



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP
March 7, 2023
Virtual Meeting
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Jennifer Ceponis
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Courtney Taylor
- FHWA – Nicole McGrath
- GBNRTC – Amy Weymouth
- GTC – Alex Kone
- ITCTC – Fernando deAragon
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYBC – Thomas Benware
- NYMTC – John Simpson
- NYSDOH – Jen Hogan
- NYSDOH – Kris Alfonso
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Colleen Smith Lemmon
- NYSDOT – Michael Grant
- NYSDOT – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT – Bruce Cunningham
- NYSDOT – Yacob Shenkute
- NYSDOT – Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT – Bill O’Hern
- NYSDOT – Julie Baldwin
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT – Meghan Fennell
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT – Renee Casler
- NYSDOT – Christina Graveling
- NYSDOT – Lanny Wexler
- NYSDOT – Bruce Cunningham
- NYSDOT – Valerie Dean
- OCTC – Alan Sorensen
- OCTC – Jessica Ridgeway
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- UCTC – David Staas
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- Planning4Places – James Levy

Introductions

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Notes

No Edits requested.

Presentation by Lanny Wexler – Bike on AMTRAK & ride to NYC

Lanny is a recently retired NYSDOT Region 10 Bike/Ped coordinator who is now living in Florida. He took Amtrak to Albany with his bike and rode his bike back to the Bronx. It took 4 days to ride and covered 235 miles. State Route 9G out of Hudson was one of most challenging. Bikes use the shoulder on the Rip Van Winkle Bridge as they are not allowed on the new (pedestrian-only) [Skywalk](#). The Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge required riding on the shoulder of Rt 199 (though there is a separate path for pedestrians). Next, Lanny rode on the Walkway Over the Hudson

and Dutchess Rail Trail. On the Dutchess Rail Trail, signs asked cyclists to dismount in areas with no traffic. On the Maybrook Trail, cyclists were asked to dismount for a tractor crossing. The last day was from Brewster to the Bronx. The Putnam Greenway is showing its age. Overall, it was a very enjoyable trip and the trail was well marked. The PTNY Cycle the Hudson Valley tour will take place this summer.

NYS DOT Updates

Active Transportation Plan – Karen announced that a team led by VHB & Toole with other subconsultants has been designated. The contract needs to go to the AG’s Office and State Comptroller’s office for approval. The plan update will start around April. Staff is starting to pull together data. Anticipate reaching out to Regional Bike/Pedestrian coordinators and MPOs/MPO Directors to get a robust list of partners to be involved and to get data. Have elaborate structure put in place to ensure input from everyone and allow for logical points for input. Karen will be giving a presentation on the Plan at the NYSAMPO Conference. Meghan will be very involved in this project. Colleen and Korie have been instrumental in getting the project to this point. Looking forward to participation from everyone during the planning process. The Plan could recommend some changes to the bicycle/pedestrian planning structure at NYS DOT.

Complete Streets Checklist – NYS DOT staff is still working on it. Questions have been drafted and the format is being reviewed.

A ped/bike counts policy is also being discussed. NYS DOT wants more counts in place but doesn’t have in-house resources to put it together. This will be addressed in the new Active Transportation Plan.

FHWA Updates

Nicole shared some staffing updates. She will be on maternity leave until mid-August. Her office will have a new planner, Ben, starting next week. Gautam or Ben may participate on this working group while Nicole is absent.

All MPOs went through the UPWP cycle so should know there is 2.5% set-aside for Complete Streets planning. Working through how it looks in UPWP documentation. Timing is a bit off but a Complete Streets Set Aside Waiver was approved last month waiving the non-federal (local) share, so can be 100% federally funded.

FHWA announced a request for information for comments on strategies, regulations, and design standards to help improve safety for all road users on federal-aid projects. Any input is greatly appreciated (deadline is March 9) - see <https://www.publicinput.com/improvingroadsafety>.

