



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs**  
**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP**  
**June 8, 2023**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Participating**

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Chaim Simon
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Courtney Taylor
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYBC – Thomas Benware
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Michael Grant
- NYSDOT – Yacob Shenkute
- NYSDOT – Bill O’Hern
- NYSDOT – Julie Baldwin
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT – Meghan Fennell
- NYSDOT – Christina Graveling
- NYSDOT – Yazzie Sarkees
- NYSDOT – Bruce Cunningham
- NYSDOT – Valerie Dean
- OCTC – Lauren Bennett
- OCTC – Jessica Ridgeway
- SMTC – Mike Alexander
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- Planning4Places – James Levy
- Urban Cycling Solutions – Dan Suraci
- GoBikeBuffalo – Amy Heidrich

**Introductions**

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

**Approval of Meeting Notes**

No edits requested.

**Presentation by Dan Suraci – Cycling Census**

Dan Suraci reported that there were nearly 14,000 responses to the survey, with all NYS counties represented and a good age distribution. It is one of the largest cycling surveys conducted in the U.S. The results were published in May and an online dashboard is available. You can download the report and access the database here:

<http://www.urbancyclingsolutions.com/cyclingcensus.html>. Dan provided an overview of the results, which included the following:

- The majority of respondents were frequent riders; respondents were interested in seeing more protected bike lanes or separated facilities; there is a need for more bike parking facilities, especially at transit stations, and for education of drivers and police.
- Many respondents stated that they could likely overcome a significant geographic or topographic barrier if they used an e-bike.
- Overall, New York residents are primarily riding for fitness, exercise, fun and health.

- Mental health and wellness was a top reason for cycling (80% of respondents) which Dan noted is a significant argument to fund bicycle infrastructure.
- A lack of safe routes for riding was noted as the biggest barrier to cycling. Fear of conflict with cars was also noted as was issues related to weather.
- There was a big gap between respondents stating that they ride for exercise/fitness and commuting, though commuting was a higher response in urban areas.
- Nearly 90% of respondents are interested in bicycle tourism and would like to find out more about opportunities.
- The survey found that more than half of respondents would ride more with the use of an e-bike and that younger respondents were more likely to use e-bikes.
- Trails were rated the highest of all infrastructure types; bike parking was rated the lowest.
- The survey was able to calculate that respondents save approximately 1,451 metric tons of CO2 in a year through their riding activities (for all trips – exercise, commuting, recreation, etc.) – the equivalent of 163,263 gallons of gasoline and 3,601,472 miles driven with an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle.

A key takeaway is that the narrative about cycling can be reframed based on real consumer preference data. The raw data is currently not publicly available but anyone can request data in MS Excel format from Dan at [dan@urbancyclingsolutions.com](mailto:dan@urbancyclingsolutions.com). Dan noted that the data is not representative of the overall population; this is stated in the report.

### **NYSDOT Updates**

Karen reported that the ATSP internal kickoff meeting has been held. The MPO Directors asked that the Bike/Ped WG MPO staff be the points of contact for this effort. VHB is working on the outreach plan. The Complete Streets checklist form has undergone an internal review and is being drafted. Kyle Fellows (from Highway Data Services) is moving over to Planning, focusing on Complete Streets. The Cost Estimator tool full update is nearly complete. It should be ready for distribution within about a month.

### **NYBC Updates**

Tom noted that NYBC is looking for a bike safety/education Assistant Director to help in administering the GTSC grant. Approximately 1,500 pocket guides and 1,600 e-bike rack cards have been distributed. Please let Tom know if you would like either of these materials. Tom is working with AAA to distribute the Respect rack card and is working to see if NYBC articles could be published in AAA publications. Also looking to see if AAA could incentivize members to take the League of American Bicyclists' Driver safety course. Tom is developing a PowerPoint presentation using the pocket guide materials for potential use at events or schools to educate people on bicycle safety. He will check to see if it can be shared. Emily suggested that NYBC post all of their outreach materials in an easy to find place on their website.

### **PTNY Updates** *(Provided post-meeting by Dylan Carey)*

Working on year two of our ["Empire State Trail Town" program](#), working with three communities along the Erie Canalway Trail (Lockport, Newark, and Rome) to allow them to better connect to and benefit from the Erie Canalway/Empire State Trail.

We have our annual ["Cycle the Erie Canal" Bike Tour](#) returning for its 25th anniversary from July 8 – July 16, and we're having the first ["Cycle the Hudson Valley: An Empire State Trail Adventure" tour](#) running from July 30 – August 5. We're happy to connect with folks interested in putting on an event or doing anything to connect to/benefit from the publicity of either tour.

We are releasing the first [NYS Greenway Trails Progress Report](#) (covering the period from Aug 2021 to Dec 2022). Thanks to those who submitted their projects to be sure we knew to include them! We expect to do another report covering projects that advance in 2023, likely to be released around this time next year. If you have any trail projects (or separated bike facilities that connect to trails) that make any progress in 2023 (planning, funding, construction, or any other progress), let us know and we'll include them in next year's report. We recently announced \$50,000 in grants to support our network of "Trail Towns" along the Genesee Valley Greenway in the Rochester/Finger Lakes area: <https://www.ptny.org/ourwork/support/community-trails-assistance/genesee-valley-trail-town-grants>.

