



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
FREIGHT WORKING GROUP
November 10, 2020
Webconference
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM**

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating

- BMTS – Leigh McCullen
- CDTC – Christian Bauer (Chair)
- ECTC – Nicolette Wagoner
- GBNRTC – Rich Guarino
- NYMTC – Leslie Fordjour
- OCTC – Julie Richmond, Ashlee Long, Zack Coleman
- SMTC – Mike Alexander (Co-Chair)
- WJCTC – Scott Docteur, Al Ricalton, Kris Reff
- NYSDOT – Jim Davis
- FHWA –Gautam Mani, John Formosa
- T.Y. Lin International (NYSAMPO Staff Support) – Richard Perrin

1. Roll Call

Bauer opened the meeting and conducted the roll call.

2. October 23, 2020 Freight Working Group Presentation to Directors Group

Bauer gave the presentation that he provided to the NYSAMPO Directors Group at its October 23, 2020 meeting. Bauer stated that this is an opportunity to review what the Freight Working Group has accomplished and generate discussion on future activities. The presentation included an overview and discussion of the following (see Attachment 1):

- Goals (Past and Present) with examples of Freight Working Group activities for each:
 - New York State Freight Transportation Plan Support
 - Knowledge Transfer
 - Integration
 - Stakeholder Outreach
 - Data Availability
 - Transformational Technologies
 - Global and National Economies

- Survey Results on MPO Freight Planning, Training Received, and Future Topics of Interest
- Challenges and Opportunities

Bauer asked for comments and questions from the participants. Richmond stated that OCTC would find it helpful to know how other MPOs in New York State are using the TRANSEARCH data. Bauer responded that CDTC would be willing to share how it is using the data and this could be a discussion item for April 2021. Perrin suggested reaching out to IHS Global Insight on how state DOTs and MPOs across the country are using the data. Davis offered to assist in contacting IHS to determine their interest in discussing uses of their data with this group.

3. Effects of COVID-19 on Freight

Bauer asked Perrin to begin the discussion with items that the staff support consultant feels would be of interest to this group. Perrin discussed the Transportation Research Board's [Transportation Research Circular Number E-C267](#) "Summary of Transportation Research Needs Related to COVID-19" (October 2020), including:

- Problem Statement B.1: Maintaining an Open Supply Chain for Vital Goods and Products (page 18), which seeks to identify actions to prevent or lessen disruptions during a future pandemic. This includes recognition that supply chains vary by the type of good or product at the sub-industry level.
- Problem Statement B.4: The Role of Technologies Including Automation to Support More Resilient and Adaptable Goods Movement, which seeks to identify the ways that impacts, vulnerabilities, and opportunities can be addressed and maximized through the use of autonomous trucks/delivery vehicles and other technologies.
- An appendix that discusses supply chain and goods movement elements such as cargo fluidity, new freight corridors, a "Millions of Markets" future that presumes that the United States becomes highly self-reliant, and other key factors.

Bauer reported that CDTC has heard that driver training was affected due to the need to social distance, which is exacerbating the existing driver shortage. In addition, Albany International Airport has reported that air cargo has increased 25 percent year-over-year. A CDTC member agency had a highway project deferred due to the effects of the pandemic on the production of mast arms. Bauer stated that CDTC is interested in and will be monitoring the effects of more deliveries directly to residences.

4. NYSDOT TRANSEARCH Training Review

Bauer opened the topic by noting the dates of the training and that the data is available to the MPOs by contacting NYSDOT. Alexander stated that SMTC has been working with the data and asked about the opportunity to purchase additional data related to rail and what information comes with that expanded dataset. Bauer responded that CDTC has used the rail dataset and it is providing useful insights into rail movements in the Capital District, noting that not all of the results of the data can be shared publicly due to confidentiality requirements. Fordjour stated that TRANSEARCH training has been useful in developing the freight component of the NYMTC metropolitan transportation plan update.