Nicole reminded everyone that there are a number of grants coming out in the next few months that are related to bike/pedestrian projects. There can be a short turnaround for submission once NOFOs are released. Tom asked if there is a list of bike/ped projects in NYS that are being funded by the new infrastructure law? Nicole doesn’t believe there is a master list as these types of projects are often integrated into other projects. With each discretionary grant, the recipients are listed (SS4A announced last month, for instance). Emily noted a map dashboard that shows awarded BIL funds: <https://d2d.gsa.gov/report/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-bil-maps-dashboard>.

Colleen noted that Lisa Cataldo is aware of the UPWP and waiver item and is looking at the financial implications for the UPWP.

PTNY Updates

Dylan noted that PTNY has a new Executive Director – Paul Steely White. He was formerly with Transportation Alternatives in NYC.

NYS Parks Greenway Trails Plan implementation – due for another meeting in March - <https://www.ptny.org/our-work/support/nys-greenways-plan>. PTNY staff is working on annual progress reports of projects undertaken – celebrating projects done across the state. It is drafted and should be finalized in April or May. This effort will provide a comprehensive look at projects across the state. Staff is also updating *Getting Started – guide to developing trails in NYS*. It will likely be updated this summer.

Cycle the Erie Canal will take place the second week in July with Cycle the Hudson Valley the last week in July/first week in August. Can always email Dylan with any questions.

Legislative items – Bills passed at end of last year included one permitting the lowering of municipal speed limits to 25mph. Funding formulas for Complete Streets projects & increase in match – not sure where implementation is currently. A \$5M Complete Streets implementation pilot program is in the Governor's budget. Not much detail about it yet. Still looking at a 3' (or more) passing law. Also, a Complete Streets bill that requires maintenance projects to use the Complete Streets checklist has passed the Senate again. The NY Safe Streets Coalition is trying to get these passed. The Assembly has been reluctant to pass them while the Senate has been more receptive.

NYBC Updates

Tom introduced himself to the Working Group in his new role as the Bicycle Safety Director at NYBC. Tom announced that Anne Savage is NYBC's new Interim Executive Director. She will be focusing on non-grant activities, including advocacy and administrative work.

Tom has inherited a broadly scoped traffic safety grant from GTSC. Trying to get organized and figure out how best to deliver it. There are several elements to the grant – developing and expanding education and training materials (most notably the pocket guide produced by NYBC that will be produced again), law enforcement training to train officers about bike/ped rules of the road and enforcement techniques, and an effort to get physical education teachers to include bicycle safety/etiquette in their education programs. Hope to provide more detail in the future on these efforts.

NYSDOH Updates

Jen announced that Kris Alfonso has been hired and will be focusing his work on micromobility projects. NYSDOH also has a new Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) outreach coordinator.

Police Survey results – When PSAP kicked off, GTSC used to hold at least 2 pedestrian safety trainings for law enforcement. The last several years because of the pandemic, these efforts were tabled. Staff is working on law enforcement efforts, including developing a newer training video on vehicle and traffic laws. During the COVID lull, NYSDOH did a survey asking law

enforcement for feedback to determine the use of See and Be Seen resources. Over 62% of respondents were not aware of the resources. Law enforcement has significant turnover which could account for this. NYSDOH will be working with GTSC to start looking at educating the law enforcement community.

Materials – The new Failure to Yield publication is at <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/8058.pdf>. There is also a [new K-5 video](#), coloring books and NYSDOH is working with communications/outreach and education to develop short videos. GTSC continues to fund PSAs and campaigns. Upcoming is a distractions campaign tied to the NHTSA distracted driving national campaign. There is a written and approved script for a Failure to Yield PSA video which will be produced this summer.

Work Plan Items/Subcommittee Updates

Ped/Bike Counts Subcommittee: Scott noted that NCDOT staffer Sarah Surci provided a presentation on a statewide ped/bike count program they undertake. She talked about equipment installation and maintenance, how to work with locals on maintenance, and how they handled different situations and common issues. It was helpful to see how they manage and report their data.

