



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs  
TRANSIT WORKING GROUP  
September 15, 2020  
Teleconference  
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

**MEETING NOTES**

**1. Participating**

- AGFTC – Aaron Frankenfeld
- AGFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- ECTC - Angela Wood
- HOCTS - Barb Caldwell
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYCTCC – Carl King
- NYMTC – Sherry Southe
- NYSDOT – Harriet Lewis
- OCTC - Ashlee Long
- SMTc – Mario Colone
- Tompkins County – Dwight Mengel
- WJCTC - Jen Hodge
- WJCTC - Sara Freda
- Atlanta Regional Commission - Kofi Wakhisi
- GGFT - Scott Sopczyk
- Planning4Places – James Levy

*If I missed your attendance at the meeting, please let me know – [jlevy@planning4places.com](mailto:jlevy@planning4places.com).*

**1. Introductions**

M. Colone opened the meeting.

**2. Approval of meeting notes.**

The May meeting notes were approved.

**3. Presentation:**

**a. Jen Hodge – WJCTC & Volunteer Transportation**

The transit system transitioned to deliver food. In Jefferson County, transit only serves the City of Watertown. Approximately 20,000 miles logged providing this service. Mask compliance overall has been good with just a few issues to address.

**b. Scott Sopczyk, Greater Glens Falls Transit Director**

GGFT, which includes Warren, Washington, and Saratoga Counties, suspended service because driver average age is 64 years old and community spread was an issue at the time. GGFT wanted to provide essential services so they collaborated with the Salvation Army to make buses available. Delivered in 1/2 day what typically took two days for the Salvation Army to deliver. The system shut down on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and this effort was underway by early April. This effort showed the community that the system could be used in a different way to assist in times of need. GGFT is working to identify a long-term relationship to make this a continuing effort.

Regarding mask compliance, GGFT was uncomfortable denying service to anyone without a mask but decided to deny service if a mask was not being worn. Also, adopted a half-fare application for those with underlying health. Written notes were not

accepted as a reason not to wear a mask. Compliance has been great but there have been issues with recruiting drivers for Lake George trolleys. Operating near 100% but evening service is reduced. Running at about 60% ridership levels. For every other Saturday, this 50% capacity on the bus only a handful of ride denials. No employees tested positive. Applications to request concession on mask wearing was non-existent. If a driver tests positive and staff has to quarantine, it could have significant impact on service. Manpower is a major issue for dealing with this crisis. J. Mance has worked for years to create a regional transit Working Group. The group used to meet quarterly to network and as a communications effort.

#### **4. MPO Updates**

M. Colone discussed the SCI transit analytics RFP and noted that it is moving along. The group was asked to provide updates on the status of safety plans for their transit agency.

#### **5. NYSDOT RFI Discussion**

A copy of the RFI was distributed to Working Group members. D. Mengel noted that the Mobility Managers drafted a letter. D. Mengel summarized the letter and noted that the group is asking for the mission to be extended beyond carbon reduction to consider mobility, equity, especially for counties without mobility management, and for the RFI to create a management program across the state. MA was noted as a great of example of a statewide program. Could realize benefits by connecting with services in communities and creating new services collaboratively. Not just carbon focused not just urban...

#### **6. Action Items**

- Next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2020 at 11:00am.
- Safety Plans – email the group if your transit agency took advantage of the extension. It would be good to know where these plans stand for end of year across the State.