



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

September 17, 2020

Webinar Meeting

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- CDTC, Jennifer Ceponis (Chair)
- AGFTC, Jack Mance
- CS, Rich Denbow
- GTC, Joe Bovenzi
- MJ Bradley, Luke Hellgren
- OCTC, Zach Coleman
- Shared Mobility, Inc., Michael Galligano
- Shared Mobility, Inc., Mitch LaRosa
- SMTC, Kevin Busa
- NYMTC, Manish Shah
- NYSDOT, Colleen Smith-Lemmon
- NYSERDA, Robyn Marquis
- ECTC, Nicolette Wagoner

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jen Ceponis welcomed the participants and kicked off the meeting.

2. Transportation Library Presentation

Michael Galligano and Mitch LaRosa from Shared Mobility, Inc. (SMI) gave a presentation on Micromobility Libraries. SMI works with communities to develop and support shared mobility systems and programs that are open and equitable for everyone. Mitch provided an overview of programs, in particular, shared e-bike projects to create Transportation Libraries in several communities.

A Transportation Library is defined as a program that allow users to access multiple forms of transportation, including regular bikes, e-bikes, e-trikes, e-mopeds, e-scooters, and additional electrified modes other than the automobile. Community-based organizations lead the planning, locating and implementation of the program. SMI often leads demonstration projects, and is supported by NYSERDA and other organizations in Western NY.

Discussion:

Comment: Kevin Busa said Syracuse recently got a bike share program underway and it is going well. They are using a company on a trial basis. They just produced a bike suitability study. He likes the library concept and may reach out to SMI.

Question: How does the local funding piece work?

Answer: SMI works with communities to determine where funding comes from. They can leverage foundation funding, which reduces the cost of launching a program significantly.

Question: Are safety-related studies done when establishing these programs?

Answer: State law allows the services to operate. Municipalities have the ability to regulate where service can operate, helmet requirements, and other safety concerns.

3. EV Infrastructure Tool Demo

Luke Hellgren from MJ Bradley (MJB) gave a presentation on an electric vehicle infrastructure location identification tool that can be used to visualize and evaluate existing and planned direct current fast charging (DCFC) infrastructure along key electric vehicle corridors across the 12 states and DC in the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) region, plus NC. The tools allow users to weight input metrics based upon state or local priorities and generate rankings of key locations that reflect the suitability of each location for DCFC infrastructure development.

MJB utilized a GIS platform to collect and organize data on more than 13,500 miles of key corridors in the 13 states. They assessed DCFC opportunities along all designated federal corridors plus additional state priority corridors, with a focus on Interstate exits and other key intersections. They worked with state participants to refine the dataset, parameters, and metrics, and developed metrics for each possible location that can be weighted and combined into a score. They created an Excel model and two online Visualization Maps that allow users to run scenarios and compare results.

Priority metrics used in the analysis are: proximity to and density of existing DCFC charging; traffic volumes; proximity to commercial activity; and population density of nearby Census tracts. The tool can be used for scenario and planning analysis, scoping for infrastructure development initiatives, support for Public Utilities Commission electric vehicle proceedings, and utility or private developer review and comparison of potential development locations. Working Group members were encouraged to reach out to MJB for more information about the tool.

4. NY State Updates

NYSERDA reported on several items:

- The New York Clean Transportation Roadmap recently launched. This is an effort by the Climate Action Council. Analysis is underway to inform strategies. The State has set up seven advisory panels under the CLCPA that are developing recommendations for strategies to reduce emissions. Information is available at <https://climate.ny.gov>.

- Exploring Hubs of Mobility and Energy. This is a study that looks at long-term impacts of shared, connected, automated, and e-mobility in New York State. Additional information will be available in the near future.
- TCI Status: Work continues to develop an MOU. Updates will be provided as this moves forward.
- VW Settlement: NYSERDA is currently programming funds and running the truck voucher incentive program. They will add funds for school and transit bus conversions and for fast charge infrastructure.

5. Sustainability and Resiliency Planning Post-Covid

Jen asked the Working Group if there is interest in having discussion at future meetings about how MPOs are addressing Covid-19 in the planning process, particularly issues related to sustainability and resiliency. CDTC is currently developing an addendum to its LRTP that addresses Covid issues. The Working Group expressed interest in discussing this topic.

6. Partner Agency Updates

Colleen Smith-Lemmon encouraged the MPOs to engage and follow the Climate Action Council advisory panel meetings that are mentioned above. The meetings are open to the public and are recorded.

7. Other Items / MPO Updates

Jen highlighted a NYSDOT Request for Information that was recently released to solicit input on the design of a Statewide Mobility Services Program (SMSP). Through the RFI, NYSDOT is seeking responses from organizations on how to structure an approach and develop strategies to facilitate increased bicycle and pedestrian travel, reduce reliance on SOV travel, optimize and integrate the transportation system, enhance safety and accessibility of public transportation, and other strategies that help to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. She encouraged MPOs to provide input.

8. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting will be scheduled for December 2020.