

National Accessibility Evaluation Technical Advisory Panel Meeting Notes

September 25, 2018
2:00 - 3:30 p.m. CST via webinar

Participants:

University of Minnesota:

Andrew Owen, Brendan Murphy, Claire Johnson, Kristin Carlson

Arkansas: Michael Henry, Inderpreet (Sunny) Farmahan

D.C.: Stephanie Dock

Florida: Monica Zhong

Iowa: Cameron Mason, Phil Mescher

Maryland: Meredith Hill, Toria Lassiter

Minnesota: Deanna Belden, Michael Iacono, Jean Wallace

Tennessee: Chris McPhilamy

Virginia: Peter Ohlms

Illinois attendees: Megan Swanson, Mike Vanderhoof

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

Welcome from MnDOT & Introductions

Deanna welcomed the group to the TAP meeting. Claire led the group in introductions.

Project Updates – Andrew Owen

Status Updates

Andrew shared that the team has been dealing with data hosting problems. Netfiles has been taken down, and new hosting temporary hosting solution is Amazon S3. **Links will be provided today.** A long term solution will be discussed today.

Challenges with Auto 2017 data

**ACCESSIBILITY
OBSERVATORY**

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Andrew explained that there has been a similar problem to that of 2016 data. There is an increase in congestion, but accessibility changes go beyond this. These results are due to changes in TomTom data processing. AO will therefore be publishing with caveat on year over year comparisons. This is an important issue for national scale accessibility evaluation. The team will be Investigating with TomTom on how to avoid this in the future.

Meredith (Maryland) asked if AO has looked into other data sources. She noted that year over year comparisons are valuable. Andrew responded that this conversation is beginning, and we will keep this in mind.

Year 3 Data Update

- Transit 2017 was published in June
- Auto 2017 was originally published for end of September, now targeting publication date of October 24th. Data will be sent to partners this week.
- Bike & Walk will be pushed back to November.

Data/Map API Update

Andrew told the group that they would be reaching out soon to the TAP to schedule another subgroup meeting for both the Data portal testing and the Freight group. **Claire will be following up with the TAP about these meetings.**

Deanna (Minnesota) asked if those not involved in subgroup can be part of the testing - Andrew replied that yes that can be included.

Accessibility/Freight update

Stephanie (DC) asked about time to nearest freight facilities metric - we will be determining what metrics are important and what are not.

Options for data hosting

Andrew raised the question of access control and its importance. He posed the idea of having a difference in control in reports versus data. Reports could be directly delivered to partners. He asked TAP members for their opinions.

- Meredith (Maryland) - They agreed that it is good to separate reports & data. They want access to the data for their local partners (definitive common data source), but it also takes education to use and understand data. A common platform for access to others would be good. Maryland has been working on open data platform, with well defined governance structure, that is well vetted. We need to raise competency of partners first to access this data.

- Stephanie (DC) - No real issue with lack of access control. DC has open structure on data, and pushes a lot to the public. Broad availability is a good thing. Regional data is important, and good to access.
- Andrew said that it is publicly funded data, anyone who asks can receive. He is unsure if we need to track who is accessing data.
- Meredith (Maryland) - Responded that the open platform is good. Tracking who is accessing is probably not necessary, it just adds more steps.
- Andrew suggested we use UMN data repository system (DRUM) that is a long term archive solution. It has link stability and good cataloging. It is a publicly accessible repository.
- Stephanie (DC) - commercial file sharing could be considered, might be limitations on all of the options though. She asked about building websites to host data (aws?), will be a cost associated with that.

Andrew called out the problem of a long term solution. He brought up the question of where data will go once funding for the project goes away. He said long term archival is better.

Member Updates – All

- Chris McPhilarmy (Tennessee) - They just used congestion aspect of data for suitability analysis for highway projects. They are trying to pick locations for outreach for people living around projects and looking at it from an environmental justice perspective. They are looking for walkable areas, and census demographics. He can share pdf of results with the group.
- Monica (Florida) - They are updating their transportation plan. There are two measures incorporated in the plan. In August they went to 7 districts to update them on mobility measures, and get feedback. One of the feedback is that they are not sure about job accessibility by transit. MPOs don't believe numbers. Monica will touch base with Andrew, and may send two measures to Andrew when they finalize report. Monica has posted her reports on her website, and will share reports with MPO coordinator.

Other updates:

TAP meeting in January - Claire will be following up to schedule the TRB TAP Meeting in November.