5. FFY 2021 FHWA Technical Resource Call for Services – Freight & Land Use Submittal

Bauer informed this group that a submittal was made to the FHWA Technical Resource Call as part of their annual call for service, and asked Perrin to elaborate. Perrin stated that the proposal is to conduct an interactive (either instructor-led or peer-to-peer) virtual presentation-discussion combination on best practices on incorporating freight into zoning regulations and design guidelines, including examples for urban, suburban, and rural areas. The deliverable would be a fact sheet and/or guidebook for municipalities. Perrin thanked Mani for his assistance in getting the proposal prepared and submitting it on this group's behalf. Mani thanked the MPO staff that contributed to the development of the submittal and that decisions will be made on the submittals over the next several weeks.

6. Updates from Stakeholders

Bauer reported that CDTC continues to work with the TRANSEARCH data, hold quarterly meetings of its Freight Advisory Committee, and recently adopted its current metropolitan transportation plan, which includes an updated chapter on freight.

Guarino reported that GBNRTC is updating its freight plan and is willing to do a presentation to this group at a future meeting. Guarino asked about the process for listing future projects to be funded with National Highway Freight Program funds. Davis responded that NYSDOT is evaluating how this could be done now that the New York State Freight Transportation Plan has been completed.

Alexander reported that SMTC has recently adopted its current metropolitan transportation plan with freight components and is comparing the 2018 TRANSEARCH data to information contained in its freight profile (which was developed using 2012 TRANSEARCH data) to identify changes. He added that construction is underway on the Amazon facility in the Town of Clay and improvements are being made to roads in the vicinity of the facility.

Fordjour reported that NYMTC held a virtual freight workshop on October 15, 2020 that attracted approximately 125 participants who provided input on freight opportunities and issues in the NYMTC region that will be incorporated into the NYMTC metropolitan transportation plan update. In addition, NYMTC kicked off its regional freight and land use study on September 30, 2020, the purpose of which is to 1) determine an appropriate mix of land uses that is conducive to the safe and efficient movement of freight and 2) support industrial preservation where appropriate.

Wagoner reported that ECTC held the last of its five workshops facilitated by FHWA on how to better utilize the air cargo capacity at the Elmira Corning Regional Airport as an economic development opportunity.

7. New Business

Bauer asked if there was any further business to be discussed at this meeting. Hearing none, Bauer confirmed that the next meeting of this group will be held January 14, 2021.

8. Adjourn

Bauer adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.



FREIGHT WORKING GROUP

CHRIS BAUER, CDTC

October 23, 2020

Presentation to NYSAMPO Directors Group

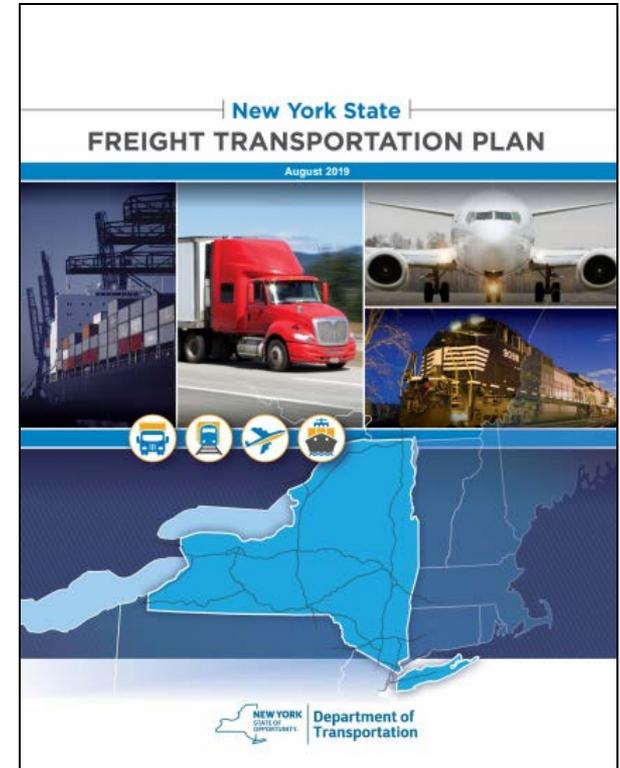
Goals (Past and Present)

