

**NYSMPO Safety Working Group (SWG)
Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 1:30 PM
Teleconference Meeting Summary**

Participants:

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

Matt VanSlyke, HOCTS
Barbara O'Rourke, NYSDOT
Marty Neveu, NYSDOT
Christine Thorkildsen, FHWA
Emmett McDevitt, FHWA
James Levy, Wilbur Smith Associates

1. Introductions

2. Meeting Summary

No revisions requested.

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. After sending out a summary of this initiative to selected individuals/groups, we received only a minimal response, however they were very supportive. It is generally agreed that this task is worthwhile and should eventually become a valuable planning tool.

The regional traffic safety committee is continuously analyzing crash and safety issues and can support MPOs in undertaking data analysis – someone from the MPO Association should be involved in the committee.

Ms. Misiewicz will send a list of the RPPM's and traffic personnel contacted by her to the SWG. Ms. Neveu will follow-up with the NYSDOT regional offices if outreach by the MPO staff is not successful.

Mr. Schissell said that there are about 3 sub group topics that seem to lead to 3 or 4 subject areas - if we can get 3-4 people in each area and have them work on these issues via teleconference, this could be a manageable task/undertaking. Ms. Misiewicz and Mr. Schissell will come up with a list of possible subject areas prior to the next call.

Mr. Boggio suggested incorporating the Highway Safety Improvement Program in the final draft of that task. Also in Item #7, he suggests emphasizing mutual support and assistance between MPOs and DOTs as this will help improve the overall effectiveness.

PDCTC-led Safety Scan: Ms. Dozier gave a quick overview by highlighting a few of the presentations from the GTSC conference. In addition, she found that UC-Berkeley is undertaking a significant pedestrian safety training program. FHWA Safety program offers automatic email updates but there are quite a few so you may not want to sign-up – if any important information comes through, Ms. Dozier will forward it to the SWG.

Mr. McDevitt announced to the group that the new MUTCD was released yesterday and is available online at www.mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov. In addition, the Walk - Bike NY event is scheduled to be held June 7, 2010 in Hauppauge, Long Island. This is developing into good agenda and a strong program.

NCHRP Survey: Ms. Misiewicz discussed the short online NCHRP survey intended for planners and safety practitioners at DOTs, MPOs, and Regional Planning agencies regarding "tools for institutionalizing safety as a decision and planning factor and coordinating the Strategic Highway Safety Plan with other transportation plans". Mr. VanSlyke stated that the survey is somewhat general and fairly easy and quick to complete.

NYSMPO 2010 Conference Sessions: It was recommended that the SWG sponsor the Safety Roundtable again this year with the primary focus on professional development. Another potential session would be an "Analysis of Data Workshop" – i.e. what do we do with all the data available and how should it be handled. There is a lack of understanding of just how the department handles all this data and how the MPOs should as well. Additionally, if there is a topic/program being undertaken by FHWA – a safety-related scan or pending safety document, crash reduction factor material presentation, or similar item, that could be useful as well. Mr. McDevitt stated that there are several potential options from FHWA side. Mr. McDevitt and Ms. Thorkildsen will discuss this further and report back to the SWG at a later date.

Mr. Schissell stated that the length of sessions has not yet been determined so for now the SWG should simply develop plans for hosting two different sessions. Ms. Misiewicz will develop a list of potential sessions for the second session, with the first (and primary session) being the roundtable. For the roundtable and technical session(s) - if anyone knows of a motivational or superb speaker with a safety focus, please let Ms. Misiewicz know.

b) ALIS/DATA

Mr. Boggio reported that there is no new information from Don Terry. Mr. Van Slyke stated that as HOCTS has been undertaking mapping work, it was noticed that the NYSDOT MPO boundaries data taken from the GIS Clearinghouse website are not always correct. This issue has been brought to the attention of NYSDOT officials. Ms. Neveu stated that for GTC specifically, the boundary the MPO shows is grandfathered; however, the official recognized boundary is the TMA boundary. Ms. Neveu/NYSDOT is aware of a similar issue for the BMTS boundary.

c) Human Behaviors Subcommittee

Mr. VanSlyke presented the NYSMPO Powerpoint presentation to the NYSATSB recently - they were engaged and interested in the presentation. The group is interested in working more closely with the MPOs. Mr. VanSlyke will follow-up with Karen Liddle to develop a list of regional TSB and MPO contacts.

Ms. Misiewicz NHTSA Strategic Plan Revision has been posted in the Federal Register. This is an item on the "to-do list" for Mr. Van Slyke. It would be good to coordinate a response, however comments are due in early January. Mr. VanSlyke and Ms. Misiewicz will review off-line and send a document to the SWG for review. Please let either of them know if you have specific comments that need to be addressed.

d) Strategic Highway Safety Plan

The NYSMPO Association developed a comment letter regarding the SHSP and submitted it to Barbara at NYSDOT. NYSDOT has returned a response letter which everyone should have received. One comment is related to Bike Education and we were asked to provide specific language to submit back to NYSDOT regarding strategies. CDTC is currently developing a bicycle safety education campaign in partnership with GTSC and the City of Albany - this could be an example program for inclusion in the SHSP. Any other MPOs doing similar work should consider asking for it to be included as a reference in the document.

Ms. O'Rourke understands that the group would like to see improvements in regards to data and safety to improve our business practices in all areas, however it is important to consider the overall purpose of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan and the FHWA requirements of this plan - it is intended to provide broad strategic directives and is not intended to be a specific work plan. As we move forward, we need to be practical and strategic, but very broad

in context so the language will still be relevant years from now. Ms. O'Rourke stated that the document does discuss NYC in particular, but the City is a major player in this work. Discussion regarding the inclusion of bicycles in the document ensued. Ms. Misiewicz stated that it is understood that individual MPO work is not necessarily the focus of the document, however the broader strategies really should be emphasized. Mr. VanSlyke stated that without bicycles being an emphasis area, in his opinion, it essentially makes the plan disregard bicyclists. Mr. McDevitt recommended that the NYSDOT and MPOs be careful not to include ideas/recommendations unless they are attainable. Ms. Misiewicz stated that sitting down to discuss the document after the first of the year of implementation is a priority the SWG should undertake with other safety partners.

e) Training

Mr. McDevitt stated that the Older Driver Highway Design Training course is available. FHWA provided this course in many regions a few years ago. Mr. Schissell recommended that the NYSMPO Association/FHWA wait until the spring of 2010 to work on scheduling this training.

f) Legislation Watch

Revisions are being made to the AARP Complete Streets Legislation proposal for re-submission. Everyone should keep an eye on the work so that we are aware of the revised proposal release.

4. Other Updates

a. GTSC Update

The Safety Symposium and potential session topics should be discussed this summer.

b. NYSDOT Update

Nothing new to report.

c. NYSP

The TRACS updates are coming in and will be forwarded to the SWG.