



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
TRANSIT WORKING GROUP
December 15, 2020
Teleconference
11:00 PM – 12:30 PM**

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating

- AGFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Carrie Ward
- DCTC – Mark Debald
- ECTC - Angela Wood
- GTC – Bob Williams
- HOCTS - Barb Caldwell
- ITCTC – Fernando deAragon
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYCTCC – Carl King
- NYMTC – Ali Mohseni
- NYSDOT – Kent Soporis
- NYSDOT – Jim Davis
- NYSDOT – Tom Vaughn
- NYSDOT - Jonathan Hill
- OCTC - Ashlee Long
- SMTC – Mario Colone
- Tompkins County – Dwight Mengel
- WJCTC - Jen Hodge
- WJCTC - Sara Freda
- NYPTA – Bob Zerrillo
- ? – Carlos Gonzalez
- ? – Joanna Frank
- Planning4Places – James Levy

If I missed your attendance at the meeting, please let me know – jlevy@planning4places.com.

1. Introductions

M. Colone opened the meeting.

2. Approval of meeting notes.

The September meeting notes were approved.

3. Presentation: Robert Zerrillo, NYPTA

Bob provided an overview and update on Statewide Public Transportation. Topics covered included COVID response, ridership uncertainties, and funding, as well as efforts underway to transition to electric buses. The “Planning for the Future” slide was noted as an area where MPOs could likely get engaged in future planning efforts. These topics included identifying which transit trips will return and which will not, what is the future of commuting/telecommuting, what are future mode share/travel options, what are customer preferences, and what is the role of technology.

Mark Debald noted that there are reservations regarding micro transit, especially if it comes at the expense of fixed-route transit. Bob noted that NYS needs more experience to know how well it could work. CDTA is running a few on-demand buses and RTS is doing this to support the suburban model, but certainly we don’t want to degrade fixed-route service. This seems to make sense for evening service in suburbs and more rural areas. This is still really being tested for viability in NY and assessing the success of the CDTA and RTS efforts will be useful.

Jay Lambrix noted that we should be looking at VMT as a way to evaluate transit effectiveness and how we can rethink how transit focuses primarily on work trips. Bob noted that transit is not focused on just work trips, though it may seem that way. Systems recognize that there are other needs. CENTRO had to cut some services and focus on core services if there is a recognition that reinvestment in these other needs exists. For instance, tourism is important to the system in Glens Falls. The Pandemic has brought shopping and doctor/office visit type trips into the forefront. Non-commuting markets are a vital piece of the future of transit.

The PowerPoint file was sent to Working Group members in the meeting summary email dated December 23, 2020.

4. MPO Updates

Mario noted that SMTC worked with CENTRO on a number of TIP amendments to shuffle around funds to maximize funding for the few infrastructure projects they have, including bus procurement. The CARES ACT funding provided funding for operations that freed up other funds for capital investment actions.

Mark provided an update on the Connect Mid-Hudson Transit Study being led by DCTC. The plan has been drafted and it should be available for a presentation to the Working Group in 2021. The plan includes micro transit as a way to fill gaps between the Counties and NYC.

Carrie Ward asked if anyone on the call has undertaken or knows of a bus lane demonstration project? CDTC is investigating the possibility of undertaking such an effort but isn't sure it is feasible. Carl King stated that NYC hasn't done a demonstration project but NYCDOT Transit Division with MTA is rapidly expanding their system and implementing new bus lanes.

5. NYSDOT RFI Discussion

No update due to technical difficulties with Zoom.

6. Action Items

- Update on NYSDOT RFI
- Safety Plans – We didn't get an accounting of which transit agencies in NYS took advantage of the extension. It would be good to know where these plans stand for end of year across the State. Please provide information to Jim and Mario.
- Possible presentation on the Connect Mid-Hudson Transit Study at the 1st meeting of 2021.
- If anyone has a bus lane demonstration project, please forward information to Carrie Ward at cward@cdtcmpo.org.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021 at 11:00am.