

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP
AUGUST 20, 2014

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating
 - A/GFTC – Kate Mance
 - CDTC – Sree Nampoothiri
 - GTC – Joe Bovenzi
 - HOCTS – Jeff Quackenbush
 - NYMTC – Larry McAuliffe
 - NYSDOT – Paul Krekeler, Cathy Kuzsman, Colleen Smith-Lemmon, Elisabeth Lennon
 - NYSERDA – Adam Ruder

2. Presentation: NYSDOT GreenLITES for Sustainable Planning
Paul Krekeler presented (slides are attached).
 - Noted that NYSDOT began the program in 2008 in order to support a policy of incorporating sustainability in the Department’s activities.
 - The intent is to provide guidance to staff, retain flexibility, and recognize that cost is an issue.
 - A self-certification process that measures the extent to which transportation projects incorporate sustainable design choices.
 - Includes elements for Design, Operations, Planning, and Local Projects.
 - Design rates projects on 175 criteria in 5 categories:
 - Sustainable sites
 - Water quality
 - Materials & Resources
 - Energy & Atmosphere
 - Innovation/Unlisted
 - Projects can be certified at various levels (Certified, Silver, Gold, Evergreen)
 - Operations has evolved into a sharing of best practices; Residencies submit ideas they have put into practice, can receive awards. One year later, survey other Residencies to see if they have put the ideas into practice.
 - Planning – a project solicitation tool that can be used by MPOs, has seven categories to rate candidate projects
 - Local Project sponsors can voluntarily use the tool to assess their own projects.
 - Contacts: www.nysdot.gov/programs/greenlites email: GreenLITES@dot.ny.gov

Questions:

- Are operations and maintenance practices from the Residencies shared with local government public works agencies, who could benefit from them?
 - Response: Only if agencies look at award winners on website. Agreed with suggestion that Cornell Local Roads Program and NYS Association of County Highway Superintendents could be centralized means for dissemination.
- Do any large municipalities use GreenLITES principles in developing their own locally funded CIP?
 - Not that NYSDOT is aware of.

- The Route 347 project on Long Island was exemplary, had significant bicycle and pedestrian elements. Has there been any effort to measure increased usage/mode shift?
 - Not aware of any before/after studies. GreenLITES helped bring community factions together to ultimately support the project.

Krekeler noted that GreenLITES provides a New York based tool in contrast to FHWA's INVEST national tool.

3. EV Fact Sheet Draft

Mance noted that the draft was distributed shortly before the meeting, so not expecting comments. Thinks it looks good.

McAuliffe agrees, had sent comments by email with a couple of items for consideration.

Ruder also agrees, but raises a question about the installation cost graphics, suggests from NYSERDA experience that the text should indicate a range of cost for the station.

Nampoothiri notes CDTC hosts the Clean Cities Coalition, which is not exclusively about EV, but merits mention in the MPO section. He will send information to Gayle.

ACTION ITEM: Members to send comments to Gayle by Sept 19.

4. Partner updates

a. NYSDOT

Kuzsman reported on Complete Streets workshops, outreach via Regional offices. Find that communities want training on policy, implementation, and design

3 of 4 pilot workshops complete, last one is 9/17 in Babylon

She will report back on findings.

Lennon reported on the Statewide Flooding Vulnerability Assessment, now complete.

- Covers State Highway system, bridges, culverts, road segments; GIS based
- Based on reports from local knowledge (Regions, Residencies)
- They rank impacts
- Have made presentations to Regions

ACTION ITEM: Send request for data in MPO region to Lennon. MPOs will follow NYSDOT dissemination policy/non-disclosure

Bovenzi reports on GTC Regional Critical Transportation Infrastructure Assessment. NYSDOT information will be helpful. Notes there is no good source of statewide floodplain data.

Mance asks for copy of NYSDOT ranking spreadsheet.

ACTION ITEM: Lennon will send spreadsheet and draft work plan to Mance for distribution.

b. NYSDEC

No report

c. NYSERDA

Ruder reported on the following items

- New program for advanced technology/product development to be issued in late Sept/early October. In past rounds, diverse funding for vehicle technology and others)
- EV programs under development, expect before end of year
- Five Cities group – energy plans, EV promotion
- Cleaner Greener – applications as part of CFA in June, expect announcements prior to November

- Natural gas - CNG station funding potential, decision soon on program
- Joint project with NYSDOT to for demonstration of underutilized technologies.

5. Other business

a. INVEST feedback

Gayle reports on a request from FHWA Division office on feedback from the INVEST webinar, whether any MPOs plan to use the tool. He acknowledges previous report from GTC.

Mance reports A/GFTC is considering use.

6. Next meeting

November 19 at 1:30 PM