



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS WORKING GROUP

**March 13, 2018
Conference Call
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- GTC – Joe Bovenzi (Chair)
- ARC – Kyung-Hwa Kim
- ARC – Kofi Wakhisi
- CDTC – Chris O'Neill
- CS – Rich Denbow
- DCTC – Mark Debald
- FHWA – Tim Crothers
- GTC – Alex Kone
- HOCTS – Rick Reichert
- NYMTC – Jan Khan
- NYSDOT – Jim Davis
- SMTTC – Mario Colone

1. Introductions

Joe Bovenzi opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Finding Perfection in Imperfection: Innovative Procedures for Transportation Project Evaluation in the Atlanta Region

Kyung-Hwa Kim is the Manager of Performance Analysis and Monitoring at the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the MPO for the Atlanta metropolitan area. She delivered a presentation on ARC's innovative procedures for evaluating transportation projects.

ARC uses two sets of evaluation measures and criteria - one for long range planning and another for short range programming. For the former, criteria are based on a handful of measures that reflect strategic goals identified for the Atlanta region. For the latter, criteria are based on measures that bridge the gap between project and strategic levels. ARC asked themselves which criteria are more important, and what is the basis for determining which are priority? To help answer these questions, ARC set up a Key Decision Point (KDP) framework. The three key decision points are Policy Filter, Project Evaluation, and Final Factors & Project Selection. Projects that make it through the Policy Filter undergo a technical Project Evaluation, where they are broken out into distinct project types and scored compared to similar projects. The projects are placed into tiers based on a combination of performance scores and cost-effectiveness measures. Kyung-Hwa discussed the tools and data ARC uses to evaluate projects. ARC's Final Factors stage recognizes that

you can't put a number on everything. This phase preserves local decision-making and provides a lens to look at geographic equity, social equity, and jurisdictional presence. After projects have gone through all stages, ARC groups them by project type for comparison against similar kinds of projects. Kyung-Hwa presented evaluation details of how this process was applied for a recent ARC TIP, and concluded by stating that the selection process is an art more so than a science.

3. ITS Initiatives in the Atlanta Region

Kofi Wakhisi works in the Transportation Access and Mobility Division at ARC, supervising the Regional Planning and External Coordination section staff. Kofi presented on current and upcoming ITS initiatives in the Atlanta region. ARC created a Regional Travel Demand Management Plan, which serves as a framework for integrating TDM strategies into planning, project development and system operations, and investment decision-making. The Plan helps improve the connection of TDM to regional information systems and link the various TDM strategies and projects. There is also a branding component to help market the regional vanpool program. Kofi also discussed ARC's Strategic Regional Thoroughfare Plan and Regional Traffic Operations Program, and the components of the Atlanta region's incident management program.

During Q&A, Joe asked how these initiatives are linked to ARC's LRTP. Kofi replied that the LRTP has goals tied to TDM, ITS, and incident management. Typically, the LRTP does not have operational projects listed as line items because of the longer term focus of the Plan. Instead, operational project are programmed individually in the TIP.

Mark asked about staffing levels at ARC. Kofi replied that there are three modeling staff who also spend part of their time on the items he discussed. ARC does not have a single position that focuses solely on operations/ITS. ARC does have a 'transportation technologist' who works with data vendors and sensor providers. This person spends approximately 60 percent of her time on connected and autonomous vehicle issues.

4. Roundtable

MPO Updates: Joe reported that the TSMO WG Work Plan was approved by the NYSAMPO Directors. He also reported that GTC has a draft regional TSMO plan, which will be finalized soon. Joe is also working on edits to the Workgroup's CAV white paper.

NYS DOT Updates: No update.

FHWA Updates: Tim reported that FHWA and TTI are hosting a webinar on March 22 focusing on TSMO-related activities at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in Oakland, California, and the Florida Department of Transportation. Tim also reported that Binghamton recently completed an update of their regional ITS architecture.

5. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2018. The meeting was adjourned.