1. New York State Freight Transportation Plan Support
 2. Knowledge Transfer
 3. Integration
 4. Stakeholder Outreach
 5. Data Availability, Transformational Technologies, and Global and National Economies
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- Many goals cross multiple categories

New York State Freight Transportation Plan **Attachment 1**

Support

- Freight Working Group was a key stakeholder group
 - ▣ Provided comments, sometimes as a group, sometimes individually
- Regular briefings on plan status, activities, and deliverables from NYSDOT
- Members provided industry contacts for metropolitan freight stakeholders
- Plan adopted in 2019; removed from work plan – now monitoring implementation



Knowledge Transfer

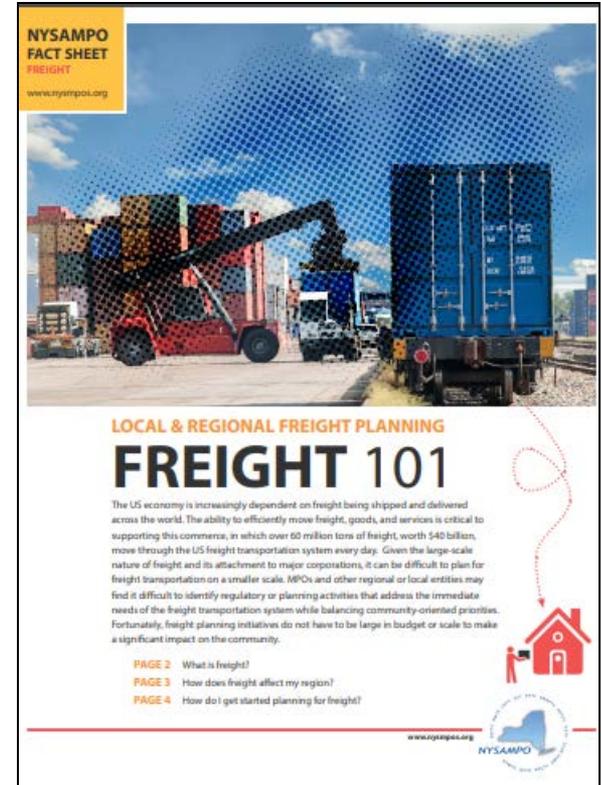
- What:
 - Build technical capacity by serving as a forum for dialogue among MPOs, NYSDOT, and others
- How:
 - Quarterly web-meetings
 - Roundtable agenda item
 - Identify and share training opportunities
 - Freight facility site visits (bi-annual, on hold due to pandemic)
 - Analysis of the most recent FHWA Freight Program Assessments
- Presentation example:
 - *FHWA Resource Center* (Gautam Mani, FHWA, October 17, 2019)

Integration

- What:
 - Assist each other in the further incorporation of freight into MPO planning practice at all levels (LRTP, UPWP, TIP, projects)
- How:
 - Federal rulemakings (ex: TTTR) and network designations (ex: NMFN, CUFC)
 - Identify and track initiatives, projects, and regulations of significance statewide or to multiple regions, for example:
 - Cashless tolling on NYS Thruway
 - Safety and security issues related to hazmat, and customs procedures
 - Resiliency concerns related to aging infrastructure and more frequent extreme weather events
 - Discretionary grant funding opportunities, such as INFRA
 - Communicate with other Working Groups to determine opportunities for coordinated actions