Greenway Counts Coordination: Dylan noted that PTNY is working on reports summarizing counts on Canalway trail. The Hudson River Valley Greenway is working on a similar report for the Empire State Trail in the Hudson Valley. If MPOs have counts on the EST, send them to PTNY. This will be a major topic of discussion at the next Greenway Trails meeting. Karen asked Dylan to reach out to Michael Grant (NYSDOT Hwy. Data Services) to include him in Greenway Trail meetings.

Cost Estimating Tool: Colleen & Karen noted that the tool is still in the update process. Working with office of Design staff. No ETA on a completion date. A total of 10 elements have been requested to be added to the tool. They have added 5 so far. Staff is working to see if others can be added. This tool is helpful for use by locals and it is important to get the costs updated. Working hard to move it along. It may be possible to release a partial update.

Shared Mobility – Jim has updated the [Shared Mobility webpage](#). If there is any new content you would like added, please send it to Jim.

Working Group Work Plan – It is moving forward at the Directors level. Jim will provide any feedback received.

MPO Discussion items

Strategic Highway Safety Plan: FHWA and ICF facilitated a Vulnerable Road Users call. A packet of information was sent out. If anyone wants a copy, please contact Emily. Looking at stats for bike/ped crashes and strategies that could be incorporated into the updated Plan. Also interested in broadening outreach to incorporate participation by under-represented groups and identify anyone working with under-served groups that aren't typically at the table but that are disproportionately impacted. Christina noted that the majority of the conversation was focused on identifying and contacting stakeholders. Send contact information to Emily. If you would like to participate, contact Emily or Andrew Sattinger at NYSDOT.

NYS Cycling Census: The draft dashboard and report are under review by NYSERDA. Emily reviewed them per a request from Dan Suraci. Karen noted that it was a targeted survey and thus, there is some concern about how it can be used since it wasn't a blind survey. Emily agreed that it was not a random sample – the results reflect those who wanted to take it and had the time to do so. However, there are trends identified that could be useful in bicycle planning work.

Liability Training: Alex Kone discussed the session with David Orr from Cornell Local Roads. Videos of the training are posted for viewing online (2/16 [Liability Training](#) with Cornell Local Roads Program). The SWG will try to distill some of this down to use in regional safety plans and will share their work with the Bike/Ped Working Group. There will be a session with David at the NYSAMPO conference.

[Governor's Highway Safety Association](#) – Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State, 2022 Preliminary Data: This report found a stark increase in pedestrian deaths vs. pre-pandemic.

MPO Conference in-person meeting & June WG meeting ideas

Karen asked what MPOs want to see in the NYSDOT Active Trans. Plan and if a discussion on the Plan could be conducted at the MPO Conference. Karen will share the scope in advance so we can discuss it. Danielle will work with Emily, Jim, and Alex on scheduling.

For the next regular Working Group meeting in June, Jen Hogan noted that there is a NYC Older Adult Pedestrian Study. Jen will ask Kim Wiley-Schwartz if she can present on it.

Follow-up items:

- **All:**
- See the RFI on Improving Road Safety for All Users: <https://www.publicinput.com/improvingroadsafety>
- SHSP/Vulnerable Road Users group is looking to identify and contact stakeholders. Send any ideas of contacts to Emily.
If MPOs have counts on the EST, send them to PTNY.
- [Shared Mobility webpage](#): If there is any new content you would like added, please send it to Jim
- **Jim** will schedule a Counters subcommittee meeting to follow-up on discussion with NCDOT.
- **Karen** will share the ATSP scope in advance so we can discuss it at the NYSAMPO Conference WG meeting. Danielle will work with Emily, Jim, and Alex on scheduling.
- **Jen** will ask Kim Wiley-Schwartz if she can present on NYC's Older Adult Pedestrian Study