take VMT trends into account.

Emily asked how solutionary rail, which was added to the draft Work Plan after the January 3<sup>rd</sup> WG meeting, relates to the MWG. Chris replied that diverting trucks to other modes is a consideration for modelers. This may be an issue where the Freight WG takes the lead, but modelers need to be aware of these issues. Emily suggested this item should be grouped under freight data section. Chris agreed and will make the change to the Work Plan.

Jason commented that NYSDOT last provided VMT estimates at the MPA level in 2018. NYSDOT has said they intend to provide this data on an annual basis. Jason said the MWG should continue to work closely with NYSDOT to get this data.

Jason asked if the AVAIL team if there is a way to download five-minute data for a route in the NPMRDS tool. They replied that the tool previously allowed a download for any time period. This could be added back in. They also noted there currently is a way to download one day at a time.

Mark said NYSDOT is looking into purchasing TRANSEARCH freight movement data. They would like to work with the MPOs as they consider uses and needs. He will be in touch.

### **4. Next Meeting**

The next MWG meeting will take place on February 28, 2020.