

NYS Safety Working Group - NOTES
Teleconference – January 25, 2008
1:00 PM

Participants:

Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
Jay Schissell, ECTC
Matt VanSlyke, HOCTS
Chris Hardy, NYMTC
Hector Boggio, GBNRTC
Sweta Basnet, UCTC
Kristina Hong, AGFTC

Todd Cohen, Orange County
Eoin Wrafter, PDCTC
Bob Torzynski, GTC
Emmett McDevitt, FHWA
Brian Malone, Synetics
Mike Croce, Bergmann
Jim Levy, Wilbur Smith

1) Preliminary Discussion:

Traffic Records Coordinating Council of NYS – State needs to make a new application for Section 408 funds.

Changes at GTSC – There have been staffing changes.

Chuck DeWeese, Assistant Commissioner

Jim Allen – Direction of Operations (Ken Carpenter’s former job)

David Swarts – Chair

2) Safety Audit Project Update/Status

At the last meeting, the SWG reviewed the outline documents and the consultant is working to make revisions and redistribute updated documents. The consultants are hopeful to get out to the audit sites soon.

Hot Topic – Barriers and legal considerations. For this section, we need to be careful with the wording and language in the document. The summary of a previous SWG call details previous MPO discussions very well. Barriers and legal concerns are a big deal and there are legitimate concerns. Concern by locals is significant issue.

Possible approach to address concerns:

- Add an additional section detailing methods to overcome challenges to the SA process?
- Consider revising the outline so that Section 13 isn’t legal considerations, but use as a single chapter (maybe an appendix?) to address all barriers, with discussion of legal issues, but focus on highlighting potential concerns and address them up-front?
- Try to anticipate potential issues and urge municipalities to move forward and not give up.

Discussed other items from previous SWG call summary. Emphasized the need to keep the document language positive and flexible enough that MPOs and municipalities can both use the document(s) (Full version and detailed “Exec. Summary”).

Discussed SA Project Study Locations. Generally agreed that the project should include 1 large city (NYMTC region), 1 medium-size city (Syracuse or Rochester?) and 1 rural area (Elmira?)

Should consider locations based on high accident locations to show potential cause and effect. Need to, hopefully, be able to show statistical significance to help sell the SA process.

The SWG needs to decide when locations will be officially identified/confirmed? The consultant would like to do the location work by spring.

Dates discussed:

- 1) Draft (revised) document - To be done by Mid-March
- 2) Next Safety Assessment Meeting— Teleconference in Mid-March when document is ready with an in-person review sometime after the teleconference discussion.

3) Human Behaviors

Matt has developed an outline of role for this sub-committee which will serve as the goals for 2008:

Goals:

1. *Continue contact/outreach with local TSBs – There are currently varying levels of involvement with TSBs at each MPO*
2. *Consider joining the State Association of Traffic Safety Boards*
3. *Improve contacts and keep involved in GTSC activities*

Question - Who will official members of this committee be? Suggestion made that Matt contact individuals as needed and work with SWG.

Jay will send Article 43, Section 1672-1677 (TSB Outline) to Matt.

4) Crash Data and Traffic Volumes

Discussed a previously held teleconference discussion regarding data integration (Between MPOs and NYSDOT) related to crash data. NYSDOT is working on doing analysis of each county like was done with Onondaga County. Need an updated matrix (likely by March) and then will move forward. This effort is a good reason to get GIS working group going again. Previously distributed information related to the NYSDOT work in Onondaga County will be redistributed to the SWG.

5) GTSC Outreach Goals

Need to establish a relationship, contact and keep informed on GTSC activities.

Jim Levy to draft letter and materials about MPO Association & SWG to send to GTSC. Need to get to GTSC before March. Sandy has email addresses and will forward the most up-to-date SWG outline.

Goals:

- 1) *Establish on-going relationship with GTSC*
- 2) *Discuss with GTSC where they are headed in the future*

6) TraCS

The data lag is not related to DMV anymore. The NY State Police were at a meeting Sandy attended today. Update: 240+ agencies currently using TraCS. 400+ signed up to use the system.

A change in the procedures for the NYS Police – Officers now have a requirement to add XY coordinates before the record can be accepted. Thus, at the State Police level—should not have any records without geographic data. At local level, can't foresee them doing this, so locals may not have the geographic information.

Chris to distribute questions to SWG for review/additional comment, then send on to Jim Daily for his review prior to February teleconference call.

TraCS Data - Coding isn't being done sequentially.

Goals:

- 1) *Training – Keep tabs on opportunities and add to monthly SWG agenda for discussion*
- 2) *Develop a list of agencies using the system (find out if it currently exists).*
 - a. *Who is submitting batch files? (NYSDOT assessing utilization)*

Training Opportunities:

- 1) Road safety audit Federal Training workshops - Albany, Rochester - 8 workshops total
- 2) Bike/Ped sessions will take place at NYSDOT Main Office.
- 3) Pedestrian Workshop – 35 people max.—2 downstate, Orange, Syracuse, Albany, Rochester

7) ALIS

There are 5 phases. The first four are in production mode. NYMTC can access LESQIR now. The 12 MPOs (other than NYMTC) will have access to ALIS through NYSDOT, in the same manner as if the MPOs were a contractor working with NYSDOT. Each MPO needs to provide 3 names to NYSDOT for access to the system – these people should be the 3 most likely to use the data/system. MPOs should send the 3 key names to Sandy.

It is estimated that the system will be up and running in late Feb/March. There was a question on local government outreach and how word is going to get out and locals will get access to ALIS. It has not yet been determined how this is going to happen.

Goals

- 1) *Get all MPOs online as quickly as possible.*
- 2) *Ensure word gets out about ALIS*

8) NYSMPO Conference

The SWG will hold the Roundtable discussion on Thursday morning. Topics to be discussed:

- o Safety Assessment (Bergmann)
- o ALIS
- o TraCS

Can/will there be Teleconferencing ability? Want to make sure everyone is at meeting or can at least participate? Jim Levy will have to look into what options are available.

9) Other

NYS Safety Conference—Need to put together application in February – Due March 1. Jim Levy to draft application.

- o Session Application from MPOs: Safety Assessment SCI Project
- o Need to ensure that there is a proposal for a TraCS and safety planning process session (Need to work with Jim Daly)
- o Location: October 19-22, 2008 - Sheraton SU Hotel and Conference Ctr, Syracuse
- o Online Information: ITSMR.org

Future SWG meetings will be held the last Friday of the month, except November and December. The schedule for the remainder of the year therefore is as follows:

February 29	August 29
March 28	September 26
April 25	October 31
May 30	November 21 (This is the 3 rd Friday – moved due to Thanksgiving)
June 27	December 19 (This is the 3 rd Friday – moved due to Christmas)
July 25	