



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
MODELING WORKING GROUP
May 22, 2020**

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

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- Chris O’Neill, CDTC (Chair)
- Chris Bauer, CDTC
- Lauren Burns, OCTC
- Michael Chiume, NYMTC
- Zach Coleman, OCTC
- Erica Corsi, AVAIL
- Rich Denbow, CS
- Jason Deshaies, SMTCT
- Emily Dozier, DCTC
- Mark Grainer, NYSDOT
- Nathen Harp, NYSDOT
- Anurag Komanduri, CS
- Eric Krans, AVAIL
- Catherine Lawson, AVAIL
- Patrick Lentlie, NYSDOT
- Leigh McCullen, BMTC
- Alex Muro, AVAIL
- Deb Nelson, NYMTC
- Munnesh Patel, NYMTC
- Nikhil Puri, CS
- Ashley Seyfreid, BMTS
- David Staas, UCTC
- Andrew Tracy, CDTC
- Dylan Tuttle, DCTC
- Alan Warde, NYSDOT
- Jianghao Zhu, NYMTC

1. Introductions

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

2. NPMRDS Tool Updates

The AVAIL team reported on recent updates to the NPMRDS tool.

- For all count stations, historical data is now available from 2010 through 2019. Vehicle classification is available for count stations
- Some stations have data through March 2020. Viewing data from these stations will show the effects of the Covid-19 shutdown on travel.
- AVAIL is working on adding download functionality for the counts.
- Alan noted that NYSDOT recently completed a BUILD grant and used the data to show seasonal travel changes to support the grant effort.
- Eric Krans showed a tool template that can be used to look at travel changes during the Covid-19 shutdown in NY. It compares March 23-April 30, 2019 data with the same dates in 2020. In looking at the comparison, some areas are still experiencing congestion with travel restrictions in place. MPOs can check locations in their region that are typically problematic. If a location is experiencing congestion during the

shutdown the issue may be due to factors such as road geometry rather than just to volume.

- The team is still working on adding the ability to show trends among different travel time datasets for a particular area, which will show trend graphs over time for different measures.
- Emily asked if LOTTR and TTTR can be added back into the model. Alex said they were in there at one time but the team removed them. Looking at the federal reliability measures on a daily basis does not have a lot of usefulness. They are more useful over a longer time period.

3. Andrew Tracy – Planning Area VMT

CDTC has been looking into several datasets that are readily available and that can be used to help determine traffic patterns during the Covid-19 restrictions. Andrew Tracy shared the following information:

- VMT data by Streetlight. A CSV file with VMT data for every county is available. This can be used to compare with historical baseline data.
- AVAIL tool. Andrew made a report template to compare roadways before and after March 15.
- TransitApp data, which is published daily. The data looks at usage of the app. Usage in the Albany area has declined by 77% from the pre Covid-19 baseline. He has also compared this with ridership data provided by CDTA.
- INRIX data compared with confirmed Covid-19 cases on national level. This is updated in a blog each week.
- NYSDOT continuous count data for specific roads.

Lauren Burns noted she has been able to download the most recent Streetlight data (through May 17, 2020). She also asked if other MPOs have looked into speed data to see if speeds have changed with fewer cars on the roads. Chris looked at speeds for a few areas and found that roads are generally operating at free flow speeds. Eric said they are looking into calculating speeds by month in macro view in the tool. It can be viewed by year currently.

4. Using Location-Based Services Data to Better Plan for Covid-19 Recovery

Nikhil Puri discussed a tool developed by CS that uses LBS data to aid Covid-19 recovery planning. He showed aggregated and disaggregated data and trends by market and submarket segments (retail, dining, travel, etc.) using the Tableau tool. The data represented activity through the end of April 2020. CS typically updates the data weekly. CS is currently using the tool in several different applications. In Orange County, they are looking at data at establishments that have transit demand and in specific corridors. They have also used it extensively in California for LA Metro. In the near future CS will correlate data with reported Covid-19 cases. Anurag Komanduri noted that analysis can be done at a granular level to look at neighborhood activity.

The data is obtained from location-based providers. CS works with a company that aggregates data and provides it to users for various purposes. Nikhil noted that if an MPO is working with CS to use the tool it can then be made available to MPO members.

5. Modeling Survey Questions/Peer Exchange

Some MWG members are interested in learning more about how other MPOs are using their travel models and what data resources are used. Rich Denbow is working with Chris and Lauren Burns to develop a survey that will be sent to the NY MPOs to collect model and data information. Lauren developed draft survey questions and the survey will go out soon. Results will be shared with the MWG, and a future peer exchange or information sharing session can be developed.

6. Next Meeting

The next MWG meeting will take place on June 26, 2020.