

New York State Association of MPOs
Climate Change & Sustainability Working Group

November 16, 2016

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating
 - A/GFTC – Kate Mance
 - CDTC – Jen Ceponis, Chris O’Neill
 - GTC – Joe Bovenzi
 - NYMTC – Leslie Fordjour
 - PDCTC – Mark Debald, Shelby Tompkins
 - NYSDOT – Colleen Smith-Lemmon, Cathy Kuzsman
 - NYSERDA – Adam Ruder

2. Climate Change Working Group Work Plan for 2017-18

Ceponis asked for input on the work plan.

Does the Group want to continue with the same goals? Not sure of the status of CRRRA?

Ruder: Since NYSDOT is going through CMAQ solicitation, consider a new goal to support collaboration on advising/exploring MPOs on use of CMAQ (alt fuels, electrification, congestion mitigation) to achieve GHG reduction

Kuzsman: Supports the idea. NYSDOT is working to make the solicitation process on a schedule of every two years. The Group could look at the awards from this round and identify unique projects and best practices for subsequent rounds. This would be a proposed Task.

Debald: Given coming change in Federal government, consider adopting a Policy statement on mitigating climate change?

Smith-Lemmon: New York is in a good place regardless of potential Federal changes, with State Energy Plan for example.

Gayle: Propose moving resiliency planning from an Emerging Issue to Task. With issuance of Final Rule on Metropolitan and Statewide Planning, the addition of resilience as a planning factor is now complete. The group can work on identifying and sharing MPO best practices for resiliency plans.

Kuzsman: could also do a workshop at the 2017 Statewide MPO/Planning conference

Ceponis: Proposes as a Task that we track the implementation of the Smart Cities grant in Columbus OH.

Smith-Lemmon: Include Climate Smart Communities certification program, which has a Green Transportation element.

Smith-Lemmon: Proposes a Task to track the recently designated Clean Corridors/Alt Fuel Corridors

Ceponis asks about meeting frequency and in-person meetings.

Mance: The inclusion of in-person meeting was a placeholder

Gayle: The 2017 Conference may include time for in-person Working Group meetings, especially for those who only meet by phone/web.

Ceponis asks for presentation ideas for future meetings

Discussion of potential fact sheets and white papers. Notes there had been discussion of an CV/AV Fact Sheet in collaboration with TSMPO and Modeling Working Groups

Bovenzi: Preparing a White Paper/Brief on addressing CV and AV for MPO LRTP and CMP.

Gayle: Work on best practices could become a Resiliency White Paper.

ACTION ITEM: Ceponis and Gayle will prepare Final Draft for circulation to the Working Group for comment.

3. FHWA Clean Fuel Corridors Program

FHWA has announced Corridor designations I-84, I-87, I-90, I-95.

Ceponis, Bogacz, others attended Clean Corridor workshop at RPI. Discussion on designations; they are Signage Ready (infrastructure exists) or Signage Pending (potential), sign specifics from MUTCD. No discussion of funding, corridors may attract funding opportunities, including public-private. MPOs are identified as having programming infrastructure, develop corridor plans, freight plans. Therefore, track MPO requirements and opportunities. Check FHWA website for maps, toolkit.

Ruder: agree that how funding happens remains an open question. No sign of dedicated funding. USDOT and USDOE will want to fill in the system with further designations. Unknown if people will see it as a valuable designation, which could attract funding.

Smith-Lemmon: Does signage of Alt Fuel Corridors distinguish which fuel(s)?

Ruder: Yes, there is a small attachment to sign

Ceponis: Proposals for new corridors will be accepted on rolling basis.

4. Partner Agency Updates

a. NYSDOT

Kuzsman: Public review of CRRRA in Jan-Feb. Will notify group by email. Guidance on draft flood risk; MPOs will want to review draft guidance
Nothing yet on CMAQ awards.

b. NYSERDA

Ruder: Joint NYSERDA/NYS DOT solicitation for policy projects due on Nov 29. Hope for MPO participation. Have had projects in Buffalo, NYMTC, CDTC, Syracuse. Contact Ruder for more info.
EV Rebate program still trying to get final approvals for launch.

Working with NYSDEC on EV rebate for municipalities and public charging stations

Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities – be aware of this, there are regional coordinators for each REDC region. Some activities related to transportation, municipalities may ask MPOs for information.

VW settlement: Working on putting together a plan. There are three parts:

- Consumer vehicle buy back;
- VW commits to spend \$2B on EV infrastructure, learning more about it. Likely focus on EV charging stations, hydrogen fueling stations;
- NOX emission reduction and mitigation administered by States, NYSERDA will reach out to stakeholders. Perhaps due mid-2017

c. NYSDEC

No report

5. Other Items/ MPO Updates

No reports

Next call: Feb 15 1:00 pm