

NYSMPO Safety Working Group – Meeting Notes
Teleconference – March 25, 2010
1:30 PM

Participants:

Mario Colone, SMTC
Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
Mike Perry, ECTC
Todd Cohen, OCTC
Cyndi Paddick, BMTS
Jay Schissell, ECTC
Sarah Gebbie-Measeck, AGFTC
Hector Boggio, GBNTRC
Bob Torzynski, GTC

Emily Dozier, PDCTC
Chuck DeWeese, GTSC
John Sterbentz, BMTS
Matt VanSlyke, HOCTS
Eoin Wrafter, PDCTC
Barbara O'Rourke, NYSDOT
Marty Neveu, NYSDOT
Jim Daily, NYS Police
James Levy, Wilbur Smith Associates

1. Introductions

2. Meeting Notes

No revisions requested.

3. SWG Goal Area Updates

a) MPO Peer Exchange

2010 NYSMPO Conference Session(s): FHWA has secured funding for a session at the conference. A revised agenda for the peer review session was distributed with the agenda email for this meeting. FHWA is excited about this event, has confirmed one peer/speaker and is confirming a second. Volpe will be involved and is working on generating the final agenda and handouts and will manage/moderate the session. It has been noted that more time should probably be given to the peer speakers and some discussion is needed to modify the agenda to allow for this. Mr. Schissell will follow-up with the Director's regarding this topic at the March in-person meeting in Syracuse.

SWG Safety Scan - Ms. Dozier summarized the findings detailed in the peer review document sent to the SWG prior to this meeting. Mr. Levy will post these summaries to the website.

b) Comprehensive Safety Planning Task

Mr. Schissell discussed the task work related to PILs list and high crash locations assessment/effort(s). The handout distributed doesn't reflect the most recent changes to this task, however, Mr. Schissell mentioned that if MPOs can accomplish just the first bulleted item then they will have made a significant achievement in advancing safety planning at the MPO level.

Mr. Sterbentz asked why the data element is being proposed to be handled by ITSMR. Mr. Schissell responded that the work will be done by the MPOs and the MPOs will still need/get access to the data, however ITSMR would provide a single source to go to for data. Mr. Sterbentz stated that he believes the effort involved would not be that significant an impact on MPO staff and he believes that it might be more efficient if the data was customized by each MPO individually – BMTS currently has a relatively simple procedure to analyze crash data regionally. Ms. Misiewicz stated that not all MPOs have staff time to devote to the identification of region-wide crash locations. If it isn't ITSMR, then maybe

university data centers could assist but overall right now the group is just looking at options to advance this task.

Ms. O'Rourke stated that ITSMR does undertake a significant amount of data analysis but not necessarily correlation of data in a manner such as this. Mr. Schissell stated that the first priority is to get a list of priority crash locations, then the MPOs can do the analysis.

Mr. Wrafter asked what the MPOs really need assistance with – is it developing criteria or building up data to do the analysis? Ms. Misiewicz stated that she believes building a database is the primary task. The major issue is hitting the record limit in ALIS when pulling-down data. Mr. Sterbentz stated that Don Terry can still provide a CD with data for region-wide analysis. Mr. Schissell mentioned that the tasks on page 2 are intended to be undertaken in the future, however, NYSDOT is already working on some of them. Ms. Misiewicz asked that Mr. Sterbentz put together a summary of what BMTS is doing for consideration by the group. Mr. Levy will take this information and the safety task description and send to the GIS Working Group for review/discussion.

c) Legislation Watch

Ms. O'Rourke stated that the (NYS) House and Senate bills both deleted the change proposed by DMV to increase the crash reporting threshold. Ms. Misiewicz stated that the NYSMPO Association attempted to draft a letter regarding this issue but couldn't get approval because an MPO felt that this type of letter would need Policy Board and member review.

Mr. DeWeese stated that several of the facts referenced in the draft MPO letter were not accurate – for instance the comment that 75% of all reports are not entered into the database. This is an old number – in 2006 DMV began entering property damage-only crashes into the database. Ms O'Rourke stated right now DOCS is up-to-date to October 2009.

d) Safety Assessments

Ms. Dozier stated that PDCTC has had some discussion regarding undertaking an assessment and is considering doing 1 RSA this year, but staff is having trouble outlining how to go about the process. Ms. Dozier provided the following questions: 1) What are the steps for developing an RSA program (i.e. solicitation, hiring a consultant, etc) and what should the solicitation materials include, 2) Are MPOs considering developing an application for municipalities to apply – if so what would it include, 3) What would the selection criteria be, and 4) is a joint contract/solicitation going out or is each MPO on their own?

Mr. Schissell stated that he is interested in doing a joint solicitation. Mr. Paddick stated that BMTS has done 2 RSAs and has two more programmed in the UPWP. BMTS asks the Policy Board for interest and they undertake them as they are requested. There is little to worry about with these being “high accident” locations – there are many reasons to undertake RSAs. Conducting an RSA on a local road with PL funds is not an issue, though they do them themselves, not with a consultant. Mr. Schissell stated that BMTS has in-house engineers which helps allow them to undertake the effort in-house.

Ms. Misiewicz stated that CDTC has some projects listed on the UPWP for 2010 but can not participate in a joint contract. Federal funds can only be used on federal roads, but HSIP can be used on all local roads. Ms. Neveu stated that as long as the project is within an MPO area, planning funds can be used on any road.

e) ALIS and Data

Ms. Misiewicz has talked with Ms. O'Rourke and Don Terry regarding ALIS training and can confirm that a training session will take place on June 16th after the conference. This group, along with the GIS staff, should have the first option of attending the training. Only one representative from each MPO should plan to attend since space is limited. Ms. O'Rourke stated that only 6 users can be on the system at one time so if a second training session is needed, one could be scheduled to take place in Poughkeepsie. Ms. O'Rourke will talk with Don Terry and Ms. Misiewicz about scheduling a second training session.

f) Human Behaviors Subcommittee

Mr. VanSlyke discussed the sidewalk and intersection surveys being undertaken by AARP in the near future. Surveys are planned to take place in Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, Binghamton, and several locations in the Hudson Valley/NYC area. A smaller-scale effort may take place in Utica. The tri-state report being done by AARP should be released by summer 2010.

g) GTSC Update

For the Safety Roundtable conference session, some method to stir-up interest should be considered to attract attendees to the session. Mr. DeWeese stated that he or Jim Allen may be able to sit-in on the session. An invitation should be extended to the head of the STOP DWI program.

4. Other Updates

Everyone was reminded to review the GTSC HSST Plan.

The GTSC newsletter is now bi-annual – the next article submission deadline will be in May.

Ms. O'Rourke announced that the SHSP has been released and can be found on the NYSDOT website.

The NYS Police have new consultants online to work with agencies on TraCS. If there are any agencies with known issues, information should be forwarded to Jim Daily. There is a TraCS users group meeting in Syracuse on June 2nd & 3rd. The Suffolk County PD has signed an agreement to use TraCS – they should be transmitting data by this summer. The big push is to enter data for crashes (info. requested by public works dept), not just tickets.