2021 PLANNING TOOLS AND TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

2021 AMPO Planning Tools and Training Symposium
The AMPO Planning Tools and Training Symposium brings together MPO staff and practitioners to share information on a variety of MPO technical issues and provides peer-to-peer training for the MPO community to discuss challenges, opportunities, and implementation strategies with regard to current planning tools and applications. The symposium will take place over the course of two and a half days from May 17-20, 2021 in Fort Lauderdale Florida.

AMPO continues to monitor and adjust to the outbreak of the coronavirus and any changes to the symposium will be announced and posted to the AMPO website.

Submit a Proposal  Learn More

FEDERAL PARTNERS

New report offers transportation agencies example practices for Performance-Based Planning and Programming (PBPP)
This FHWA report shares how State DOTs and MPOs are using their long-range statewide transportation plans, metropolitan transportation plans, and State and local transportation improvement programs to integrate performance-based plans and processes, evaluate past condition and performance, document performance measures and targets, report progress toward target achievement, link investment priorities to targets, and describe anticipated future target achievement. The summary helps these agencies support national performance goals, achieve desired performance outcomes, and implement PBPP and Transportation Performance Management (TPM). The intended audience for this report includes planning and programming staff from FHWA Division Offices, State DOTs, and MPOs, and their planning partners. Please contact Corbin Davis for more information.

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $1.37 Million in Grant Awards to
Six Projects in Six States to Advance Transit Infrastructure Innovation

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced grant awards to six projects in six states totaling approximately $1.37 million in research funding through the Real-Time Asset Management Program. These projects will support infrastructure innovation in the transit industry.

The primary goal of the program is to enhance asset management of infrastructure and safety by deploying innovative technologies that can provide real-time condition assessment of transit capital and facilities. This program is an opportunity for transit agencies to assess, detect, monitor and track deficiencies related to infrastructure and evaluate the cost-effectiveness and practicality of proposed state-of-the-art solutions.

Links:
Real-Time Asset Management Program
News Release
Project Selections

MOVES3 Posted on EPA Website*

EPA’s Office of Transportation and Air Quality is pleased to announce the web posting of the latest version of the Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator, MOVES3. This state-of-the-science upgrade to EPA’s modeling tools replaces the MOVES2014 series of models as EPA’s latest model for estimating air pollution emissions from cars, trucks, motorcycles, and buses, as well as many categories of nonroad equipment. Compared to the previous MOVES2014 modeling tool, MOVES3 allows users to model the benefits from new regulations promulgated since MOVES2014 was released, incorporates the latest vehicle and emissions data, and has improved functionality. EPA will be publishing a Federal Register notice to announce the availability of MOVES3 for official purposes.

The MOVES web page (https://www.epa.gov/moves) is the source for MOVES3 software as well as a detailed “Question and Answer” document, MOVES Policy Guidance, MOVES Technical Guidance, technical reports that document the data and algorithms used in MOVES3, tools for use with MOVES, and information on MOVES training.

*Webinar Details below

DOT Five-Year RD&T Strategic Plan (FY 2018-2022)

The DOT RD&T Strategic Plan presents the Department’s research priorities for five years (FY 2018-2022) and describes the activities undertaken by the Department to address those priorities. This plan is an update to the previous Plan, covering FY 2017-2021, and meets the requirements set forth in Section 6019 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. 114-94), “Research Planning” (49 USC 6503). This updated plan has been developed to ensure alignment with the Department’s strategic goals and priorities as defined in the DOT Strategic Plan (2018-2022).

MPO NEWS

Pinellas County, Fla., Gets $4.6M Federal Grant for Safety Tech
The Federal Highway Administration awarded Pinellas County $4.6 million for its Connected Community project, which alerts drivers about traffic, emergency vehicles, and pedestrians. Read more.

Belville awarded $350K for multi-use paths to improve safe school access
The Town of Belville is proud to announce it will begin the engineering and design phase of two projects that it was awarded through the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Organization (WMPO). Read more.

Colorado’s Transportation Agencies Are In Line For Big Federal Stimulus Dollars
The $900 billion pandemic relief bill Congress passed late last year will likely mean hundreds of millions of dollars for Colorado’s transportation systems. Read more.
**OTHER NEWS**

**Take A Ride Through Phoenix In A Driverless Car**
On a busy street in a Phoenix suburb, Here & Now co-host Peter O'Dowd hailed a car with his phone — and a few minutes later, an empty Chrysler minivan showed up. [Read more.](#)

**CMU team to examine autonomous vehicles for people with disabilities**
A team from Carnegie Mellon University has received a grant to develop a prototype system for autonomous vehicles that will allow anyone to control most vehicle functions — from summoning the vehicle to their location to controlling the windows and the temperature of the air conditioning — from their cellphones. [Read more.](#)

**Transporting And Distributing Vaccines Will Be 'Unprecedented' Logistical Challenge**
With the FDA now authorizing the emergency use of a coronavirus vaccine, a huge logistical challenge looms. That is, transporting and distributing the vaccines quickly and efficiently to those who need it most all around the world. [Read more.](#)

