



## **Ohio Travel Demand Model Users Group Autumn Meeting**

The meeting was held on Friday, September 10, 2021 via Zoom video conference and commenced at approximately 10:00 AM. The meeting started with a welcome and introduction of all attendees. Approximately 31 people were in attendance throughout the call.

A motion was made by Zhuojun Jiang to accept two new members (Yan Liu and Raj Roy). It was seconded by Andrew Rohne. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Vince Bernardin to approve the previous meeting minutes. It was seconded by Rebekah Anderson. The motion passed.

Sandie Mapel presented on *COVID Impacts on ODOT Traffic Counts*. Sandie reviewed traffic count data from pre-COVID (before March 2020) and how it is rebounding during the pandemic. Traffic is currently closer to a new normal, which is about 5 percent lower for overall volumes. Truck percentages are up but not necessarily volumes, while passenger vehicle travel remains down.

Sam Granato presented on *Streetlight Zone Level O-D Travel*. Sam compared years 2019 and 2020 O/D travel data from Streetlight within the MPOs he works with to examine zone-level changes due to working from home and other Covid impacts such as reduction in employment - benchmarked to overall travel reduction as documented by the previous speaker.

Nick Gill presented on *COVID Traffic Volumes and Speed Changes*. MORPC has been tracking impacts on highway, airports, transit, trails, and air quality since the pandemic started. They have been comparing Franklin County to the other surrounding counties in Central Ohio. The urban core is taking longer to recover than the outerbelt areas.

Rob Schiffer presented on *Huntsville MPO COVID Pre & Post Travel Patterns*. This MPO in northern Alabama started a regional commuter study in 2019 before COVID to better understand worker travel patterns. He used Streetlight data, as well as supplemental data from the region's largest employer (Redstone Arsenal). He has seen a dramatic difference in total trips and trip percentages, but 2021 travel is closely resembling 2019 travel patterns once again.

A roundtable discussion took place at the end of the meeting. Discussion topics included population changes in the 2020 Census, and when committee members are returning to work in their offices.

Rebekah Anderson notified the MPOs regarding an update on the Bentley Cube licenses and the Connection Client log in. All MPOs need to send Rebekah the email addresses for all staff who will be using the software as soon as possible.

In other business, the next MUG meeting will take place on December 3 and will most likely be virtual. A spring meeting is planned for March 18 at the Riffe Center in downtown Columbus. The Design Traffic training is being pushed back to December 6-9, if health conditions allow it will be in-person. ODOT modeling staff are all in the office on Thursdays. The refreshment funds balance is unchanged at \$79 as no money was spent for this meeting. Lisa Householder will email out PDH certificates.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1 PM.