

NYSMPO Safety Working Group – Meeting Notes
Teleconference – February 26, 2009
1:30PM

Participants:

Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
Jay Schissell, ECTC
Emily Dozier, PDCTC
Matt VanSlyke, HOCTS
Harry Miller, HOCTS
Bob Torzynski, GTC
Todd Cohen, OCTC

Sarah Gebbie-Measeck, A/GFTC
Marty Neveu, NYSDOT
Natalia Grigoryantz, NYSDOT
Barbara O'Rourke, NYSDOT
Hector Boggio, GBNRTC
Cindy Paddick, BMTS
Jeane Stadler, Wilbur Smith Associates

1. Introductions

2. Meeting Notes

Mr. Schissell asked that the meeting notes from January be revised to recognize the level of effort Ms. Misiewicz is putting in to the SWG and that he is resigning as co-chair because Sandy has stepped-in to fully take on the needs of the SWG.

For the safety assessment discussion topic, a change is needed to state that CDTC is not going to use CDTC staff for SA's, they will be hiring consultants. Under the MPO Conference, the topic should be "older" driver, not "younger" driver. Under ALIS update, the notes need to reflect that Ms. Neveu spoke with Barb Mullin regarding the MPO traffic count survey, not ALIS. For the Human Behaviors section, a clarification is needed that the Powerpoint is being developed for presentation to the statewide TSB group/meeting. Mr. VanSlyke is currently finalizing the presentation.

3. Summary of Recent Statewide Meetings

Ms. Misiewicz attended two statewide meetings on behalf of NYSMPO. First, the NYS Association of Traffic Safety Boards (Mr. VanSlyke was unable to attend), which is a group the SWG should get involved with more regularly. There is some overlap between what the TSB group does and the SWG, GTSC, and others. The second statewide meeting was the Traffic Records Coordinating Council. This group meets to develop a strategic plan for traffic records and Section 408 "data money". The NYS Police have developed ideas on how to better track data and are looking for other ideas. The strategic plan is scheduled to be completed in early June.

The NYSATSB has a new Director - Karen Liddle from Otsego County. She will be taking over for Pat Carroll.

Mr. Schissell would like to work with NYSATSB to reconfigure how traffic safety boards operate and specifically what the role should be for MPOs. In Elmira, the City has combined the City and County Public Works Departments - the city and a few others should have their own traffic safety boards that oversee things like sign requests and speed limits. The City has been requesting the Traffic Safety Board to play this role but it is not clear if enabling legislation provides for this responsibility.

The statewide (NYSATSB) association has 4 subcommittees: youth issues, education (which includes multi-cultural diversity), law enforcement, and engineering/work zone safety. Mr. VanSlyke will work to determine the level of involvement of NYSMPO in the NYSATSB.

Limited English Population area outreach materials are being developed by NYSDOT. Staff is working to identify these areas throughout the state.

4. Safety Assessment:

Ms. Misiewicz has reviewed and compiled comments from SWG members, and sent the consultant a marked-up copy of the final edits needed. The documents have the old NYSMPO logo and old language which will be replaced. Ms. Misiewicz will ensure that all SA documents are consistent. A final draft will go out to SWG members for review.

Mr. Schissell needs to review and sign-off on the documents before they can be printed. All work on this project should be completed by April 1. Mr. Schissell will be amending the ECTC-UPWP to reflect that the SA work will be done in 2009. The state recently offered rescission relief to MPOs as an SPR fund "give-back". For ECTC, this amount is \$8350. Since there were no funds set-aside for printing of the SA document(s), the \$8350 will be used for printing. The NYSMPO Association will get 10,000 copies of the brochure, 100 copies of the quick reference document, and 100 copies of the Safety Assessment Guidelines. Mr. Levy was looking into potentially cheaper printing options, however at this point it was decided that having just one contract with Bergmann (through a contract amendment) is the easiest route and the costs seem reasonable.

Additional Edits:

Page 2 –These paragraphs need to be reworded.

Throughout the document - The letters in the circles (E, P, D, L, C) need to be edited.

On the brochure cover - "In NYS, 60% of reported..." This should be simplified to "facilities". Ms. Misiewicz would like the SWG to provide comments to her so that a single marked-up copy can be sent to the consultant.

All MPOs will receive a copy of the documents on CD, one copy of the guidelines, 3 copies of the quick reference document, and 250 copies of the brochure. NYMTC will receive more because they have three TCCs. GTSC will receive 5 copies.