Integration Examples

- Freight 101 Fact Sheet
- Presentation examples:
 - *Freight Planning for Upstate Cities/Towns/Villages* (Rich Perrin, TY Lin, July 8, 2020)
 - *Truck Parking and Flexible Curb Space Management* (Laura Richards and Dani Waltersdorfer, Cambridge Systematics, October 17, 2019)
 - *Linking Transportation, Logistics, and Economic Development Strategies in the Greater Albuquerque Region* (Elaine Mckenzie and Brian Stewart, Cambridge Systematics, March 14, 2018)
 - *Percentage of Interstate System Mileage Providing Reliable Truck Travel Time (Truck Travel Time Reliability Index or TTTRI); NYS Baseline and Performance Targets and How They're Being Incorporated by MPOs* (Roundtable, June 21, 2018)



Stakeholder Outreach

- What:
 - Engage other freight-related organizations
- How:
 - Increase awareness among freight-related organizations and associations of the presence and role MPOs and the Freight Working Group
 - Examples: I-95 Corridor Coalition, Railroads of New York, Trucking Association of New York, Empire State Development/Regional Economic Development Council
 - Structure discussions with stakeholders to understand legislative and regulatory items
 - Examples: Driver hours of service rules, national trade policies, etc.
 - Identify freight planning initiatives, capabilities, and techniques of state DOTs and MPOs in other states
- Presentation examples:
 - *Trucking Association of New York Overview and Q&A* (Kendra Hems, TANY, January 7, 2019)
 - *Linking Transportation, Logistics, and Economic Development Strategies in the Greater Albuquerque Region* (Elaine Mckenzie and Brian Stewart, Cambridge Systematics, March 14, 2018)

Data availability

- What:
 - Evaluate data that can be used to better analyze freight movements at various geographies
- How:
 - Inventory sources, analysis techniques, and modeling applications utilized by other MPOs
- Presentation example:
 - *Using the NPMRDS Data Set for Goods Movement Planning* (Alex Muro, SUNY AVAIL, January 7, 2020)

TRANSEARCH

NYSDOT has purchased 2018 TRANSEARCH and IHS Global Markit data set and made it available to MPOs!

Free MPO Training was held on September 9th

Transformational Technologies

- What:
 - Monitor and assess technical advances that could impact freight
- How:
 - Technologies such as automated/connected vehicles, additive manufacturing, and drones that impact the amount and type of goods moved, modal options selected, and land use
- Presentation example:
 - *Impact of E-commerce and Technology on Goods Movement and Logistics (Gerry Bogacz, NYMTC, May 13, 2020)*



Global and National Economies

- What:
 - Track the interrelationships between economic issues, consumer trends, and resulting business models that impact economies in New York State
- How:
 - Monitor macro level economic trends (ex: e-commerce) that impact the amount and type of goods moved, modal options selected, and land use
- Presentation examples:
 - *Impact of E-commerce and Technology on Goods Movement and Logistics* (Gerry Bogacz, NYMTC; May 13, 2020)
 - *Effects of COVID-19 on Freight* (Roundtable, May 13, 2020 and July 8, 2020)

Survey Results

- Freight Planning, Training, and Future Topics of Interest Survey Results (June 2020):
 - Survey included in work plan and conducted for first time in 2020
 - The most common planning initiatives of MPOs in the last fiscal year were work on the freight elements of long range plans and data compilation and/or research
 - Common MPO activities include convening/facilitating meetings of freight advisory groups, providing input/data to other agencies, and making presentations to agencies and organizations
 - FHWA Talking Freight online seminars were the most widely participated in training
 - 10 freight-related topics were ranked for additional discussion/presentation at future Freight Working Group meetings

Challenges and Opportunities

- Participation has increased (thank you!)
- Providing information that is relevant/useful for all MPOs
 - Wide range of MPOs, and a wide range of freight planning capacity amongst them
- Private nature of freight movement vs. the public nature of MPO investments
- Private freight movement decisions made outside of MPO realm, outside of state or country

Questions and Discussion

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