Advocacy updates: PTNY and many other statewide organizations are part of the [NYS Safe Streets Coalition](#). This group has been focused on passing "Sammy's Law", which would allow NYC to lower their speed limit to 20 mph. The other bills include two complete streets-related bills (expanding when complete streets features need to be considered as part of projects), vehicle safety technology requirements, the Crash Victims Bill of Rights, and establishing a 3-foot minimum for drivers overtaking bicyclists.

Legislation was introduced that would create a rebate program for e-bikes ([S.314 Salazar/A.275 Carroll](#)). The legislation had multiple cosponsors and passed the Senate, but did not advance out of the Energy Committee in the Assembly. The rebates would be administered by NYSEDA, and would cover class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes and all e-scooters (as defined in state law) and would provide a 50% rebate up to a maximum of \$1,100.

The "Idaho Stop" bill ([A.3986 Fahy/S. 2643 May](#)), which would allow bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs and red lights as stop signs (and has been proven to increase bicyclist safety in the states where it is law) passed the Assembly, but not the Senate. There's also a federal e-bike tax credit bill that was introduced (<https://electrek.co/2023/03/21/electric-bike-tax-credit-bill-reintroduced/>). There's nothing that's definitely happening in terms of an e-bike tax credit at this point.

The [enacted FY2024 NYS Budget](#) included funding for a new capital program for NYSDOT - \$5,000,000 for complete streets projects: "For the payment of costs, including the payment of liabilities incurred prior to April 1, 2023, of complete street transportation infrastructure projects and complete street designs as determined by the commissioner of transportation, including but not limited to, state and local roads and bridges, including work appurtenant and ancillary thereto. Project costs funded from this appropriation may include but shall not be limited to engineering services, including personal services, nonpersonal services, fringe benefits, the contract services provided by private firms, and reimbursements to the dedicated highway and bridge trust fund and capital projects funds, for activities including but not limited to, the preparation of designs, plans, specifications and estimates; and appraisals,

surveys, testing and environmental impact statements for transportation infrastructure projects”.

### **Work Plan Items/Subcommittee Updates**

*Ped/Bike Counts* – The subcommittee recently met to discuss the prior meeting with NCDOT staff about a Statewide ped/bike count program in North Carolina. There was discussion about the need to continue coordination and look at a possible statewide count procedure. Karen noted that this is noted in the SHSP’s Vulnerable Road User plan.

*Cost Estimating Toolkit* – Update provide above by Karen.

*Shared Mobility* – There was a session at the NYSAMPO Conference and an opportunity for attendees to ride e-scooters. The Syracuse program is expanding and it is anticipated that there will be more shared scooters than shared bikes in the Syracuse area. Danielle will try to get demographic data on the users of the Syracuse program for Karen; Mike will share contacts with Karen of local service organizations that work with refugees, who use the scooters a lot.

*Work Plan Implementation* – If anyone has an idea for a new Fact Sheet, please let Emily or Jim know. The Work Plan is already underway and there isn’t anything specific that the group needs to start working on.

*MPO Conference debrief/update* – Everyone thought that the conference was very informative and useful. If anyone has questions regarding the liability session/prior discussion, please reach out to Mike at SMTC.

### **MPO Discussion items**

Emily noted that DCTC is mapping the locations of their planning studies. Jack noted that A/GFTC has a similar map that includes local plans to the extent that staff could identify plans that included bicycle recommendations. The struggle is to do the initial setup and then keep it up to date. Valerie noted that CDTC has a similar mapping system. Links: <https://cdta.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8a0a40b5792743bfb5cd396a373f4b1d>; <https://nysmpo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=df786a449d174b3085ebc57a90cb0cbd>; <https://agftc.org/bicycle-pedestrian/>. Karen noted that these mapping efforts could be very valuable for use with the CS Checklist.

### **Follow-up items:**

- Cycling Census: **Dan** to send Jim PPT for forwarding to the Working Group
- **All:** Email Dan for raw data.
- NYBC: **Tom** checking if PowerPoint based on pocket guide can be shared.
- **All:** email Tom for pocket guides, e-bike rack cards
- E-bikes: Demographics of users? **Danielle** will ask Paul re Syracuse system- may have info. **Mike A** will share contacts to refugee service orgs with Karen.
- Plan/Project maps: **Jim** to send links in email
- If anyone has an idea for a new Fact Sheet, please contact **Emily** or **Jim**.

### **Future meeting topics:**

- ADA assessment tools: **Jack** will mention joint meeting idea at next GIS WG mtg; **Karen L** will ask NYSDOT ADA group to share what they're doing; **Jim** will reach out to ESRI FieldMaps training participants re what they're using, examples, etc.
- SWG joint mtg re VRU plan, CLEAR for ped/bike safety: **Jim** to ask Alex re interest
- Modeling WG joint mtg or presentation re REPLICA: **Jim** to ask Jason D; **Chaim** to mention at next MWG call.
- NYC DOT presentation: **Jim** to ask Jen H
- MUTCD update (once done)
- Cycle tracks: **Karen** to ask BP coordinators re cycle track design best practices (including two way cycle tracks vs access to other side of the street)