

NYSMPO Safety Working Group – Meeting Notes
Teleconference - April 25, 2008
10:00AM

Participants:

Cyndi Paddick - BMTS
Jay Schissell - ECTC
Todd Cohen - OCTC
Sandy Misiewicz - CDTC
Chris Hardej - NYMTC
Hector Boggio - GBNRTC
Marty Neveu - NYSDOT

Barbara O'Rourke - NYSDOT
Jackie Berlant - NYSDOT
Natalia Grigoryants - NYSDOT
Eoin Wrafter - PDCTC
Matt VanSlyke - HOCTS
Jim Levy, Wilbur Smith Associates

1) Meeting Notes

No changes requested

2) Safety Assessment SCI Project

Jay thanked everyone for providing comments on the draft material. One clarification that needs to be addressed is the need to make this a NYSMPO Association SWG document, not an ECTC document (though state that they were the host MPO). The group discussed comments on terms of reference, the importance of an independent committee, scheduled dates for the three SA's to take place as part of this project. Generally, the responses to the document have been positive. It is a good 1st draft. There are some additional clarifications needed and some common issues that need to be addressed, but these are not likely to be an issue.

3) GTSC Outreach

Sandy received the lead agency list from the NYS Police – this document was sent out with the agenda for this meeting. GTSC meeting with Chuck Deweese—Sandy to call. GTSC met in March for first time in many years. The next GTSC meeting is scheduled for May 15th in Albany. Sandy will ask Chuck to keep the SWG informed of GTSC activities. TraCS is part of the discussion at GTSC, as well as discussions of other work that needs to be done. The GTSC is trying to develop/identify the purpose of GTSC. Sandy will write up the notes from the March webcast.

4) ALIS & Data Efforts

Traffic Records Coordinating Council meeting – they are updating the traffic records assessment and strategic plan. There are some issues they are working on right now. Eoin will call Kevin to discuss the GIS Enterprise System. Marty to follow up with Kevin at NYSDOT regarding the GIS Enterprise System.

NYSDOT traffic counts are being done under the new FHWA guidelines. They now have to have a wider number of functional classifications. From now through 2009, they will be setting up this database and changing header files – the number of counts needed is higher than before.

Assigning new count locations based on FHWA requirement is a concern. Sandy is looking into what this means for local count programs. Marty stated that new count needs information was sent out to regional offices a few weeks ago. The MPOs may want to talk with their regional office.

Eoin stated that at the GIS Working Group meeting, the group had discussions of work being done and what is available in existing databases. Is there a compliance issue at the local level? The issue seems to be with the consistency of data (EI code). Need to develop a document outlining the issues. Need to work with NYSDOT to develop and enforce data consistency. There is a lot going on and everyone needs to understand the extent of all these efforts. The overall issue is that there is a problem trying to make databases talk to each other - and how to “force” development of compatible data.

ALIS - Sandy asked if anyone is still without a password for ALIS – no issues were brought up by teleconference attendees on the phone.

Sandy will call Chuck DeWeese. Chuck will hopefully attend the MPO conference? Everyone generally agreed that it is important for him to attend. If he can't, maybe it is possible for Jim Allen to attend. Maybe both should be asked?

Jim Levy to see if conference call-in options exist for the SWG roundtable session.

5) Human Behaviors

Matt has not received a reply from the local TSB chapter regarding the questionnaire. There is a meeting scheduled with them in May. Has anyone else sent out the questionnaire? Talk with Matt if there are any questions. NHTSA provided the powerpoint slideshow previously shown to the SWG in Syracuse last year to Matt. He will present a portion of this at the roundtable session. Please try to send questionnaire out to your TSBs ASAP.

6) NYSDOT Update

NYSDOT is putting together a bullet list of activities for the GTSC so that they are aware of what is going on throughout the state. This list includes NYSDOT projects/efforts, NYSDOT/MPO joint efforts and MPO projects/efforts (Examples include sponsoring the Safe Streets Training, Safety Audit, etc). If there are any MPO activities that the GTSC should be aware of that you want to make sure are on the list, please forward these to Marty.

Barbara stated that Christine Thorkildsen sent notice that FHWA has put out new rulemaking for the Highway Safety Improvement Program. An initial scan of the material indicates that the rulemaking provides more structure and less flexibility to states regarding their HSIP programs, aligning it more closely with the intent of SAFETEA-LU. Please review this soon – comment period ends June 23rd (Docket # FHWA 2008-0009 23 CFR Part 924).

Jim L will get a copy of the Federal Register document and send it to the group. Sandy will compile comments.

7) Conferences

Detailed upcoming conferences. Discussed the Safety Roundtable organization/agenda.

8) Upcoming Training Sessions

Getting a good response to registrations for the Designing Pedestrian Safe Streets course.

Road Safety Audit Training— Schenectady and Rochester will host these in June 2008