

**NYSMPO Safety Working Group (SWG)
Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 1:30 PM
Teleconference Meeting Summary**

Participants:

Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
Mike Perry, ECTC
Todd Cohen, OCTC
Jay Schissell, ECTC
Hector Boggio, GBNRTC
Sarah Gebbie-Measeck, A/GFTC
Emily Dozier, PDCTC
Cyndi Paddick, BMTS

Mario Colone, SMTTC
Chuck DeWeese, GTSC
Barbara O'Rourke, NYSDOT
Marty Neveu, NYSDOT
Jackie Berlant, NYSDOT
Christine Thorkildsen, FHWA
Emmett McDevitt, FHWA
James Levy, Wilbur Smith Associates

1. Introductions

2. Meeting Summary

One revision requested for page 1. Mr. Levy will revise the notes and post the final version to nysmpos.org.

3. SWG Goal Area Updates

a) MPO Peer Exchange:

ECTC-led Comprehensive Safety Planning Task: This effort is being led by ECTC and is intended to increase the role of individual NYS MPOs in Safety Planning and promote the addition of safety-related projects to each MPOs work plan. Many of the NYSDOT regional offices have discussed this task with the MPOs. Discussion about the placement of this task on the UPWP for each MPO ensued. It was stated that placement of this on the UPWP wasn't seen as absolutely necessary, however, it is hoped each MPO will at least state their willingness to participate.

There may be a need to create more sub-committees to work on specific task items. These committees would then report back to the entire SWG group.

Mr. Schissell recommended that a presentation/demonstration of the GBNRTC Safety Analysis application. Mr. Boggio stated that a presentation has been developed and could be discussed at a conference session.

Ms. Misiewicz asked MPO staff to continue to reach-out to the NYSDOT regions. If discussion with the regions has not been made prior to the February meeting, Ms. Neveu will contact the regional staff.

NYSMPO 2010 Conference Sessions: There was discussion of the length of the proposed Roundtable session. It was generally agreed that 1.5 hours (typical session length) isn't sufficient, so a longer session time should be requested. Mr. McDevitt recommended Peter Flukie as a potential Pedestrian/Bicycle presenter. Ms. Misiewicz recommended Rosemary (last name unknown) from DVRPC to potentially attend to discuss safety best practices/success stories from the Philadelphia region.

Ms. Dozier discussed the peer exchange document distributed to the SWG. Ms. Dozier discussed the DVRPC 2009 Safety Plan and fact sheet publication(s). Ms. Dozier also discussed efforts underway by NACO, NYCDOT, Cheyenne MPO, UC Berkley and Cities for Cycling.

b) ALIS/DATA

There is no new information from Don Terry. Ms. O'Rourke announced that the QRA module was expected to be released this week – initially it will be released to the regional offices for a test period and then to the MPOs. Ms. O'Rourke also discussed the upcoming NYSDOT Highway Data/Traffic Monitoring Workshop.

c) Human Behaviors Subcommittee

Mr. VanSlyke discussed the Department of Health grant program – all grants are now within a single program. This program now includes programs for health-related issues, complete-streets, etc. It appears that the grant funds are available for community planning type activities, though the program seems to need some help in developing these areas. Mr. VanSlyke plans to attend a capacity building training in Albany next week – a similar training is also being held in Syracuse. Mr. VanSlyke will update the group on the training during the February teleconference. Mr. Schissell believes that this training could fit in well with the roundtable topics at the conference.

d) Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Ms. Misiewicz announced that the Bicycle & Pedestrian Working Group has provided comments and recommended language to NYSDOT at their request. Ms. O'Rourke stated that five strategies were submitted and discussed with Jason Purvis. There are still some issues to be worked on in the future, however there was general agreement on language to change/incorporate into the draft SHSP. The document update is now complete and has been sent for executive-level approval – then it will be submitted to FHWA.

e) Training

Nothing new to report.

f) Legislation Watch

The new MUTCD is now available. There was discussion regarding speed enforcement cameras in work zones and the state law scorecard. Mr. DeWeese discussed the scoring and some of the concerns/issues with the report, including missing information – all of which has been provided to the authors. With the updated information and inaccuracies corrected, NYS scores 13 out of 15 (scored as 11 out of 15 in the report). NY and NJ are now tied for the number 1 score.

4. Other Updates

a. GTSC Update

Updates to the Highway Safety Plan are due to NHTSA by December of each year. GTSC expects to start work in April or May of 2010. GTSC has completed approving the FY 2010 grants. Call-letters for 2011 will be released in February with a May 15th deadline. It is expected that grant applications will be done thorough the E-grant system this year.

GTSC is co-sponsoring a bridge workshop/conference in February in Saratoga. Mr. DeWeese will send an email with the details. Anyone interested in encouraged to attend – the conference is free.

b. NYSDOT Update

Engineering Instruction on Rumble Strips: A statement regarding rumble strips can be found on the NYSDOT website. It is expected that a draft EI proposal will be online for review/comment within two months. The standard EI review period of 1 month will be provided. Ms. Neveu stated that this topic was discussed at the December 18th Director's meeting.

c. NYSP

Ms. Misiewicz distributed a copy of the end-of-year TraCS status update from the NYSP. Mr. Schissell discussed a problem officers are having with the GPS units. Mr. DeWeese reported that there is a known issue with the accuracy of the locator tool – DMV, NYSDOT, GTSC and the NYSP are looking into the problem. Mr. DeWeese reminded the group to let the locals know they should contact the NYSP TraCS unit if they are having GPS issues.

Mr. DeWeese reported that the Governor's office is working on a website called "Empire Stats." This website provides performance measures for crash and ticket data on a monthly basis. It was stated that it is important to note that the statistics are not based on a complete data file and thus the crash statistics are not necessarily the same. If calls come in regarding crash statistic issues, please mention this to the caller and ask them to review the disclaimer provided on the website.