NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
MODELING WORKING GROUP
September 25, 2020

Conference Call
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- AVAIL, Eric Krans
- AVAIL, Catherine Lawson
- AVAIL, Alex Muro
- CS, Rich Denbow
- CS, Nikhil Puri
- CDTC, Chris Bauer
- CDTC, Andrew Tracy
- DCTC, Emily Dozier
- DCTC, Dylan Tuttle
- ECTC, Courtney Taylor

- ITCTC, Jay Lambrix
- NYMTC, Ali Afshar
- NYMTC, Afolabi Aiyedun
- NYMTC, Michael Chiume
- NYMTC, Deb Nelson
- NYSDOT, Jim Davis
- NYSDOT, Nathen Harp
- NYSDOT, Alan Warde
- OCTC, Lauren Burns
- SMTC, Jason Deshaies

1. Introductions

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

2. NPMRDS Tool Updates

The AVAIL team reported on the following updates to the NPMRDS tool:

- The tool now has transit information for most of the transit providers across the state. There are still some questions to figure out. They have not been able to process all GTFS files because different providers present data differently.
- AVAIL will discuss with NYSDOT how this data will be maintained. It will likely be updated annually even though this will not capture changes that occur more frequently.
- AVAIL showed transit map functions. There are currently about 37 agencies. They have successfully loaded about 27-28 and are working on the remaining agencies.
- Hovering over a segment on the map will show you the data for that segment. They are currently taking into account transit AADT on segments that are in multiple transit agency routes. AVAIL will move this into visual view and allow it to be downloaded.
- AVAIL is looking at potentially using this data for average vehicle occupancy factor used in some of the measure calculations.
- The tool will calculate CO_2 emissions. This is available in macro view and can be downloaded as a shape file.

- In reports view there is functionality to look at scenarios. You can change speed (for example, increase speeds by 1.5%) to see effects. You can also set a base speed and different threshold speeds for delay.
- AVAIL will account for data completeness in the charts function and allow you to look at raw data.
- AVAIL plans to have updated documentation by next month and will be looking for feedback. They will incorporate any comments they receive.

3. Modeling Working Group Survey Results

Rich Denbow presented a summary of responses to the MWG survey that was conducted in August 2020. The 14 NY MPOs were surveyed about models used in the planning process. The purpose of the survey is to learn more about how MPOs use their models and the data and resources that are used or are under consideration. This will help the MPOs identify topics for future information exchange. A total of 12 out of 14 MPOs responded to the survey. See attached slides for more details.

After presenting the summary, the WG discussed how they can use this information. Alan Warde suggested the MWG consider devoting time at future meetings to discuss the modeling topics identified by survey respondents. This is germane to the purpose of the MWG.

The WG discussed how to best share MPO modeling documentation for the benefit of other MPOs. AVAIL offered to set up a page where MPOs can upload modeling documentation. MPOs could access the information as needed.

The WG expressed a strong interest in sharing RFPs and scopes they have used for previous modeling services and studies.

Regarding potential topics for future MWG discussion, the topic of substituting big data for travel survey was suggested. It was also suggested that the WG have presentations on some of the many subcomponents of modeling.

Rich will put together a list of the topics discussed at the meeting as well as those identified by the survey, and provide them before the next meeting.

4. Next Meeting

The next MWG meeting will take place on October 30, 2020.