



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
TRANSIT WORKING GROUP
June 14, 2022
Teleconference
11:00 PM – 12:30 PM**

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating

- AGFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Carrie Ward
- GBNRTC – Matt Grabau
- ITCTC – Fernando de Aragon
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYCTCC – Carl King
- NYSDOT – Tom Vaughn
- SMTC – Mario Colone
- Tompkins County – Dwight Mengel
- WJCTC – Barbara Cadwell
- WJCTC – Sarah Freda
- TCAT – Matt Yarrow
- Planning4Places – James Levy

1. Introductions

M. Colone opened the meeting.

2. Approval of meeting notes.

The March meeting notes were approved.

3. Presentation from TCAT

Matt Yarrow provided an overview of the Transit Development Plan, planning during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the Tconnect project (*the PDF presentation file was distributed with the summary notes email*). A question was asked about how engaged municipalities have been with these efforts. Matt noted that some have been very engaged while others do not really see transit as a part of their community. Another question was asked regarding the use of private vendors. Matt noted that private vendors have been engaged in the Tconnect effort and that while the public fleet has ADA and compliance requirements, private entities don't always meet these on every vehicle, however, they do have the on-demand ability to route the appropriate vehicle to where it is needed. It was noted that public nonprofit operators for on-demand service are qualified to received STOA while private operators are not.

4. NYSDOT Updates

Tom noted that the Department is working with MPOs to finalize 5310 scoring and awards. If anyone hasn't heard from NYSDOT or has a question, please reach out to Tom. MPO TIP action will be needed very soon. A question was asked about timing of MPO action and Tom noted that the Department understands there are timeline issues but the absolute deadline is the 2nd week in September. A question was asked about whether it is acceptable to send along comments and suggestions regarding the process in general. Tom noted that such comments would be welcome, preferably in writing. Tom was asked about timing for the

5311 program and stated that the Department is working to get it distributed, hopefully by the end of June.

5. Transit SCI Analytics Update:

Carrie announced that 6 applications were received from 4 applicants. The project goal was to fund 4-5 projects. Each agency that applied (all transit agencies – RGRTA, CDTA, CENTRO and Westchester County) was awarded one project.

6. MPO Updates

- a. SMTC is scoping a few new projects with CENTRO including assisting with ridership on-board surveying and launching a significant public outreach campaign.
- b. CDTC has a Human Services Transportation Working Group that has voiced concern about people having to cross busy roads and getting hurt or killed when doing so. There is a question specific to road design, safety and transit and CDTC is looking for information from other agencies that have looked into this type of issue. Jack noted that several years ago there was an AAA or AARP article or effort that may have been published that was related to this issue. Tom Vaughn noted that 5310 funds can be used to undertake this type of work. Scott provided a link to the AARP Livable Communities webpage: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/>.

7. Work Plan Update

- a. The idea of a NACTO training (or other training) has been in the Work Plan since before COVID but wasn't initiated because of COVID. The group expressed interest in pursuing a transit-focused training effort and Jim will look into the options for a potential training later this year. The transit best practices toolkit has been drafted. If there are any comments or questions on it, please contact Jim Levy. We plan to make a few minor edits to remove a few section headers that don't have any references associated with them and make the page live in the next week or two.

8. Action Items

- a. If an MPO has not heard from NYSDOT Main Office regarding 5310 or has any questions, please reach out to Tom. MPO action will be needed soon.
- b. If anyone has thoughts about the NACTO training, please contact Jim Levy.
- c. If there are any comments on the transit best practices toolkit page on the website
- d. (<http://www.nysmpos.org/transitresourcestoolkit>), please contact Jim Levy. The site will go "live" in a week or two.
- e. If anyone has information regarding assessments of areas where riders have to cross busy roads or information on a similar effort, please contact Carrie Ward.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2022 at 11:00am.