

# Safety Working Group Mission

**“To advance initiatives intended to preserve, maintain, and improve traffic safety for all users in New York State”**

## What is an MPO and the NYSMPO Association?

**Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)** are federally required entities responsible for coordinating regional transportation processes and approving federal transportation funding in metropolitan areas.

**The NYSMPO Association** is a coalition of 13 MPOs in New York State that works to advance initiatives through working groups (such as the Safety Working Group) and to pool financial resources for training, planning, and research.

## What is the Safety Working Group (SWG) and what does it do?

**The SWG** is a coalition of MPOs, state, and federal agencies working to advance safety initiatives intended to preserve, maintain, and improve safety for all users in New York State.

The SWG discusses safety-related issues in an effort to advance safety planning in New York State among local, state, and federal partners. The SWG holds teleconferences on a monthly basis and biannual in-person Safety Roundtable meetings to discuss SWG goals and related action items.

## Recent Accomplishments

- Assisted in developing the NYS Strategic Highway Safety Plan
- Presented SWG activities at NYSMPO, ITE, AMPO and other safety-related conferences
- Hosted safety planning related courses and training sessions to disseminate planning safety information to MPO staff and statewide partners
- Coordinated with the NYS Police to advance and disseminate information related to TraCS
- Participated in safety data-related initiatives, including the Traffic Records Coordinating Council
- Established a Human Behaviors subcommittee to increase awareness about safety and the influence of human behavior with the goal of saving lives

## Current Activities

*The Safety Working Group undertakes multiple initiatives and is constantly looking for new and innovative methods and programs that will assist in carrying out the SWG mission. Some of these activities include:*

**Safety Assessment Guidelines** - A NYSMPO Association Shared Cost Initiative (SCI) Project funded through a NYSDOT State Planning and Research Grant, this document provides guidance to MPOs, local municipalities and others interested in undertaking a Safety Assessment within their jurisdiction. Interest in the Safety Assessment by MPO partners and others has been significant.

**TraCS Involvement** - The SWG is working with the NYS Police to support implementation of TraCS by local police agencies through regular tracking, advocacy for its use, and continual conversations and coordination with the NYS Police in the TraCS program roll-out.

**Human Behaviors Subcommittee** - This subcommittee of the SWG has brought in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for a presentation, facilitated the NYSMPO Association joining the NYS Association of Traffic Safety Boards, and has advocated and begun discussions with the public health community in New York State.

**ALIS and Data** - The SWG has a longstanding relationship with NYSDOT and Accident Location Information System (ALIS) and continues to be a significant partner in program monitoring, ensuring local access, and assisting with local data and crash rate issues.

**Outreach** - The SWG is continuously looking for new partners, involvement, and opportunities to advance safety planning in New York State. In 2008, the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) became more significantly involved in the SWG and the SWG began submitting articles to the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee for their quarterly newsletter.



*If you would like to get involved with the NYSMPO Safety Working Group, please visit [www.nysmpos.org](http://www.nysmpos.org)*

## NYSMPO Safety Working Group Members

Adirondack-Glens Falls Transportation Council (agftc.org)

**Sarah Gebbie-Measeck**

Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study (bmtsonline.com/bmts)

**Cyndi Paddick**

Capital District Transportation Committee (cdtcmpo.org)

**Sandra Misiewicz (co-chair)**

Elmira-Chemung Transportation Council (elmirampo.org)

**Jay Schissell (co-chair)**

Genesee Transportation Council (gtcmpo.org)

**Robert Torzynski**

Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (gbnrtc.org)

**Hector Boggio**

Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Study (hocts.org)

**Matt VanSlyke**

Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council (tompkins-co.org/itctc)

**Fernando de Aragon**

New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (nymtc.org)

**Chris Hardej**

Orange County Transportation Council (orangecountygov.com/planning/octc)

**Todd Cohen**

Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council (dutchessny.gov/pdctc.htm)

**Eoin Wrafter**

Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (smtcmpo.org)

**Mario Colone**

Ulster County Transportation Council (co.ulster.ny.us/planning)

**Sweta Basnet**

Federal Highway Administration (fhwa.dot.gov)

**Christine Thorkildsen**

Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (nysgtsc.state.ny.us)

**Chuck DeWeese**

New York State Department of Transportation (nysdot.gov)

**Marty Neveu**

New York State Police (troopers.state.ny.us)

**Jim Daily**

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