

NYSAMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group Meeting

Thursday June 11, 2015 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Conference Call

MEETING NOTES

1. Introductions / Roll Call

MPOS:

A/GFTC – Kate Mance

BMTS - Scott Reigle (chair)

CDTC – Jen Ceponis

ECTC – Scott Shaw

GTC – Bob Torzynski

OCTC – Ashlee Long

NYSDOT:

NYSDOT Main Office – Cathy Kuzsman, Tom Benware, Jim Ercolano

Region 1 – Valerie Deane

Region 2 – Tim Russer (for Joseph Kaczor)

Region 3 – Jeff Sterly

Region 4 – Bruce Cunningham

Region 9 – Mark Bowers, Katie Mangan

Region 10 – Lenny Wexler

NYBC: Lori Torgersen, Executive Director

NYSAMPO Staff: Corey Mack, RSG

2. Work Plan Implementation

a. Survey of Past Funding Recipients (S. Reigle)

The survey of past recipients of federal grants (TEP, SRTS, Bike / Ped / Trail, etc) was extended after the last meeting, and several more responses were collected from GTC and Region 4. The survey is intended to gauge the federal grant funding process from the perspective of the recipients. NYSDOT decided not to participate in the survey process. All MPOs were encouraged to participate, but conducting the survey is not mandatory MPOs.

S. Reigle discussed closing the survey. S. Shaw requested additional information on the survey, and indicated that additional responses may be gathered from municipalities in Ulster County. S. Reigle / C. Mack will send the survey information to S. Shaw; the survey will remain open to allow for additional response from Ulster County, but likely close before the next in person meeting.

After the survey is closed, the data will be compiled and the subcommittee administering the survey will hold another conference call to discuss the preliminary results.

b. Questions on Driving Exam (S. Reigle/ J. Wilson)

S. Reigle reported that Jen Hogan (NYS GTSC) has been communicating with the NYS DMV to update the online driver's manual to include recent updates to traffic laws, including the meaning of shared lane markings (sharrows), safe passing laws, pedestrian hybrid beacons (PHB, HAWK), and other recent advances in bicycle and pedestrian law.

The working group needs to determine how the online manual is maintained, how to get updated information to the responsible party, and how to verify the updated information is accurate.

(Driver's Manual: <http://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/drivers-manual-practice-tests>). S. Reigle to contact Jen Hogan for information on the process of updating the driver's manual.

c. Bicycle and Pedestrian Counters (S. Reigle/ L. Torgersen)

▪ **NYBC Statewide Analysis of Bike/Pedestrian Counting Practices (L. Torgersen)**

L. Torgersen noted that she has not had time since joining the NYBC to provide an update to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Practice Analysis and Report; she is looking forward to pursuing this in the upcoming months.

An introduction and more information on Lori's background is provided later in the notes.

▪ **MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts (S. Reigle)**

S. Reigle reminded the working group members that the NYSDOT Traffic Counting Contract can be used for local bicycle and pedestrian counts; please organize with your NYSDOT regional contracting representative. A number of MPOs are planning on conducting bicycle and pedestrian counts in the near future, but none have indicated intention to use the NYSDOT Counting Contract.

L. Wexler: Region 10 is interested in trying some infrared counts along a bike path; does the group have any experience in passive counting techniques:

- S. Reigle: attempts at using security footage for video counts were unsuccessful.
- B. Torzinsky: Considered use of red light cameras as a video source for counts, but the process was controversial
- J. Ceponis: PTNY has passive counters on the Erie Canalway trail and has been interested in data sharing with NYSAMPO. S. Reigle / J. Ceponis to reach out to PTNY for presentation on potential areas for coordination at next meeting.

J. Ercolano: NCHRP Report 797 documents many best practices for both manual and passive bicycle and pedestrian data collection methodologies.

