



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
TRANSIT WORKING GROUP
September 21, 2021
Teleconference
11:00 PM – 12:30 PM**

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating

- AGFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Carrie Ward
- ECTC – Angela Wood
- HOCTC – Barb Hauck
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYSDOT – Harriet Lewis
- NYSDOT – Barbara Cadwell
- NYSDOT – Jim Davis
- NYSDOT – Kent Sopris
- NYSDOT – Tom Vaughn
- SMTC – Mario Colone
- UCTC – Brian Slack
- Planning4Places – James Levy

1. Introductions

M. Colone opened the meeting.

2. Approval of meeting notes.

The June meeting notes were approved.

3. NYSDOT Updates

Tom discussed the 5310 program and stated that he expected the program to be released in the next 4-6 weeks. There are several funding sources incorporated into the program this year, including the 3rd year of the last solicitation which was not used in most MPO areas. There are also unassigned funds from 2020 due to COVID cancellations, American Rescue Plan Act funds (2021) and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSA).

The current Mobility Services RFI has been extended to June 2022 to provide time to develop the RFI (currently underway), program structure, and get the next contract established. This effort will include a partnership approach with MPOs. It is expected that the RFI will be released in the Fall.

4. MPO Updates

Carl King (NYTCC) noted that the 2022-2050 RTP was adopted. The RTP can be found here: <https://nymtcmovingforward.org/>. The Hudson Tunnel is a \$12.8B project with development proposed above the tracks. There were congestion pricing meetings held throughout the NYMTC region that included the taxi and limo industry. Finally, since COVID first started, the number of cars in the City is back up and more people are riding transit.

Mario noted that CENTRO significantly reduced the fixed route service in Syracuse last week. They have discontinued several routes temporarily. There is a driver shortage but CENTRO is expected to hire 30-40 new drivers which should help ease the problem. Brian noted that UCAT will receive the first of three fully electric vehicles in a few weeks. Brian will provide updates in the future.

Carrie stated that their Bus Lane Feasibility Study has begun. This study is assessing the feasibility of bus lanes on BRT routes. CDTA also recently expanded their on-demand, wheelchair accessible services north into Saratoga County (Mechanicville). Traditionally there has been a volunteer service for seniors that generally provided service in the area so it will be interesting to see if this changes how service is provided in the area.

5. NYSAMPO SCI

Carrie discussed the project status. The Directors provided the consultant team with MPO and transit agency contacts for a survey. MPOs will be assisting the project team with engaging each transit agency. The survey is likely to be released in a few days. The software market analysis task is currently underway and the Steering Committee is meeting monthly.

6. Work Plan 2021

Jim noted that there are two items in the Work Plan to undertake by the end of the year. Jim will begin to pull together information. If there are any thoughts on focus areas or items to include, please contact him at jlevy@planning4places.com.

7. Transit Fleet Electrification

Jack wanted gauge interest in a potential SCI project to assess electrification of the fleet. Undertaking a feasibility analysis seems like a significant effort that may be better assessed through a larger study that all MPOs can utilize. This work would not just be about purchasing vehicles but also operations, charging, and how to begin assessing an undertaking like this. There are obviously differences in scale and size of MPOs that would need to be considered, but the underlying assessment concepts are likely very similar across the board. Brian noted that UCAT undertook a feasibility study that was funded by NYSERDA to essentially do exactly what Jack noted above. Brian will share the report with the Working Group and ask the consultant who drafted the report to present to the Working Group.

8. Other:

There is still an opening for Co-Chair. If you are interested, please contact Mario at mcolone@smtcmpo.org and Jim at jlevy@planning4places.com.

The Office of the State Comptroller released a report on Pandemic impacts on 4 Upstate Transportation Authorities. You can read the report online (<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/upstate-transportation-authorities-suffer-revenue->

[plunge?utm_source=Economic%20and%20Policy%20Insights&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20210824§ion=banner](#)).

Jim mentioned two recent items of interest – Apple Maps has updated their platform to provide better existing conditions information for pedestrians and cyclists, and Smart Growth America recently released a new Complete Streets Tool and User Guide (<https://benefits.completestreets.org/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=ae018fd0-7c29-4154-8add-b3ffb2ba95ad>)

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2021 at 11:00am.