



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

December 12, 2017

Teleconference

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- AGFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- GTC – Alex Kone
- GTC – Darin Ramsay
- OCTC – Ashlee Long
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- SMTC – Mike Alexander
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC – Geoffrey Urda
- WJCTC – Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT- Main Office – Colleen Smith-Lemmon
- NYSDOT Main Office – Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT Region 1 – Valerie Dean
- NYSDOT-Region 2 – Joe Kaczor
- NYSDOT-Region 6 – Pauline Burnes
- NYSDOT-Region 8 – Christopher Lee
- NYSDOT-Region 9 – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT Region 10 – Lanny Wexler
- NYBC – Paul Winkeller
- PTNY – James Meerdink
- Planning4Places – Jim Levy

1. Roll Call

Participants introduced themselves and J. Levy confirmed attendance. Colleen Smith-Lemmon will be representing NYSDOT to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Cathy Kuzman.

2. NYSAMPO Staff Services

J. Levy provided a status update on the NYSAMPO website and Fact Sheet development process. The website will be updated in 2018 as more discussions about content and format need to be undertaken. An update of the Complete Streets Fact Sheet(s) can begin in 2018. The SWG, as the first WG to undertake a Fact Sheet update this year, is modifying an existing template that will be used for Fact Sheet updates.

3. Partner Updates

- a) P. Winkeller provided an update on activities at NYBC. They are looking to develop a new website and have released an RFP. The goal is for the new site to be online by May 2018.

Since the Summit, there has been an explosion of interest and opportunities, new visibility and partnerships. The NYBC budget has grown in the last two years. There will be a Summit again next year (aiming for October 2018, possibly in Saratoga). NYBC is interested in holding additional NACTO trainings like was held earlier this year at CDTC. If several trainings can be organized/planned, the per-event cost can decrease.

NYBC, through funding provided by GTSC, will have a Western New York Coordinator position. NYBC will be available to provide field-based education in Western New York now – there is no charge for these services. There will also be three seasonal ambassadors (LCI's) and an admin assistant to help plan trainings. This GTSC funding has enhanced the service abilities of the NYBC.

NYSERDA is funding NYBC and Go-Bike Buffalo to develop a Complete Streets curriculum. This curriculum will train local municipal boards and officials. This program should be ready by Fall 2018. There will be a self-guided training option (video) as well as an in-person option in Years 2 and 3, which will be run by Justin Booth. S. Reigle asked if there was a "train the trainer" option. P. Winkeller stated that it was a great idea that will be considered.

The NYBC has applied for funding to partner with the Trust for Public Land on an Empire State Trail Extension Feasibility Study on Long Island. Currently the Empire Trail ends in NYC. This extension will be mostly off-road and would involve NYMTC.

The NYBC is also planning more regional meetings in 2018. These would be held in Binghamton, the Lower Hudson Valley, Ithaca, Plattsburgh and Syracuse. These are ½ day information sharing meetings. There are no elected officials and no media – this permits a more open and frank conversation. MPO staff are welcome to participate. NYBC will share the schedule with the Working Group.

The recent NYBC newsletter cited the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly States report. New York moved up to 23rd, from 29th in 2016. It would be great to get into the top 20 (<http://www.nybc.net/new-york-moves-up-in-national-bike-friendly-state-rankings/>).

- b) J. Meerdink updated the group on activities taking place at PTNY. In Troy, NY a bike network plan is underway (funded by CDTC) and NACTO-derived demonstration projects for on-street facilities are being planned. The final plan is expected in early 2018. In Rockland County, PTNY is involved in planning connections to the new Mario Cuomo Bridge.

It has been about 1 year since the Empire State Trail announcement. The draft plan was released in August with the design guidelines following in October. PTNY is still

discussing EST branding and how it will mesh with the existing Erie Canalway Trail and other trails. The Champlain Canal received \$12M to develop approximately 22 miles of trail. The Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group & Hudson Crossing Park (HCP) recently received an Achievement Award for Intermunicipal Cooperation from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission. Work is underway on planning and alignment for the Albany/Hudson Electric Trail in Rensselaer County, NY. This is a 35-mile trail segment with 25 miles off-road and 10 miles on-road. Work is also underway on the Beacon Line Trail which will connect the Walkway Over the Hudson and the Dutchess Rail Trail with Putnam County. Meetings are also underway for approximately \$17.5M in work on the Erie Canal Trail between Utica and Amsterdam.

Regarding legislation, the State's Complete Streets law passed in 2011, but the exemption for maintenance and pavement recycling projects has been shown to limit the effectiveness of the law. NYS Reps. Ryan and Kennedy have legislation proposed to limit the exemptions, though there are some safeguards. NYSDOT is out in front of the law in many ways already. PTNY is working with AARP on this issue and any feedback is welcome. L. Wexler stated that it would be good to add a maintenance provision for consideration of wider shoulders, etc. An additional comment was made regarding the need to reformat the CS checklist – for instance text boxes don't allow for full text to be printed or saved and information gets cut off. Please send any questions or feedback to J. Meerdink.

