

NYSMPO Safety Working Group – Meeting Notes
Teleconference - October 31, 2008
10:00AM

Participants:

Chris Hardej - NYMTC
Bob Torczynski - GTC
Cyndi Paddick - BMTS
Emily Dozier - PDCTC
Mike Perry - ECTC
Matt VanSlyke - HOCTS
Jay Schissell - ECTC
Todd Cohen - OCTC

Natalia Grigoryants - NYSDOT
Barbara O'Rourke - NYSDOT
Marty Neveu - NYSDOT
Jackie Berlant - NYSDOT
Jim Allen - GTSC
Jim Daily – NYS Police
Christine Thorkildsen - FHWA
Jim Levy, Wilbur Smith Associates

1) Human Behavior

Edits are needed to the Human Behaviors section. Mr. Levy will work with Mr. VanSlyke to make edits and will post the revised meeting notes to the nysmpos.org website.

2) Safety Assessment SCI

All SWG members have been able to access the consultant site to download the file(s). There are some edits needed – any comments should be forwarded to Mr. Levy and/or Mr. Schissell for compilation into one document that will be forwarded to the consultant. The consultant has agreed to draft a pamphlet about the SA for distribution. It was generally agreed that the document is good and that there were only minor edits needed. Some of the edits discussed included the following:

- P.1 – 2nd bullet in the green box – change the word “eliminate” to “reduce”
- P.4 – Letter C, 2nd bullet – change the word “eliminate” to “reduce”
- P.5 – Independent SA Team section – 3rd bullet - need to change the text “Sourcing an SA Team Leader from outside of the functional group”
- P.6 – Qualitative Assessment section – spell out “RSA”

If extra copies of final document are needed, the NYSMPO should be able to print them.

3) TraCS

Chris Hardej will follow up on the Suffolk County-related TraCS issues. The NYS Police have applied for a grant to continue to purchase equipment for local police departments. As with all agencies, fiscal issues are a concern but it seems likely that funding will be provided. The issue of aging technology, specifically old computers, is becoming an issue. Replacement is an issue since the TraCS grant program was intended to be seed-money to implement TraCS, not to maintain and replace it. Mr. Allen stated that with aging technology it will be necessary to develop a system to ensure new technology is provided when it is needed. This is an issue that could be discussed between the MPOs and the TSBs. Mr. Levy was requested to put a link to TraCS on the nysmpos.org website – a link to the GTSC already exists.

4) **ALIS**

OFT security programming is approximately 50% complete. There is no official release date yet. PIES is running and NYSDOT regional engineers have been requested to put all recent investigations into system. NYSDOT Main Office will be inputting the older data.

A letter will be sent to the NYSMPO Association, c/o John Poorman, asking for information on the data MPOs currently have because traffic matrices are not consistent and don't seem complete in some cases. The request will be in the form of a spreadsheet that asks questions about what is being collected and by what agency.

Mr. Wrafter stated that it may be interesting to see how NYSDOT will undertake the additional counts. Ms. O'Rourke stated that it was never the intent of NYSDOT to take over the MPO count program. When this program moves forward, there should be many more local road counts.

5) **Human Behaviors**

Discussed ideas for an article in the January GTSC newsletter. It was decided that an article generally describing MPOs, what they do and who they work with could be a useful article. It was reiterated that the SWG is committed to developing 4 articles a year for the newsletter, however, if there is no substantive material for a publication, it would probably be best not to submit anything.

Mr. Allen suggested that the article could be a "Picture Article" which typically includes a photo with a paragraph(s) write-up. One such topic could be - "How MPOs are a resource to TSBs" The previously discussed MPO outreach powerpoint has not yet been developed.

Mr. Wrafter will send some "MPO 101" powerpoint presentations to Mr. VanSlyke for his use in developing an article and to Mr. Levy for possible posting on the nysmpos.org website.

Mr. VanSlyke asked if it is possible for MPOs to receive more information on specific awarded GTSC projects shown in the announcement since they are simply a list. Mr. Allen recommended that MPOs contact GTSC about any project if they would like to receive more information.

6) **SWG Bi-Fold Brochure**

The most recent version is more consistent with the design the SWG would like to have. There are a few edits that were noted by Mr. Levy. These changes will be made and the draft-final brochure will be sent out for SWG review/comment prior to the Nov. 14 meeting so that a final review can be undertaken by the SWG before distributing the document.

7) Staff Work

Since RSA funding for the Safety Tips brochure was not awarded through the grant program, the SWG needs to consider other options. An application for grant funding through GTSC was discussed but it was determined that since printing and supplies requests are very difficult to get funded through the program, this probably was not a worthwhile pursuit.

An alternative idea of developing individual safety sheets for posting to the web was discussed. Sheets could be developed for several different categories, distributed as needed, and posted to the nysmpos.org website. The sheets could be printed "as-needed" instead of in a single large-printing. This idea could be a viable candidate for funding through GTSC, but with the funding cycle coming to a close for 2008, it would likely need to be applied for in future years. Mr. Levy was asked to develop general categories for potential safety sheets and begin the process of outlining the potential project. A SWG sub-committee may need to be established to work on these.

8) 2008 Annual NYS Highway Safety Conference

The meeting session went well and got positive feedback.

9) Safety Assessment Term Agreement

This is a concept where the MPOs would develop a fund to undertake Safety Assessments around the state. The method of funding is an issue. NYSDOT staff have discussed this proposal and the SCI process seems to be the only option available to administratively undertake a process like this.

10) November In-Person Meeting at CDTC

Potential ideas for the meeting agenda were discussed.

- I. Marjorie Geiger may be available to do a presentation in afternoon on EMS/MPO cooperation in safety planning.
- II. A TraCS database use presentation may be valuable to the group. Ms. Misiewicz will follow up with Mr. Daily.
- III. A potential presentation by the older/younger driver unit at DMV. GTSC will provide a contact name to Sandy.
- IV. Review of Safety Planning in Europe – Presentation by Ms. Misiewicz regarding her recent trip to Europe.
- V. The final items on the agenda should be the remaining monthly discussion topics.

11) Training

Mr. Hardej stated that Cornell will be coming out with a bike/pedestrian training course soon.

12) Next Meeting(s)

November 14 – In-person meeting at CDTC
December 19 - Teleconference