



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

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating

- A/GFTC – Aaron Frankenfeld
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Carrie Ward
- DCTC – Mark Debald
- GBRNTC – Matthew Grabau
- GTC – Charlie Rieck
- HOCTC – Barb Cadwell
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- Tompkins County – Frank Doldo
- NYMTC – Carl King
- NYSDOT – Ross Farrell
- NYSDOT – Fanyu Wang
- SMTC – Mario Colone
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC – Sarah Freda
- MYRTS – Rusty Korth
- Planning4Places – James Levy

1. Introductions

M. Colone opened the meeting.

2. Approval of meeting notes.

The September meeting notes were approved.

3. Presentation by RTA

Mario provided an introduction. Rusty Korth, VP of Zero Emission Strategies at RTA provided a presentation on their transition to a 100% Zero-Emission Fleet (*a copy of the PPT was distributed on December 21, 2023 with the summary meeting notes*). Mr. Korth provided an overview of the RTS system, initial steps toward zero emissions which includes electric buses, discussed the pros- and cons- of electric buses and their pivot to hydrogen fuel cell buses. The pivot was made because hydrogen fuel cell technology provides zero emissions with performance much closer to that of a diesel bus – longer range, quicker fueling times, and more scalable fueling infrastructure. Mr. Korth detailed their 15-year campus strategic campus plan, budget, and anticipated schedule as well as the source(s) available for obtaining hydrogen.

4. NYSDOT Updates

Ross Farrell introduced himself as the new Director of the Transportation Bureau. He will be the contact for NYSAMPO. Fanyu Wang is the service specialist. Tom Vaughn is still with NYSDOT. Ross noted that there will be a new program coming out of NYSDOT soon utilizing funding set aside by the State Legislature and hopes a solicitation will be out soon. He noted that 5310 will be released soon and 5311 award announcements went out a few weeks ago.

5. FTA Updates

No Report

6. MPO Updates

Carl noted that NYMTC kicked off a Transit Service Coordination Needs Assessment for the NYMTC planning area. The project will "...assess transit service coordination needs across jurisdictional lines to evaluate intermodal connections. It is relevant to the Plan's vision goal of a transportation system that is maintained, operated, and coordinated to better enable inclusive, reliable, easy, accessible, and seamless travel across the region while striving to enhance equity in the services provided." See attached Scope of Work for more details.

7. Work Plan Update

Jim noted that the update effort will begin soon (*it was noted that more details would be provided in the meeting summary email and that information was provided in the December 21, 2023 e-blast*). Working Group members were asked to consider any potential changes/updates/additions that could be made to the current Program.

8. Other Items

The NACTO training is still programmed for the eastern half of NYS and Lower Hudson Valley area. The delay is due to staffing issues at NACTO. Jim was asked by NACTO to reach out in early 2024 to work on developing the next two training sessions.

Proposed 2024 Meetings (Quarterly meetings - 2nd Tuesday of the month) are scheduled for March 12, 2024, June 11, 2024, September 10, 2024, and December 10, 2024. Calendar invitations will be distributed for each of these meetings to Working Group members.

9. Action Items

- a. Provide updates to the Work Program by mid-January.