



## NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

December 9, 2022

Virtual Meeting

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### MEETING NOTES

#### **Participating**

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Chaim Simon
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Colleen Smith Lemmon
- NYSDOT – Michael Grant
- NYSDOT – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT – Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT – Yacob Shenkute
- NYSDOT – Julie Baldwin
- NYSDOT – Jon Harman
- NYSDOT – Meg Fennell
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT – Lanny Wexler
- NYSDOT – Bruce Cunningham
- OCTC – Jessica Ridgeway
- SMTC – Michael Alexander
- UCTC – David Staas
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- PTNY – Erica Schneider
- NYSDOH – Jen Hogan
- GoBikeBuffalo – Ashley Smith
- Planning4Places – James Levy

#### **1. Introductions**

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

#### **2. Approval of Meeting Notes**

The June 2022 Zoom meeting notes were approved for posting to the website.

#### **3. GoBikeBuffalo Presentation – Buffalo High Injury Network Map**

Presentation by Ashley Smith (*PPT copy sent to Working Group members after the meeting*)

Public cost of crashes is \$1.1B for emergency response. Value is \$18.6m in Erie County.

The work recognizes the impact of current road system on vulnerable. Have made intentional effort to use “crash” instead of “accident.” Crash rates are not fundamentally due to human error but instead because of design. This effort used NYSDOT crash data and ARCGIS, creating buffers out to 1/100 mile from crash data points. Tabulated how many crashes occurred within a roadway buffer. There was no minimum roadway length used for this assessment. Significant limitations were identified. This effort only used reported crashes and there are a large percentage of crashes that aren’t reported. Some studies suggest that as little as 20% of bike crashes are reported. The San Francisco Bay area has done an analysis and has access to scrubbed/anonymous Emergency Room data (for those reporting being in a crash) which helps improve data. Normalizing by AADT excludes some roadways so this is an item to consider on impacts for future work. Emily asked if this work was conducted on locally owned roads. Ashley noted that the analysis was on municipally maintained roads. Emily noted that there has been pushback from NYSDOT on some treatments, even in villages. Karen noted that everything needs to be MUTCD compliant and unique color patterns aren’t generally compliant. NYSDOT is trying to identify design flaws, not just identify fatality locations – taking a systematic approach to the issue(s).

GoBikeBuffalo wants to build on the recently completed effort and will consider these issues for the next step(s). David mentioned the [Safe Streets Priority Finder](#) (put together by New Orleans through USDOT) which will take data and provide a sliding window analysis to break up road segments looking at crashes to create a model. Putting the data into the model to see what comes about. Alex noted that the tool has been used in the Rochester area.

Emily asked if this analysis looked at severity for crashes and injuries and how decisions on the level of analysis was determined. Ashley noted that it did look at severity. Given the available data, it was felt that only using subset of data (incidents resulting in a fatality) would skew the analysis. This effort wanted to get an understanding of all injuries because advocacy in this area isn't just about keeping walkers and cyclists safe, but also wanted to look at where high crash locations were located for all users.

#### **4. NYSDOT Updates**

Karen reported that the NYSDOT Active Trans. Strategic Plan is still in RFP process. Shortlisted two submissions. Final award has not been made. This is a really big effort which should kickoff in the first quarter of 2023. The RFP is still available online.

The Complete Streets Checklist has been reformatted with a new set of questions that have been drafted. The Department is generating guidance and hoping this will be available for review in the next several months. The goal of this work is to bring about positive bike/ped design integration into the state network.

#### **5. Partner Agency Updates**

PTNY – Dylan was on a call to discuss Statewide Greenway Trails Plan implementation. Most of the discussion was focused on trail counts. PTNY is working on deliverables for NYS Parks – An annual report providing an update on plan implementation and overall update on state of trails. Dylan anticipates reaching out to individuals to discuss improvements to greenway trails in each region that have occurred since April 2021. PTNY is also working on a greenway trails guidebook – from concept to construction and implementation. If anyone has case studies or resources that might be helpful, please provide them to Dylan.

A new guidebook for the Hudson Valley/Champlain Valley focused on promoting the Empire State Trail as a destination for cycling is in progress.