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**CALENDAR**

**2021 AMPO Planning Tools and Training Symposium**
Fort Lauderdale, FL
May 17-20, 2021

**2021 AMPO Annual Conference**
Scottsdale, AZ
October 4-10, 2021

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**COURSES & TRAINING**

**Training Description: Transportation Conformity Training**
Sarah J. Siwek & Associates, Inc. is now offering Zoom/WebEx-based Transportation Conformity Training. Ms. Siwek is a nationally recognized conformity expert who has worked with transportation conformity since 1990. The training will be developed in
consultation with the host agency(ies) and tailored to their specific training needs. For example, sessions on different elements of the conformity process can be developed such as interagency consultation requirements, conformity frequency requirements, use of the latest emissions model, project-level conformity requirements, etc. Or a full course offering covering all elements of the conformity process can be provided. These sessions would be offered through multiple 45–90-minute sessions scheduled over several days or weeks and can also include breakout sessions to reinforce key training objectives. MPOs from individual states may want to collaborate to offer training within the state or within a nonattainment or maintenance area.

Please contact Sarah Siwek at ssiwek@aol.com for more information.

**Training Description: Smart, Shared and Social: Enhancing All-Hazards Recovery Plans with Demand Management Technologies**

This training was developed based on a recently completed FTA-funded research project: [Smart, Shared and Social: Enhancing All-Hazards Recovery Plans with Demand Management Technologies](https://example.com/). Sarah J. Siwek was the author of this research project and Deputy Project Manager. This two-part session provides an overview of All-Hazards Recovery Planning, what it means, and why it is needed. The first session will set the context for transportation recovery planning, its relationship to building resiliency, roles, and responsibilities in recovery planning, and the critical need for communications protocols. The second session will discuss specific transportation recovery strategies including transit, TDM, employer-based programs, TNC’s roles, e-strategies, etc. These sessions are each 45 minutes. This course can be further expanded to a full two-day course offered over multiple sessions that covers all elements of transportation recovery planning.

Please contact Sarah Siwek at ssiwek@aol.com for more information.

**Professional Development Opportunity: edX Pilot for Transportation Performance Management**

The Federal Highway Administration is offering public sector Transportation Performance Management (including asset management) practitioners free verified courses through the online education provider, edX. This is a pilot program that FHWA is trying out. Attached [here](https://example.com) is a 2-page pamphlet describing the opportunity along with how to register. Participants will help evaluate this platform for its ability to provide readily-available, quality content to support them in their TPM/Asset Management implementation.

If you have any questions, please reach out to edXPilot@dot.gov.

**COVID-19 Addendum to Critical Issues in Transportation**

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) Executive Committee released an addendum to [Critical Issues in Transportation 2019](https://example.com). The latest addendum addresses 2020’s raging coronavirus pandemic and reckoning with long-standing racial injustice led to widespread disruption and suffering, social unrest, and renewed calls for an accounting of our fragmented public health system and troubled history of racial inequity. [Read more](https://example.com).

**National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) Webinar**

**Thursday, February 4th from 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET.**

Register [here](https://example.com):

**Details:**

The webinar will feature updates from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the NPMRDS team, as well as two presentations from NPMRDS users:

- **Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) Region, Catherine Tulley + Evan Schoss:**
  
  “We are currently using NPMRDS Analytics to help identify where we have recurring congestion along corridors in the SPC region. Using this data, we are able to provide our stakeholders with a tool in which they can make informed decisions on ways to mitigate congestion throughout the region. We are also using the Analytics tools to confirm our internal processing of the NPMRDS data for the federal system performance measures, and for calculating measures of congestion and reliability on a project basis.”

- **Texas A&M’s Transportation Institute’s (TTI) Subasish Das:**

  "TTI is using NPMRDS data for TxDOT project ‘0-7051: Develop a Real-Time Decision
Support Tool for Rural Roadway Safety Improvements. This project has been exploring the impact of operating speed and associated speed measures on traffic crash frequencies by different severity groups (total crashes, fatal and severe injury crashes, and fatal and injury crashes). The end product of this project is to develop a decision support tool that will provide segment level expected crash frequencies by incorporating roadway geometrics, operating speed measures, traffic volume, and weather information.

Performance-Based Prioritization Using Multi-Objective Decision Analysis (MODA) - (1.5 PDHs)

How can agencies determine where to invest limited funding across program areas to achieve maximum results? How can agencies balance competing priorities and objectives? The answers to these questions and many more can be found in a NEW web-based training for incorporating a structured, data-informed, performance-based approach to help prioritize investments across asset classes and performance areas called multi-objective decision analysis (MODA).

The MODA Training Course is available on the TPM Training Hub and is part of the new Transportation Performance Management Category on the AASHTO Store. This course offers professional development hours.

For more information and to register for this training, visit the TPM Training Hub or the AASHTO Store.

Please forward this bi-weekly email newsletter to members of your staff that may be interested in its contents. To subscribe or unsubscribe to AMPO Email, please send an email to staff@ampo.org and indicate your request. AMPO’s distribution list will be updated approximately every two weeks.

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