PTNY is using a grant from GTSC to create a checklist and a rating system to rank safety at trail/roadway intersections PTNY would like input and engagement in this effort particularly as it relates to testing the tool. It is similar to Bicycle Level of Service for streets. This effort is based on the PTNY 2009 roads and trails intersections study. Jamie will send an email regarding this topic in the next few weeks. This project will also be discussed at the Walk – Bike NY Conference in Schenectady.

4. NYSDOT

- a) Pedestrian Safety Action Plan – T. Benware was not on the call. E. Dozier stated that Regina Doyle sent an email clarifying eligible projects for local PSAP applications. Rectangular rapid flashing beacons can not be used and replacing outdated signals can not be funded. E. Dozier will forward the email to S. Reigle for distribution to the Working Group.

5. Work Plan

- a) MPO Safety Education Toolkit – This is basically a list of resources available on the nysmpo.org website. This list/format can be updated when the website is updated. E. Dozier stated that the NYBC videos/link should be added to the site. In addition, NYSDOT's Pedestrian Safety PSA videos/links should also be added. We should also add an 'updated' date on the page for reference.

b) Complete Streets –

- a. Long-Range Plan Complete Streets Compilation – Please send any LRTP CS information to J. Levy (NYASMPO Staff Consultant). Once all the information has been compiled we can post it to the website.
- b. Complete Streets Implementation Guide and Training Program – We don't want to duplicate efforts with NYBC. E. Dozier suggested that the Work Group work with NYBC instead of doing something separate and there was general agreement that coordination with NYBC makes sense.
- c. Other: E. Dozier asked if anyone has thoughts about how to get road maintenance staff more involved in the process. There is a need to get out ahead of maintenance efforts by a few years so we have time to consider incorporating complete streets elements into projects. If anyone has information or case studies on where maintenance involvement has increased please let the group know. Geoff Urda shared that in Watertown, the Complete Streets Committee includes the City Engineer, Police Chief, and DPW Superintendent. They review all City projects, including resurfacing. This is a good case study for Complete Streets implementation.

c) Bike/Pedestrian Counts Update –

- a. DCTC undertook pedestrian and bicycle video and bicycle tube counts as part of their most recent traffic count contract. There were no privacy concerns raised as part of this effort but it was not a publicly advertised effort and no signage was installed alerting users to the video count being undertaken/in-progress. DCTC did notify local officials and police.

PTNY undertakes trail counts regularly and they notify local agencies/trail managers/DPWs that counts are taking place. The counters are infrared boxes (EcoCounter's pyro boxes). PTNY does not alert users to the presence of the counters. They are currently looking for a good, low-cost way to count intersections.

BMTS will include bike & pedestrian counts as part of their count program RFP. The bike & pedestrian counts will run for a 7-day period.

CDTC worked with PTNY to use their eco-counters which were installed for a one-week period.

- d) Work Plan Update – J. Levy stated that the workplan is being moved to align with the fiscal year beginning April 1st. It will be sent out for review and comment by the Working Group with comments due in January. It will be finalized in March and combined with other Working Group Work Plans.

6. Other Items

- a) SMTC Bike Safety PSA Project Update - M. Alexander provided an overview of the work on SMTC's bicycle safety PSAs. Four videos have been produced – three using videos from the League of American Bicyclists and the other using a video

from AAA. AAA has approved their PSA for use by other MPOs and SMTC is working with the League to get an agreement drafted. A question had been asked regarding the ability to provide Closed Captioning. The videos do not have this but it can be added for approximately \$200 each. The SMTC process was recently used as a case study in a national webinar. SMTC is working through the Safety Working Group to broadcast the AAA video statewide through GTSC.

- b) ADA Transition Plans/Inventories Update - S. Reigle asked if there were any updates regarding ADA Transition Plans and inventories. J. Mance stated that the Warren County Planning staff did a robust Transition Plan outreach effort. They did a significant inventory effort themselves and they are reaching out to rural communities. They have identified an issue related to locally maintained but County- or State-owned facilities – no one is sure exactly how to legally address issues at these locations. Warren County Planning staff will be presenting at CDTC tomorrow. E. Dozier stated that DCTC is developing a framework to create a Transition Plan. BMTS is working with locals to systematically undertake the effort(s). They have eight interns doing much of the inventory work and are using a template for the municipal plans. Two plans are completed with two additional plans underway.

7. Upcoming Events

S. Reigle reviewed the list of upcoming events:

- a) Walk-Bike NY 2018 – March 28-29 @ Proctors in Schenectady
b) 2019 International Trail Symposium – April 28-May 1, 2019 in Syracuse

Upcoming Working Group Meetings:

- In-Person: March 28th @ Walk-Bike NY; September- TBD
- Teleconference Calls: June 14th (10am-12pm); December 13 (10am-12pm)

8. Other

The Working Group will transition its leadership in 2018. S. Reigle and D. Krol will be stepping down and E. Dozier (Chair) and D. Staas (Co-Chair) will be chairing the Working Group.

Action Items

The following were noted for follow-up by the Chairperson:

- Next Meeting(s): In-person meeting @ Walk-Bike NY in March 2018
- MPO Safety Education Tool Kit – E. Dozier and J. Levy will make updates to the webpage
- Please send any LRTP CS information to J. Levy (NYASMPO Staff Consultant)