

**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs  
TRANSIT WORKING GROUP  
March 14, 2023  
Teleconference  
11:00 PM – 12:30 PM**

**MEETING NOTES**

**1. Participating**

- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Carrie Ward
- GBNRTC – Matthew Grabau
- GTC – Alex Kone
- HOCTC – Barb Cadwell
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYSDOT – Bill Telovsky
- SMTc – Mario Colone
- Tompkins County – Dwight Mengel
- WJCTC – Sarah Freda
- NACTO – Matthew Roe
- NACTO – Camille Boggan
- Planning4Places – James Levy

**1. Introductions**

M. Colone opened the meeting.

**2. Approval of meeting notes.**

The December meeting notes were approved.

**3. NACTO Overview/Introduction**

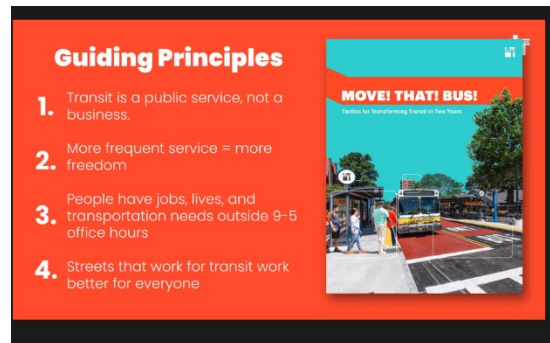
Mario provided an introduction. Matthew Roe is a technical lead at NACTO. He has been with NACTO for 9 years. He has undertaken BRT design work and worked at NYCDOT doing pedestrian safety redesigns/action plan. He co-wrote the Transit Street Design Guide. This will be first non-conference in-person training NACTO has provided since 2020.

Camille Boggan is a Program Associate with NACTO. She worked with SEPTA to improve transit service in Philadelphia, and she is the data guru behind the micromobility report that was recently released.

Camille provided an overview of NACTO and provided an overview of *Move! That! Bus!*. Four guiding principles in report will be discussed in the training.

Matthew noted that the training session will touch on how to design bikeways, include discussions of success stories that faced pretty significant issues, and look at how to upgrade bus stops. NACTO training doesn't assume that center running BRT with high platforms is ideal. Need flexibility on what is run on different routes. The training will include presentations, interactive discussions, and a self-assessment on policy items as well as a site visit.

Carrie asked if this training will be different than the one previously held. Matthew noted that the training will be different because the sites are different and will talk more about the



relationship between service improvements and the street and while the principles haven't changes, the designs have evolved.

Matthew – How many staff working on some kind of bus priority program in their region?

Mario noted that it is not just MPO staff, but also member agencies that may be involved.

Matthew noted that NFTA is looking at signal prioritization projects and looking to establish a new BRT corridor with some dedicated lanes. The project is about to kickoff.

Jay stated that he is interested in studying the possibility of using bicycle infrastructure as extensions of transit and the integration of cycling with rail, bus, etc. Will that be part of the discussion? Matthew noted that it will be covered. Jay also noted that he would would like to talk about the influence of vehicular size and weight on the design of bicycle facilities.

More suburban and rural areas have less traffic but larger vehicles. When put into street design ideas, may need to reconsider separated designs as it relates to larger size and weight vehicles mixing with bikes. NACTO has publications on this topic (such as the Don't give up at the intersection guide) that will be discussed. See

<https://nacto.org/publication/dont-give-up-at-the-intersection/> and <https://nacto.org/publication/dont-give-up-at-the-intersection/protected-intersections/design-control-managed-vehicles/>

#### **4. NYSDOT Updates**

Mario spoke with Tom Vaughn a few weeks ago. Bill Telovsky - NYSDOT is revising the 5310 application process to move forward to help ensure meet FTA timeline to get grants in for them to review. Looking for the next application cycle to go out mid-October 2023 to potential applicants (moved it up a few months) with the expectation that evaluations will be done by May 2024, providing enough time to finalize grants and get them in to FTA by June 2024 (generally the FTA deadline). Mario also had a conversation with Tom about providing more time for evaluators to review submissions and to then get material to FTA. Main Office is open to idea of having another conversation with the Transit Working Group to discuss the process. We can set up specific conversations if there are questions or concerns.

Scott asked if the current funding is waiting for contracts? Bill noted that NYSDOT is working with FTA making some changes to pending grants within the federal system and he hopes to have more news on these soon.

#### **5. FTA Updates**

No Report

#### **6. MPO Updates**

Carrie noted that CDTA completed what started out as a bus lane study but turned into a queue jump and bus signal priority study. It should be available on the CDTC website.

The NYS Department of Health & Office of Aging are working on update to the aging plan. A call is out for survey input to those providing services to seniors and those with disabilities. This may be relevant to Human Transportation Partners.

Mario noted that in December, SMTC engaged in a public engagement project with CENTRO. It is ongoing and includes a survey and social media. SMTC has done several tabling events and have several open houses in the next month or so with larger

community meetings scheduled for the next 6 months to get information for transit partners to take into consideration. This work will include micromobility, expansion and potential implementation of on-demand services (separate project underway) and also a bike and scooter share system outside the City (it is currently in the City of Syracuse only).

Another project in the UPWP is investigating some type of public transit on a busy corridor in Town of Clay on Route 31 (related to the Micron project). The project should begin construction within 2 years. Anticipated with development, at full capacity, are 9,000 employees on site, 5,000-6,000 construction jobs and 40,000 – 50,000 secondary jobs. This is pretty significant growth for CNY that hasn't been seen or discussed in a long time. SMTC has been asked to examine some form of public transit on Rt. 31 that doesn't really exist today.

Jay – Tompkins Co. got \$600,000 in funding for a SS4A joint safety action plan. Looking at next steps for the safety action plan.

## **7. Work Plan Update**

The draft Work Plan is with the Directors for review and approval.

## **8. Other Items**

None.

## **9. Action Items**

- a. RSVP for the Conference and NACTO training.

Remaining meetings for 2023 are scheduled for June 13, September 12, and December 12.