NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
MODELING WORKING GROUP
October 30, 2020

Conference Call
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- AVAIL, Eric Krans
- AVAIL, Catherine Lawson
- AVAIL, Alex Muro
- BMTC, Leigh McCullen
- CDTC, Chris Bauer (Co-chair)
- CS, Rich Denbow
- DCTC, Emily Dozier
- ITCTC, Jay Lambrix
- NYMTC, Michael Chiume
- NYMTC, Munnesh Patel

- NYMTC, Jianghao Zhu
- NYSDOT, Jim Davis
- NYSDOT, Mark Grainer
- NYSDOT, Nathen Harp
- NYSDOT, Alan Warde
- OCTC, Lauren Burns
- OCTC, Zach Coleman
- SMTC, Jason Deshaies (Chair)
- UCTC, David Staas

1. **Introductions**

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

2. **Update on NPMRDS Software**

   The AVAIL team is working on tool documentation. This will be a work in progress over the next couple of months. Alex Muro reviewed current documentation and guides that are available in the tool. He asked WG members to review the documentation and provide feedback to the AVAIL team.

   Alan Warde applauded the documentation effort to date and said he will continue to review it and provide feedback. Jason Deshaies expressed appreciation to the AVAIL team for posting shapefiles.

3. **Modeling Survey Follow Up and Future Presentation Topics**

   Rich Denbow followed up on the modeling survey discussion at the September WG meeting. The survey asked what modeling topics would be of interest for discussion at future WG meetings or an information exchange forum. The following topics were identified by survey respondents or during the September discussion:

- Sources of employment and other SED data.
  - Pros and cons of each.
  - Working with LODES employment data for long-range plan updates.
- Distributing Census data to TAZs.
- How MPOs are handling SED forecasts during COVID.
- Using NPMRDS to validate the model.
- Substituting big data for travel surveys.
- Approaches to conducting household travel surveys.
  - Using GPS sampling.
- HUD Housing & Transportation Affordability tool.

There was interest in all of these topics, with an emphasis on the following topics to be discussed at WG meetings later this year or beginning in January 2021:

- Nate Harp suggested the topic of how practitioners are handling statistical error (MOE) with Census data (ACS).
  - Emily Dozier said her MPO is working through this issue and could share what they are thinking.
  - IN a follow-up email, Richard Batchelder suggested the WG discuss what a comfortable level of margin of error and coefficient of variation would be. He referenced a presentation on this issue by the Sacramento COG.
- Looking at the HUD Housing & Transportation Affordability tool and if/how MPOs are using it.
- Household travel survey approaches, and the topic of how MPOs are handling SED forecasts during COVID.

Rich will identify potential speakers and work with Jason to schedule presentations for future meetings.

4. FHWA Call for Services

Jason gave an update on the FHWA Resource Center Call for Services regarding training and technical assistance needs for the next fiscal year. The NYSAMPO staff support consultants worked with the WG chairs and FHWA to develop two proposals:

- Freight and Land Use: The Freight WG is proposing an instructor-led or peer-to-peer virtual presentation-discussion on best practices on incorporating freight into zoning regulations and design guidelines.

- Transportation Analysis and Forecasting Support: The Modeling WG is proposing a customized version of training on the use of regional travel demand models, and some discussion of meso and micro scale models to inform project-level analyses, including air quality hot-spot analyses and economic analyses. This will address a training need for newer modeling staff members as well as senior staff that would benefit from an introduction/review of general travel demand modeling concepts and how MPOs can use models for project level analysis. Many modeling staff are facing a challenge in keeping up with the complexities of modeling and current practices because most do not use them on a daily basis. There is a desire to learn more

about how we can apply models to projects in our areas using the latest techniques and learn what type of additional modeling services MPOs can offer to their members.

5. Next Meeting

The next MWG meeting will take place on December 4, 2020.