



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs  
MODELING WORKING GROUP  
January 10, 2020**

**Conference Call  
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Participating**

- Chris O'Neill, CDTC (Chair)
- Chris Bauer, CDTC
- Lauren Burns, OCTC
- Rich Denbow, CS
- Jason Deshaies, SMTC
- Emily Dozier, DCTC
- Eric Krans, AVAIL
- Jay Lambrix, ITCTC
- Catherine Lawson, AVAIL
- Alex Muro, AVAIL
- David Staas, UCTC
- John Sterbentz, BMTS
- Courtney Taylor, ECTC
- Andrew Tracy, CDTC
- Dylan Tuttle, DCTC

**1. Introductions**

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

**2. NPMRDS Tools – On Dev**

The AVAIL team provided an update on recent tool development activity.

- The team reviewed the addition of traffic counts. You can now click on segments to view count data, including date of count, vehicle class, and speeds (if available from the count).
- These are average counts. Some were taken over several days.
- The team will make this data available for download.
- Chris O'Neill said it would be useful to show volumes on the links. This is currently available from the NYSDOT website. Peak hour volumes would be most useful. The AVAIL team will work on this.
- The team showed the InfoUSA data viewer, which will provide employment, sales, etc. by industry. They have had trouble getting it to run but are continuing to work on it.

- The team continues to work on the conflation version of Macro view. This will allow exporting of all measures across the network.
- Emily Dozier said DCTC is trying to understand the different report types in the tool. They want to create a report template that will help them better understand and analyze their top congested locations. When going through the reports, they found several issues and would like to talk with the AVAIL team offline.

### **3. 2020-2021 Modeling Working Group Work Plan**

The NYSAMPO WGs are updating Work Plans for 2020-2021. 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. Chris O'Neill distributed a draft 2020-2021 Work Plan prior to the call and began a discussion with the MWG. He pointed out two things to look at:

- Should the WG retain the item to look at speed bins for MOVES?
- The NHTS is an important task for the MWG for the coming year and members should review this section for any needed enhancements.

The WG discussed activities related to automated vehicles (AV):

- Jay Lambert said we should look at research on impacts of AV on VMT, land use, emissions, etc. and discuss whether AVs are likely to help us meet our transportation goals or compete with other options for meeting those goals such as better transit planning, investing in TDM, looking at land-use, etc.
- A recent research study at UCSD provided chauffeur service to a small cohort of participants over a period of time and asked them to record their travel behavior. It will be important to look at this further for any useful insight to AV effects on travel behavior.
- Chris affirmed that AV is an important focus area for the WG. We are very much at the early stages of addressing AV. A lot of people believe AVs will increase roadway capacity. This is important when discussing whether to widen an existing road and looking at 30-year design forecasts. The Directors have asked the WG to look at this topic.

Chris Bauer will continue to coordinate with other Work Groups regarding discussions about NPMRDS data and the AVAIL tool.

Emily suggested the discussion of ride-hailing services would fit better in the technology section of the Work Plan than the TDM section.

It was suggested we add traffic signalization as a discussion area, including coordinating across jurisdictions. We should work with the TSMO WG on this topic.

Jay suggested including the topic of solutionary rail, which is a campaign to electrify US railroads and open rail corridors for renewable energy transmission, including diversion of as much freight as possible from highways to rail. This issue could be coordinated with the

Freight WG. Chris Bauer said that the potential diversion of freight to rail is the topic which the Freight Working Group is dealing with.

Alex suggested the MWG make sure these topic areas, and the others in the Work Plan, are addressed in the WG meetings and not just have the focus be on the AVAIL tool.

Chris announced that he will retire sometime in the spring of 2020. He asked if anyone has interest in being the WG chair to let him and the Directors know. The Directors will make a decision and appoint a new Chair.

#### **4. Next Meeting**

The next MWG meeting will take place on January 30, 2020.