



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
TRANSIT WORKING GROUP
December 13, 2022
Teleconference
11:00 PM – 12:30 PM**

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating

- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- DCTC – Mark Debald
- ECTC – Courtney Dunn
- GTC – Bob Williams
- NYCTCC – Carl King
- NYSDOT – Tom Vaughn
- NYSDOT – Jim Davis
- OCTC – Jessica Ridgeway
- SMTc – Mario Colone
- Tompkins County – Dwight Mengel
- AVAIL – Eric Krans
- WJCTC – Sarah Freda
- FTA – James Goveia
- TransPo Group – Chris Titze
- Planning4Places – James Levy

1. Introductions

M. Colone opened the meeting.

2. Approval of meeting notes.

The June meeting notes were approved.

3. NYSDOT Update

Jim Davis provided an update on the Mobility Services RFI. NYSDOT has gone through the procurement process and completed the contracting process. ICF International, the previous contractor, was the successful bidder. This project will build on what had previously been done in the TDM program, but NYSDOT is looking to expand efforts. This contract will look at connecting TDM to transit operators and first/last mile (though not fully scoped currently). The contract provided the ability to develop and support complete streets/mobility oriented technical assistance and support. Over the course of the new 2-year contract, NYSDOT anticipates working with MPOs/the MPO Association to discuss how best to target delivery of technical resources and how best to leverage what exists. If MPOs are working with NYSDOT currently, that will continue uninterrupted.

Tom noted that there were some reservation code issues with the 5310 program, but NYSDOT is hoping to announce awards soon. Bus prices may create a need for some adjustments. Moving forward, NYSDOT is looking to realign the 5310 program to be better timed with FTA. There are 2021 funds that lapse at the end of September, so discussions are underway to work on these. NYSDOT is also working on 2022 remaining funds, and 2023 funding. NYSDOT would like to talk about how to make the process faster – if anyone has any ideas, please contact Tom at tom.vaughan@dot.ny.gov.

4. FTA Updates

James noted that FTA has hired several new staff members that will be getting engaged with the Association. James is moving on to different aspects within FTA. If there are any questions, please let him know (james.goveia@dot.gov). Mark asked a question about the ability to use ARAP funds dedicated to operating assistance for use in capital purchases. Courtney stated that it is their understanding that as long as there weren't any layoffs or furloughs, the funding can be used for capital expenses. If layoffs took place, then funds need to be used for operating expenses. Jessica asked if the furlough regulations/requirements only pertain to the transit agencies or if it also applies to other agencies, like a Planning Department. James will look into these questions.

5. MPO Updates

Mario noted that SMTC will adopt an update to the Coordinated Plan this week. SMTC has a 1-year project with CENTRO to undertake a public outreach and engagement effort including surveys, tabling, open houses and focus/stakeholder group meetings to get input from the community. As the project progresses, Mario will provide more information.

Mark discussed DCTC involvement in developing the MTA first/last mile toolkit for communities to get access to commuter rail station information. More information can be found here: <https://gis.mta.info/apps/hq/fmlm-web/>.

Carl announced that NYMTC is kicking off the Moving Forward Vision for 2050 effort. There are several working groups across the region that will be involved. Issues of equity and outreach to the community, affordability, accessibility and carbon reduction efforts will be included. One item being discussed specifically is how to use different fund sources for electrification of the fleet.

Eric Krans discussed the 4 SCI case studies. The project effort included the testing of 4 open-source software programs and two proprietary programs. Whitepapers will be drafted and released next year along with recommendations on software and discussions of how MPOs and transit agencies could potentially use the software together in the future. Once the effort is wrapped up, the team would like to make a final detailed project presentation to the Transit Working Group. The consultant team is also drafting an MPO Conference Session presentation proposal.

6. Work Plan Update

Jim and Mario provided a brief overview of recent discussions with NACTO about hosting a Transit Street Design Training focused on MPO related/level work. We are aiming to hold the training in March 2023. It is preferable to hold this in person but there was some discussion about the desire, or need, to attend virtually. More information on this training will be forthcoming as the effort is advanced with NACTO.

7. Other Items

Mario announced that the NYSAMPO 2023 Conference is May 9-10, 2023, at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown (More information available at www.nysmpos.org). Jim stated that if anyone has a session idea, please submit it through the portal that is available on the Association website.

James noted that FTA staff would like to attend but may not be able to. If there are FTA-related topic sessions or trainings desired, please contact James.

Mark noted that new urbanized area designations are coming out that may impact MPOs – this may be a topic for discussion at the conference.

Mark asked how transit operators are looking at the EV market as there seems to be some hesitation locally. Mario noted that CENTRO in Syracuse invested money into CNG and is planning to utilize that technology for a while. They are looking at the next phase of CNG and vehicle procurement, but they are also looking at EV and the state requirements for zero emissions. Dwight noted that TCAT is well underway into their EV conversion process. They have 6 EVs in a fleet of 54 buses, have 4 or 5 on order and another 6 are being procured. Carl noted that a significant amount of money has been spent on electrification of the MTA fleet. Efforts at the local and regional level are underway and looking for funding sources. One issue found is that bus stations need to be built larger to provide for the charging station equipment.

Dwight discussed staffing issues (at all levels) at TCAT. There has been significant staff turnover/retirement and there is a need for maintenance and operations staff. Recruitment is on-going.

8. Action Items

- a. Submit Conference session ideas through the online portal – www.nysmpos.org – click on the conference link on the homepage.
- b. NYSDOT would like to talk about how to make the 5310 process faster. If anyone has any ideas, please contact Tom at tom.vaughan@dot.ny.gov.
- c. James will look into questions regarding using ARAP funds dedicated to operating assistance for capital purchases.

Meetings for 2023 are scheduled for March 14, June 13, September 12, and December 12.