PTNY is working on trail count programs and has been working on the Genesee Valley Greenway. PTNY is also working with Canal Corp. on state count program. A PILOT was conducted in Brockport and the program is continuing into next year. Probably working with three communities next year.

With a new legislature in January, PTNY is looking at potential legislative and advocacy changes. Erica noted that the [NYS Safe Streets Coalition](#) had several successes last session. A statewide speed limit bill got passed as did as a DMV pre-licensing bill which will require bike/ped considerations in driver license exam. Still struggling with a Complete Streets funding bill. This bill would give municipalities greater funding for Complete Streets. If it is not signed by end of the year, the process will have to start over again in 2023.

There is a package of bills being looked at for the next session. If anyone has questions, please reach out to Erica.

NYSDOH – Jen Hogan reported on several efforts underway at the Department of Health.

The PSAP concluded in Dec. 2021. GTSC funding allowed NYSDOH to continue on with media buys as the NYSDOH implements the public outreach/engagement element of the PSAP.

With See & Be See implemented in June, NYSDOH promoted use of materials to law enforcement. Had over 71,000 materials shared during this operation.

There was a Law enforcement 10 question survey distributed. NYSDOH staff are going through it to see what information was provided and what the identified needs are.

Staff completed the obstructions material and yielding resources. Have translated See & Be Seen cards into additional languages (17 languages total).

Media campaigns – 4 delivered this past year including one on visibility, a new winter pedestrian campaign, a distractions campaign, and an obstructions campaign.

A law- based pedestrian safety video for K-5 looking at the top risky behaviors and video messaging to stay safe has been produced. NYSDOH is also working to develop English & Spanish coloring books to be sent across the state.

GTSC & DOH continue to coordinate meetings. NHTSA (Alison Beas) will be speaking at the upcoming December meeting. Jen co-leads the National Lifesavers Conference Bike & Ped group. If anyone can get to Seattle, please attend the upcoming meeting as it is good to have NYS representation.

For the coming year, NYSDOH will have new deliverables. The K-5 video produced will be developed into 10 second clips for social media (along with coloring books). There will be a script for failure to yield to create new PSA to understand how to yield. NYSDOH will continue with media buys. Have a lot of pedestrian safety initiatives going on. Emily asked where safety materials can be accessed, Jen noted that until official approvals are made, materials can't be posted. For now, any information available is on the [NYSDOH webpage](#) but all will be on the Governor's webpage.

Jen announced that NYSDOH has a new hire that started yesterday. Chris Alfonzo will be focusing on motorcycle and older driver safety, however, part of the job will be focused on micro mobility safety.

Emily noted that the yield law is confusing and asked if PTNY has looked at this as a legislative item. Dylan noted that it hasn't been a discussion item but it is something that could be looked into. Typically, efforts are based on legislation proposed by a legislator as it is more feasible for implementation vs. trying to request a new piece of legislation. Jen mentioned that New Jersey had a yield at crosswalks law, but it was changed to stop at crosswalks. It may be something to look at related to this discussion. Karen asked if there

has been any discussion of bicyclists and crosswalks as bicyclists are not protected in a crosswalk unless they are walking and not riding. Dylan noted that this was a topic of discussion last year and is an area for advocacy but so far, no legislator has taken up the issue.

## 6. Work Plan

Work plan items have been assigned to sub-committees.

- **Ped/Bike Counters Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee met in November. The focus was a discussion with Wichita area planners who were very interested in efforts taking place across New York State. They have been encouraged by State DOT officials to begin a local count program. To date, Wichita has only done manual counts, no automatic counts. The City had a program but it failed. MPO staff on the call shared what they are doing – explained the types of counters used, technology used, types of counts, methodology, and considerations such as cost and effort needed to take on a program. Security and maintenance issues, staff time & costs were also discussed. Scott noted that BMTS is getting great data that has been very useful, but it has also been expensive and required more staff time than was anticipated.

