



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs FREIGHT WORKING GROUP

October 20, 2022
Webconference
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating

- BMTS – Leigh McCullen
- CDTC – Chris Bauer (Chair)
- DCTC – Mark Debald
- FHWA – Gautam Mani, John Formosa
- GBNRTC – Richard Guarino
- GTC – Jody Binnix
- HOCTC – Julie Richmond
- NYMTC – Gerry Bogacz, Leslie Fordjour, Carl King, Yevgeniy Galinski
- NYSDOT – David Rosenberg, Jim Davis
- OCTC – Alan Sorensen, Lauren Bennett, Zack Coleman
- SMTC – Mike Alexander (Co-Chair)
- SUNY AVAIL – Catherine Lawson, Alex Muro, Eric Krans, Adam Tobey
- UCTC – Brian Slack
- WJCTC – Kris Reff
- NYSAMPO Staff Support – Richard Denbow (Cambridge Systematics)

1. Roll Call

Bauer opened the meeting and conducted the roll call.

2. AVAIL NPMRDS Tool – Freight Module

The SUNY-Albany AVAIL team is building a freight tool for NYSDOT that will use the freight components and data from the NPMRDS. Krans discussed work on the module and Muro did a demonstration of a draft version. They have the old freight atlas from previous freight plan as well as other data sources. The draft tool lets you see freight networks on a map. It will have an overview and metadata for the PFN and capability to look at subcategories (e.g., borders, regions). They are working on additional functionality for freight planning, such as commodity flows and business data.

Davis said NYSDOT is updating the freight network. They are collaborating with NYMTC on defining data needs and their concept of a freight data repository. They have done some work with Transearch data and will share that with partners.

Q: Bauer – Any thought for future updates to include flow or volumes?

A: Davis – yes. Looking at capabilities for common set of visualizations, commodity flow would be part of that.

Q: will Marine Highways be captured in future versions.

A: Rosenberg – yes. As state freight plan is updated, we will have more data. The border crossings are on here, ports, etc.

Q: Is the FAF a potential future source of data for this?

A: Yes definitely.

Q: Any plans to add analytics capability? For example, put a pin on the map and the system would generate closest truck route, and travel time. etc. Or analytics that would help with scoping or IPP phases of project development.

A: There is some intention for generating analytics capability. AVAIL is interested in what kind of analytics would be the most useful. They are still working through the basics of the system now. Want to have core pages that are about data accessibility and analysis.

3. NYMTC Regional Freight Land Use Study

NYMTC is developing a study to identify and describe freight-related land use throughout the MAP Forum study area, market trends, macroeconomic and global drivers, and localized factors and costs influencing site selection decisions. The effort will develop a typology that describes freight land uses with similar features, factors of influence, recent and emerging trends and needs.

Fordjour provided background. Freight land use is hot topic in the NYMTC. Bogacz said this work was a recommendation of their 2017 freight study. There was a loss of freight-related land uses along the waterfront. They want a lay of the land on the forces behind freight land uses, which include freight generating, freight handling, and freight receiving sites. Galinsky said a big part of the study is to identify freight uses in the region down to the parcel level. He discussed the market analysis and trends in detail.

4. NY State Freight Plan Update

Rosenberg gave an update on the NYS Freight Plan. AN RFP is currently out to procure a contractor to conduct the study. The freight plan update will build on the existing plan and will update the Atlas, will incorporate IJJA requirements, and will look at best practices from other states. NYSDOT is looking forward to getting input from this group as they go through the planning process.

5. Survey

A survey of MPO freight planning activities was included in the Working Group's work plan and was conducted for first time in 2020. Denbow summarized those results:

- The most common planning initiatives of MPOs are work on the freight elements of long-range plans and data compilation and/or research.
- Common MPO freight activities include convening/facilitating meetings of freight advisory groups, providing input/data to other agencies, and making presentations to agencies and organizations.
- Regarding training, the FHWA Talking Freight online seminars were the most widely used training opportunity.

The FWG also provided topics of interest for discussion at Working Group meetings. From greatest to least interest the results were:

1. Freight Planning in Upstate NY Cities/Towns/Villages
2. E-commerce, Technology, Logistics
3. Availability and Attributes of IHS Markit Transearch for MPOs in New York State
4. Effects of COVID-19 on Freight
5. Engaging Stakeholders in Freight Planning
6. Truck Parking
7. Operations Planning for Freight
8. Freight Planning by Non-NYS MPOs
9. USDOT Maritime Administration Marine Highway Program
10. The Jones Act (aka Merchant Marine Act of 1920)

The Working Group members are interested in doing this survey again.

6. New Business

Bauer and Gautam shared some good freight planning resources:

NCHRP 998, Planning Freight-Efficient Land Uses: Methodology, Strategies, and Tools.
<https://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/182807.aspx>

FHWA Truck Parking Development Handbook.
https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/infrastructure/truck_parking/docs/Truck_Parking_Development_Handbook.pdf

FHWA guidance on eligibility of Federal funds for truck parking:
https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/infrastructure/truck_parking/title23fundscmv/title23_49_funds_cmv.pdf

Galinsky reported that pricing for ocean shipping from Asia to the US has dropped significantly in the past year. The general consensus is that volume is decreasing so there is excess capacity in shipping. Port activities are returning to pre-pandemic levels. Truck shipping costs have been holding steady over the past year.

Alexander mentioned a new chip manufacturing plant was announced in the SMTC region. This is a large investment.

7. Adjourn

Bauer adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.