

National Accessibility Evaluation Technical Advisory Panel Meeting

January 15, 2019

6:00 - 7:30 EST

(5:00 - 6:30 CST / 4:00 - 5:30 MST / 3:00 - 4:30 PST)

Ballroom Salon 17 (M2), Marriott Marquis Washington, 901 Massachusetts Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20001, USA

Participants:

University of Minnesota: Kristin Carlson, Claire Johnson, Laurie McGinnis, Brendan Murphy,
Andrew Owen

D.C.: Stephanie Dock

FHWA: Brian Gardner

Florida: Monica Zhong

Maryland: Meredith Hill

Minnesota: Deanna Belden, Michael Iacono, Jean Wallace

Minnesota Metropolitan Council: Jonathan Ehrlich

Tennessee: Chris McPhilamy

Virginia: Peter Ohlms

Washington: Elizabeth Robbins

Others

Cambridge Systematics: Rafael, Tyrone

***Action items are denoted in bold.**

Welcome from MnDOT – Deanna Belden

Deanna welcomed the group to the TRB TAP meeting.

Introductions — Claire Johnson

The TAP members introduced themselves.

Project Updates — Andrew Owen

- Membership updates: Andrew welcomed new members, Massachusetts DOT, MN Metropolitan Council and Illinois DOT.
- Current and future deliverables
 - New task structure for years 4 and 5 - 18 tasks have been reduced to 5. There will be no changes in data/deliverables for partners.

**ACCESSIBILITY
OBSERVATORY**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

- Bike Accessibility report status
 - AO is incorporating intersections into LTS model. They assigned LTS scores to models nationwide. This took longer than anticipated, but updated routing algorithms. Data will be available in February.
 - Meredith asked about what will be available in February
 - Block level data sets will be available, as well as state reports. Then AO will plan for national reports release.
- 2018 report & data schedule
 - Auto and transit reports are being processed this month.
 - We will review data & local reports at May TAP meeting
 - The schedule of publication of national reports will be created following this meeting and feedback from the partners.
 - Stephanie Dock mentioned her office's need for having the auto and transit reports at the same time (since they need the comparison and modes in conjunction with one another)
 - Andrew agreed that having them closer together makes them more of a report on access than things like congestion
- Scenario Evaluation: I-94 Managed Lanes
 - This was a project done with MnDOT. The project looked at auto and transit impacts. Andrew showed a couple maps highlighting the change in jobs. The impacts were higher for auto. For transit, there was more impact near park and ride stations.
 - Jonathan Ehrlich: Why is the effect pronounced at the ends and not corridor?
 - Kristin answered that the end regions are seeing biggest benefit because you are able to collect more jobs as you head towards the end.
 - Chris McPhilamy- Will AO be releasing the methodology for this?
 - Yes it will be included in the task 9 report. **This will be shared with TAP partners.**
- Project extension
 - FY19 is last year for commitments under current pooled fund.
 - Evaluating possibilities for continuation
 - Possible updates to structure, deliverables
 - **Andrew will reach out individually to current partners for input**
 - Goal is to share plans at AASHTO Summer 2019
 - Jonathan Ehrlich asked that we consider difficulties for MPOs and MPO funding
 - Peter Ohlms brought up that Virginia's commitment was 4 years, not 5, so will need to discuss this soon.
 - Meredith Hill has had a hard time getting Auto and Transit data into standard use. But there has been good success with 5 year auto/transit plan
 - Peter had some issues getting MPOs involved, using the data is still a question
 - Stephanie would like more info on how to use data effectively.

- Jonathan responded that this data/work has already been done, just need to figure out the best way to use it
- Stephanie agreed that the difficulty is operationalizing the data.
- Andrew said that we should have conversations about different needs (maybe more about pilot implementation of data).
- Other TRB Events
 - Accessibility Manual Working Group
 - Goal of this group is to create a benchmark/standard for accessibility
 - Jonathan pointed out that the group was heavy with academics and could benefit from more practitioners
 - **Next step - partners should let Andrew know if they are interested in being involved.**
 - Next Generation Performance Measures (Andrew will be presenting results from National Accessibility Evaluation)
 - Kristin presented on Park & Ride research
 - Results showed park & rides extends accessibility (about 20% increase)
 - They will be looking in incorporating this into AO's transit accessibility measures
 - **Final report will be shared with TAP**
- Brendan presented on biking and high-stress/low-stress environments

Task Review — Andrew Owen, Deanna Belden

Deanna will send out another email and ask partners for their approval and will give them a week to send feedback.

Data Portal Update — Kristin Carlson

Kristin explained how data portal has been going down due to disruptions, but should be more stable in the future. **Kristin shared Data Portal FAQ handout and will send it out to TAP via email.**

Kristin asked group what typical GIS applications are being used.

- Chris said that ESRI 10.5.1 is the program they use.
- Stephanie said that most people in her office are not using Pro
- Monica mentioned that 2015/2016 data was not compatible with 2017 data, were there methodological changes. Should 2015/2016 data be included?
 - Kristin responded that all the data will be available in the data portal, we can chat offline about changes
 - Chris suggested handling this by putting out a disclaimer about comparing multiple years, specifically about the TomTom data discrepancy.

- Monica asked if there will there be a disclaimer on the website?
 - Kristin said at some point looking at the layers there will be a disclaimer
 - **Brendan agreed that we can add a disclaimer to the data portal website**
- Plan for Administration
 - Kristin asked the group about best use of credentials - she suggested giving access to TAP members and then they can share with internal contacts. External inquiries will be passed to AO staff.
 - Meredith agreed that this approach is best. She gave example of Maryland TPM access.
 - Monica asked about consultants, do they get passed onto AO?
 - Yes they will be.
 - Jonathan mentioned that if you have access tied to domain, don't have to worry about changing employees.

Freight and Accessibility Update — Andrew Owen

There was a subcommittee freight meeting in the fall to discuss the pilot implementation. The pilot study was focused on the Miami/Fort Lauderdale area in Florida. Two categories of metrics were used - time to nearest and weighted access. Both categories may be relevant in different goods and industry contexts.

Andrew then showed a series of maps highlighting data for each method of freight transportation that was analyzed (air, rail, port). For the congestion impact on air weighted access, he noted that if you are close to highways, access is not really impacted by congestion

The next steps are to re-visit data sources to make sure we're using the most appropriate data. AO will investigate weighting by number of firms at origins. Data requirements and availability will be evaluated. Level of detail by location & industry will be drawn out. And lastly, we will make pilot data available for review by freight specialists

Monica requested that she receive the pilot implementation data from team. **AO will send this on to her.**

Member Updates – All

Chris McPhilamy shared about Public Outreach Site Selection. They used a data driven approach to accessibility. Different elements considered in the study. They are working on larger corridor studies now.

Adjourned at 7:37