If there are other agencies that should receive a paper copy, please let Mr. Schissell or Ms. Misiewicz know. Any extra documents will be held by Ms. Misiewicz at CDTC.

Ms. Misiewicz has not had a chance to do additional term agreement work. NYSDOT is not in favor of creating a statewide agreement, therefore, each MPO will be responsible for their own contractual arrangement. Ideally there will be a single selection committee overseeing the consultant selection, however, if that won't work for your MPO, please let the group know and we will consider other options.

The SWG needs to develop a system that can help to minimize individual effort and maximize joint efforts – such as a single RFP that can be used for all regions. Jay is interested in having a three year contract so that it is not necessary to have a solicitation and selection process every year.

The estimate for undertaking a safety assessment is \$5000, though this cost is likely to vary depending on the location. ECTC has budgeted \$20,000 for 2009 for safety assessments.

A newsletter article should be drafted discussing the safety assessment process and results. Ms. Gebbie-Measeck will discuss this with Aaron and work on developing an article.

Mr. Hardej emailed the SWG regarding an upcoming FHWA safety audit workshop on an interactive highway safety design model related to road safety audits. Ms. Misiewicz tried to download the FHWA program from their website and ran into difficulties. If anyone has difficulty downloading the program, Ms. Misiewicz has received a copy on CD and can send it out.

5. GTSC Update:

The 2009 GTSC, NYSATSB & STOP-DWI conference will be held in Saratoga. The call for presentations, which has several focus areas, has been sent out and is due in March. The group generally agreed to pursue two sessions: a Safety Roundtable at the GTSC conference (The SWG will need to discuss this with Mr. DeWeese), and a session that focuses on technology - the ALIS system and technical aspects of the Safety Assessment. The MPOs should discuss with NYSDOT partnering on the presentation(s) and session topic details.

The SWG has until the end of March to develop a submission. Ms. Misiewicz will talk with Janine Schultz (ITSMR) about the two session proposals.

Ms. Misiewicz talked with Eoin about developing an article on the Dutchess County TSC for the GTSC newsletter.

6. NYSDOT Update:

Ms. O'Rourke discussed the Highway Design Manual - Chapter 7. NYSDOT has finalized revisions with specific changes related to safety. Some revision highlights include: shoulders having additional emphasis, a reduction of maximum design speeds permissible for rural roads, pedestrians now being considered a critical design element, and pavement safety edge is now a standard practice. Details will be posted on the NYSDOT website in the highway design section.

The NYSMPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Working Group wrote a comment letter on Chapter 17 and sent it to NYSDOT for consideration.

Ms. O'Rourke is working on the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The deadline for completion is March. There have been many requests for strategies and information to be included in the document. MPO staff is asked to review the previous document and provide comments to Sandy on sections they believe need to be updated.

7. **SWG Goal Areas**

a. Human Behaviors

Mr. VanSlyke has been working on the Powerpoint for the NYSATSB group presentation and believes it is ready to be brought to the TSB meeting. Mr. VanSlyke will work to get on the agenda for the next statewide meeting. The powerpoint presentation should be added to the nysmpos.org website.

b. ALIS and Data Update:

There are currently nine MPO's with access the ALIS tool. The remaining 4 MPOs should be able to access the tool within the next few weeks. Some technical issues have been experienced and are being worked on by Don Terry.

Mr. Hardej stated that NYMTC staff is not currently using it and he has not accessed it. He is expecting to the city to access it.

Ms. Misiewicz spoke to Don Terry regarding an ALIS training course. Don proposed a 2-3 hour session in Albany at the training center in NYSDOT Main Office. It can be scheduled either Friday, June 5th in the afternoon or the morning of June 4th.

Ms. O'Rourke is going to look-into computer training rooms in Syracuse and other locations to see how many computers they have and availability of the rooms. A session could be held in Albany (or Poughkeepsie) and one additional session in Syracuse. Ms. O'Rourke is going to take the lead on this and talk to Don Terry.

c. Highway data workshops

NYSDOT is hosting a workshop at Region 1 in Schenectady on March 10 - 12th. The agenda shows a number of topics related to safety. Ms. Misiewicz and Mr. Perry will definitely be attending. It appears that the topics for Day 1 may not be applicable for MPO staff, but days two and three are.

Next Teleconference: March 26, 2009 @ 1:30PM