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_797.pdf

d. Develop Fact Sheet on Bicycle & Pedestrian Laws (S. Reigle/E. Dozier)

S. Reigle: The fact sheet has been completed, and a final draft is available online for distribution and download: http://nysmpos.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/NYSAMPO_SafetyBikePed_Web_150401.pdf

S. Reigle thanked the various members of the subcommittee that developed the document, including members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group and Safety Working Group.

e. Economic Benefits Report (S. Reigle)

The online report library on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group page has yet to be updated based on the guidance from the previous meeting. **C. Mack to update and reorganize the Economic Benefits Report on the Working Group page.**

The Working Group discussed the possibility of PTNY to present the methodology and findings of the Economic Impact of the Erie Canalway Trail at the next in person meeting at UCTC in Kingston; **J. Ceponis will reach out to Frank Gotcsik at PTNY.**

f. FHWA Non-Motorized Safety Performance Measures – September 30, 2015

The performance measures are scheduled for release on September 30, 2015. There has been no change on the status of the project.

g. Walk-Bike NY 2016 (S. Reigle)

S. Reigle: The Walk-Bike NY 2016 conference is currently being planned by committee. It has been scheduled for 9/13/16 – 9/14/16 at the Syracuse Crowne Plaza. The committee is considering hosting a variety of presentations, and a call for abstracts may be coming soon. The early estimates for registration fees are expected to be less than \$100 for municipal/ state / non-profit attendees.

h. Complete Streets – MPO/Region Initiatives (All)

S. Reigle: Working Group is trying to document what the MPOs and Regions are doing around complete Streets.

- A. Long / OCTC: Working on including Complete Streets in LRTP; assisting individual municipalities develop complete streets resolutions; Healthy Orange Communities and Schools Grant recipient
- B. Torzinsky / GTC: Inclusion of Complete Streets in LRTP update
- J. Ceponis / CDTC: Draft LRTP includes Complete Streets component; looking for a consultant to develop workshops; seeking to coordinate regional projects with towns

- S. Reigle / BMTS: LRTP will include complete streets component; MPO is developing a complete streets policy based on a model developed by Evansville IN, draft policy for review in October.
- S. Shaw / ECTC: Awarded a Healthy Schools and Community Grant to develop policies to address complete streets; Chemung County identified as an Age-Friendly Community

3. NYSDOT Initiatives

a. Complete Streets

- **Checklist**

C. Kuzsman: The Complete Streets checklist is essentially complete but has not been signed by the executive committee for final approval; once this checklist is approved NYSDOT will notify the Working Group.

- **Workshops**

C Kuzsman: The hosts of the Complete Streets workshops have been identified (Fishkill, Elmira, Watertown, Suffolk County), but the dates have not been scheduled.

b. Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

C. Kuzsman: Comments from the working group were received and have been compiled with comments received from other groups; thank you Sandy Misiewicz.

M. Bowers: Will NYSDOT be reviewing the 1997 Statewide Plan? T. Benware: yes, in that much has changed since then, and the changes need to be captured, including the state bicycle route network, links to recreational trails, and coordinating this with the NY 511 network. The scope of the analysis, whether it includes review of the system outside the state routes, has not yet been determined.

M. Bowers: recommend a comprehensive team in the preparation of the document, and not just the bicycle and pedestrian coordinators. Without a variety of perspectives, the document may approach more of an advocacy document, rather than a safety plan. T. Benware: agrees with team approach, including planners, engineers, maintenance, and operations members.

4. Other Items

a. NYBC Executive Director: Lori Torgersen

Lori introduced herself and her background. She is a several weeks into the Executive Director position and is looking forward to the challenges of bicycle advocacy around the state. **Lori to present on the direction of the NYBC at the next meeting.**

A more complete biography on Lori and her background can be found on the NYBC website:

<http://nybc.net/nybc-hires-new-executive-director/>

b. NYSMAPO Statewide Conference: June 22-24, 2015

Agenda: http://nysmpos.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/NYSAMPO-2015-Conference-Reg-Brochure_-FINAL.pdf

There will be a walking tour around Syracuse on Monday, June 22 – details at the conference.

c. Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guidance

Resource for planning and design of separated bicycle lanes:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/separated_bikelane_pdg/page00.cfm

d. Region 9 Staff Transition: Mark Bowers announced his retirement, and Katie Mangen will taking over the bicycle and pedestrian coordinator position. Mark has been an insightful, thoughtful, and good natured member of the Working Group; his influence will certainly be missed by many. Many expressed their gratitude to have worked with Mark over the years, and we welcome Katie to the group.

5. Scheduling of 2015 Meetings

a. In-Person Meeting: Thursday, September 10, 10 AM – 4 PM at UCTC in Kingston

b. Teleconference: Thursday, December 10, 10 AM – 12 PM