Dylan discussed the NYS Greenway Count coordination effort. Earlier in the week, the group had discussion about how to get a better understanding of what count programs are underway along Greenway trails in NYS. PTNY does counts, we know that there are MPO count programs underway, and others are doing counts as well. Sometimes two different groups have counters in same area and aren't coordinating on the efforts. This raised a broad question about how entities in NYS can coordinate/collaborate and work together to ensure that everyone gets data that is useful and also how the data can and should be used. A big question is what is occurring outside MPO areas. A question being asked is does it make sense to create a consistent statewide count methodology. How can we make sure everyone gets the most out of the different types of counts. How can we make sure there is a consistent methodology to ensure that, for instance, short term counts can be extrapolated into annual counts, etc. This topic will be a focus area for more discussion. Emily noted that NYSDOT is working on developing a methodology.

- **Quick Estimator Reference Tool Update**

Karen noted that NYSDOT staff have incorporated some of the requested items into the excel tool but it is still a work in progress.

- **Shared Mobility Update**

The webpage has been updated with new information provided by Emily. If anyone has information to post to the page in the future, please pass it along.

- **E-Bikes Fact Sheet**

Jack shared the Queensbury Local Law at the last meeting. If you read the meeting minutes from the meeting where it was adopted, you can see the arguments and

debates that came up during the review process. Erica noted that there is awareness that the e-bike legislation is confusing.

## **7. MPO Projects & Discussion Items**

Emily noted that there are efforts underway to develop a training on liability issues with Cornell Local Roads staff. If you have any questions to ask, Best Practices or case studies to share that could be useful in a training, please send the information along to Emily and David. Alex noted that this training will be useful for both ADA and crash analysis work. Planners need to continue to be able to point out that planning reduces liability.

Scott discussed a project in the BMTS area. The US11 over I-81 bridge replacement project includes two roundabouts, a connection to the 2-rivers greenway and to the college and farmer's market. The road part of the project is open and working well. The trail segment is not officially open, though people are out on the trail using it. The trail should be open by the end of the year. A permanent counter will be installed in the next week or so.

David provided an update on the Cycle Track in Kingston. The contractor did the final punch list items. Signals are in and operating properly. They are still having issues of cyclists not riding on the cycle track, but the corridor is moving smoothly and speeds are lower. All users are moving through the corridor quicker. Emily asked if the city undertaking an outreach & education effort. David noted that an effort is underway and UPWP funds are being used for bus wraps on the County bus system.

Jack provided a quick overview of the ESRI training. It provided good applications to use, especially for ADA. Some of the apps should make this type of work easier. There are good pavement scoring and other bike/ped tool that ESRI is touting. Tools will be more accessible to GIS and non-GIS staffers. Emily asked if any materials were provided? Jack noted that materials distributed were lessons worked on during the training. Anyone with questions should talk with staff in the office that took the training. Emily noted that DCTC staff that took the training were very excited about what they learned about field maps and that it seems there is a lot of potential to integrate current work with apps and forms, even for manual counts.

NYSAMPO Conference – Jim provided a quick overview.

## **8. Action Items**

The following items are noted for follow-up:

1. With the GoBikeBuffalo, Safe Streets Finder, NYSDOT efforts, the Clear System, and Safety Working Group discussions, this topic should remain a topic for discussion into the new year.
2. PTNY is working on a greenway trails guidebook – from concept to construction and implementation. If anyone has case studies or resources that might be helpful, please provide them to Dylan.
3. If anyone has information to post to the Shared Mobility page in the future, please pass it along.
4. If anyone has an idea for a session topic for the NYSAMPO Conference, please contact Jim.
5. Jim to talk with Urban Cycling Solutions about status of Cycling Census work.
6. Jen Hogan to share results from the Police survey; send links to the Failure to Yield

publication; and share the K-5 safety videos.

7. NYSDOT to share the updated Quick Estimator Reference tool when ready.
8. All: send Nicole examples/programs for FHWA's collection of best practices for bike/pedestrian count data, facility data, condition data.
9. All: send Jim any shared mobility data from within your region for posting to the Shared Mobility page.
10. Lanny to provide a presentation on his trip to and from Albany by bike.
11. Resources/links:
  - Town of Queensbury e-bike law (*Distributed to the Working Group after the meeting*)
  - City of Kingston Broadway project (Be a Road Hero - <https://engagekingston.com/be-a-roadhero>)