NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
MODELING WORKING GROUP
January 8, 2021

Conference Call
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- SMTC, Jason Deshaies (Chair)
- CDTC, Chris Bauer (Co-chair)
- AVAIL, Eric Krans
- AVAIL, Catherine Lawson
- AVAIL, Alex Muro
- AVAIL, Adam Tobey
- BMTC, Leigh McCullen
- CS, Rich Denbow
- CS, Nikhil Puri
- DCTC, Emily Dozier
- FHWA, Sarah Sun
- NYMTC, Munnesh Patel
- NYSDOT, Mark Grainer
- NYSDOT, Nathen Harp
- NYSDOT, Alan Warde
- OCTC, Lauren Burns
- UCTC, David Staas
- Replica, Wesley Clinton and Nick Bowden

1. **Introductions**

   Alex Muro (AVAIL) opened the meeting and welcomed participants.

2. **Replica Tool Presentation**

   Wesley Clinton and Nick Bowden from Replica provided an overview and demo of Replica tools and data. Replica was formed as part of Alphabet, Google's parent company, in 2018, and offers two models – Trends and Places. Trends offers census tract level fidelity throughout the entire U.S. and information around travel behavior patterns (i.e., mode split, trip purpose, VMT), land use consumption, and spending activity. This model is updated weekly. Places is a calibrated activity based travel demand model. It offers network level fidelity representing specific regions. Replica also offers Scenario, which is a forecasting and scenario analysis tool that is built on Places data. In NY, Replica is currently doing work with

MTA, NYSDOT, and NYMTC. MTA procured Replica and is providing access to others, including NYSDOT and NYMTC.

Questions and comments:
- Jason asked about validation. Wesley replied that the products come with a validation report. Third party validations have been done in some cases.
- What is the timeframe used by Places? It is 24 hours, and is season-specific.
- Does the model provide outputs by link? Yes, data can be downloaded by network ID.
- Is Replica considering incorporating air quality or other pollutant analysis? Not currently; this is being discussed in California.
- Does validation occur at the activity-based level? Yes.
- One question/concern to address is how to account for activity by people that are outside our banking and credit card systems.

3. Updates on NPMRDS Software

The AVAL team provided a brief update on activities for the NPMRDS tool.
- There are new Macroview measures.
- Full data for 2020 is available in the tools suite. The team will update the measures with the new data.
- Freight Congestion measures now use freight AADT and reflect single unit trucks, tractor trailers, and total/combined trucks.
- Added more speed percentiles.
- The CO_2 calculations have been updated.
- New documentation has been added – all data measures are available in report overview.

4. Modeling Working Group Workplan for 2021

Each NYSAMPO WG is updating its Work Plan for 2021. New draft Work Plans are to be completed by the end of January and provided to the NYSAMPO staff consultants, who will compile them and submit to the Directors for review. A draft updated MWG Work Plan was distributed prior to this meeting. Jason provided a summary of the changes from the 2020 Work Plan.

One major change in the Work Plans this year is that the Executive Committee is requesting each WG add a compendium of datasets, tools/applications, and other resources that are available to MPOs in New York State. This is intended to help ensure that there is a record of these resources that will be available to new and existing MPO staff. Example include everything from ArcGIS licenses and access to SUNY AVAIL NPMRDS viewers to proprietary TRANSEARCH freight data and publicly-available NYSDOT datasets. Jason will send a list to the WG and ask for additions. The WG will discuss a final draft Work Plan at the next meeting.

5. Next Meeting

The next MWG meeting will take place on January 29, 2021.