



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
MODELING WORKING GROUP
April 24, 2020**

**Conference Call
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- Chris O’Neill, CDTC (Chair)
- Chris Bauer, CDTC
- Lauren Burns, OCTC
- Michael Chiume, NYMTC
- Erica Corsi, AVAIL
- Jim Davis, MYSDOT
- Rich Denbow, CS
- Jason Deshaies, SMTC
- Emily Dozier, DCTC
- Matt Grabau, GBNRTC
- Mark Grainer, NYSDOT
- Nathen Harp, NYSDOT
- Eric Krans, AVAIL
- Jay Lambrix, ITCTC
- Catherine Lawson, AVAIL
- Leigh McCullen, BMTS
- Alex Muro, AVAIL
- Munnesh Patel, NYMTC
- Ashley Seyfreid, BMTS
- David Staas, UCTC
- Courtney Taylor, ECTC
- Andrew Tracy, CDTC
- Alan Warde, NYSDOT
- Jianghao Zhu, NYMTC

1. Introductions

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

2. NPMRDS Tool Updates

The AVAIL team reported on updates made to the NPMRDS tool since the previous meeting.

- A final version for calculating the federal PM3 measures with 2019 data has been created. The team will coordinate with NYSDOT. This final version will reflect the travel time data NYSDOT reported to FHWA.

- AVAIL will work on a tool that will show trends among different versions of the travel time dataset by MPO area. This will reflect the underlying data changes that occur each year.
- AVAIL has been working closely with NJTPA to make sure the UZA-based PM3 performance measures are aligned between the NY and NJ portions of the UZA.
- The team made several updates that improve the way results are displayed, and has incorporated the latest guidance regarding whether a TMC is to be included within an MPO boundary.
 - Jason noted that some segments in an MPO boundary cannot currently be selected. AVAIL is following up on this.
- AVAIL updated the downloader function. For example, if a user initiates a download that will take a long time, such as a statewide download, the tool will display the percent downloaded.
- AVAIL loaded continuous count data. All continuous count stations are now available from 2010-2015. You can click on a station and get the count data for that selection. A select number of stations have data from 2020. The team recently received 2016-2019 data and are in the process of adding it to the tool.
 - Effects from the current COVID-19 stay at home order are reflected in any stations that now have 2020 data.
- The team is still working on getting transit counts on the completion network and hopes to have this for the next meeting.

3. Modeling Counts

Chris Bauer discussed a methodology under development at CDTC to compare modeled traffic volumes with actual traffic volumes. CDTC wants a faster way to measure the effects of system wide revisions as well as model performance. CDTC's current method involves several manual steps, while the new approach will have more automation. Chris discussed the process, which takes model links and spatially joins them with NYSDOT RIS and count data to allow analysis in Excel. In future steps, CDTC will add more automation and increase sample sizes.

4. VMT Update

Following up on a recent request, NYSDOT provided updated VMT data by MPA for 2018 and 2019. The data were shared with the MWG. Chris O'Neill did a quick check of the data and it appears the trend of slower VMT growth that we have seen in recent years continued in 2018 and 2019. Chris said he would look into the data in more detail to check for consistencies with previous data. Alan Warde said he would check with Data Services to see if they can provide the data consistent with past years. Jason added that NYSDOT also has county level VMT data.

5. Other Items

Lauren Burns is interested in having the MWG set up a peer exchange to share modeling experiences. OCTC is undertaking an extensive update to their travel model, including switching software platforms, updating the TAZ boundaries to align with the census boundaries, updating the network, and transitioning the primary modeling responsibilities to new staff. They are interested in understanding how other MPOs are using travel models and what data resources, including socioeconomic data, are available as they begin the model update process. Chris and Rich will talk further with Lauren to set up a peer exchange effort, which may begin with a survey.

6. Next Meeting

The next MWG meeting will take place on May 22, 2020.