

NYSMPO Safety Working Group – Meeting Notes
Teleconference – August 27, 2009
1:30PM

Participants:

Jay Schissell, ECTC
Mario Colone, SMTC
Ahmed Ismail, SMTC
Emily Dozier, PDCTC
Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
Bob Torzynski, GTC
Mike Perry, ECTC

Hector Boggio, GBNRTC
Sarah Gebbie Measeck, AGFTC
Sweta Basnet, UCTC
Todd Cohen, OCTC
Barbara O'Rourke, NYSDOT
Chuck DeWeese, GTSC
James Levy, Wilbur Smith Associates

1. Introductions

2. Meeting Notes

No revisions requested.

3. GTSC Update

a) Proposed Oberstar Legislation Review

Ms. Misiewicz discussed the Oberstar bill. HSIP and Title 2. Ms. O'Rourke stated that there are three major functions required by the bill to meet performance measures and develop an investment plan. The bill is very prescriptive.

Mr. DeWeese sent a letter to Congressman Bishop listing concerns with the bill. The first issue is the burdensome micromanagement aspect of the bill. Mr. DeWeese also stated that he is not in favor of the July 1st deadline - crash data won't be as current as it currently is with the September deadline. For 402 funding - instead of being population based, the formula will be fatality based. It is not clear if this is based on higher or lower fatalities, but either way it appears to be problematic.

b) HOCTS

Mr. Van Slyke was not on the call. We will discuss his topic next month. Ms. Misiewicz has a summary of 13 MPO work plans and will work with each MPO to create a schedule to share ideas from each during the monthly calls.

Almost all UPWP's mentioned the SWG and work on data analysis issues to help locals. Larger MPO's used operations centers to look at safety issues on a regional basis and management issues on regional highways.

Bike/Pedestrian safety is also an element in most UPWP's. There is not as much of a programmatic connection to the NYSDOT State Highway Safety Plan.

Subcommittee update – The Strategic Highway Safety Plan (NYSDOT) EMS section is revising. The entire chapter has been re-written and revised. For some MPOs, the focus is now on outreach and training to EMS statewide, protocols to providers. NYSDOT staff are working to

finalize revisions to the document with updated data and plan to forward it to FHWA in December.

Ms. O'Rourke needs outreach discussion with other NYSDOT staff that works with regular coordinators. Ms. Misiewicz stated that she is trying to figure out how to work more closely with the TSB's, EMS and police in the CDTC region.

Mr. Schissell asked if there was any success integrating MPO safety work with NYSDOT regions. Ms. Misiewicz discussed this issue last month with Region 1 and it was decided that the MPO (CDTC) is best positioned to focus on the off-state system with NYSDOT assist on local issues. One significant issue – Is the MPO going to give local data to the NYSDOT Region but not get the state system data (i.e. reciprocal data exchange).

c) Human Behaviors Subcommittee

Not all MPOs have provided Mr. VanSlyke with a name of someone to serve on the subcommittee - please provide this to him ASAP.

d) ALIS & Data

The system data has periods (.) which is creating a problem because most programs can't use data with periods. Mr. Perry discussed the difference in data results that has been found by ECTC staff. The differences are significant and as such, ECTC has decided not to use numbers because they are not consistent with data in the LRTP and UPWP?

Ms. Misiewicz pointed out that she has noticed a significant increase in property damage information data. If problems persist, it may be necessary to discuss the issue further with GTSC and ITSMR.

e) Safety Assessments

CDTC has had interest by Albany and Rensselaer Counties to provide Assessments in the Fall of 2009 or Spring of 2010. CDTC will need a consultant to assist with these, but with the looming rescission there is a financial issue/concern. Copies of the Assessment document(s) haven't been sent out to all statewide agencies yet, but this should happen soon. Please let Sandy know if your agency needs additional copies.

f) Strategic Highway Safety Plan

This topic was covered earlier in the discussion.

f) Training

Ms. Misiewicz asked how many MPOs are interested in the low cost online NHI workshop? Mr. Levy will send out an email to assess interest.

Mr. DeWeese questioned why the RSA training is taking place in upstate NY cities when most of the issues are downstate?

Ms. O'Rourke – The Walk 21 conference will take place in New York City. This is one day before the NYC DOT is hosting the bike/pedestrian coordinator meeting (Oct. 6 from 12 to 5PM).

Rochester - Region 4 is the location of a Pedestrian Action Plan training.

Mr. DeWeese noted that GTSC newsletter articles are due at the end of September.

Ms. O'Rourke announced that Highway Safety improvement reports are due to FHWA on Monday, including the 5% transparency reports.

NYSDOT had internal bike/pedestrian discussion to review roles and drafted a new bike/pedestrian policy which is currently on it's way to executive review. This will be a vast improvement from the 1996 policy statement. It will be including language that work has to be consistent with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan and the strategic plan.

CFR 924 rule (directs the Strategic Highway Safety Inspection Program) includes language that SA's equivalent to safety reviews.