

NYSMPO Safety Working Group – Meeting Notes
Teleconference – September 24, 2009
1:30PM

Participants:

Jay Schissell, ECTC

Mario Colone, SMTC

Matt VanSlyke, HOCTS

Emily Dozier, PDCTC

Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC

Bob Torzynski, GTC

Mike Perry, ECTC

Hector Boggio, GBNRTC

Sweta Basnet, UCTC

Todd Cohen, OCTC

Marty Neveu, NYSDOT

Jackie Berlant, NYSDOT

James Levy, Wilbur Smith Associates

1. Introductions

2. Meeting Notes

No revisions requested.

3. Final Revisions to SWG Goals

Ms. Misiewicz reviewed revisions to the SWG goals and some discussion ensued. No changes or edits were requested.

4. SWG Goal Area Updates

a) MPO Peer Exchange

Mr. VanSlyke discussed the HOCTS High Risk Rural Roads work being undertaken by HOCTS. There has been difficulty in programming funds and recently HOCTS had heard that funds might be lost if not programmed, however, the funds are not at risk – but should be programmed as quickly as possible. There was a positive result from the concern about losing funds – projects were programmed and the money was obligated. HOCTS will be using approximately \$500,000 of the \$2M available to make improvements at six intersections with higher than average crash rates. HOCTS used ALIS to determine the locations. The proposals for these intersections consist of simple fixes – signage, drainage and striping improvements. The ideas were well-received by the County DPW, made good use of ALIS, and will result in needed improvements. This is a good example of an MPO-lead safety improvement process/project(s).

Overall, there has been an issue of programming the HRRR funds. NYSDOT has talked with FHWA about this issue and reached agreement that if there are a significant number of low-cost safety projects, they could be done with HRRR funds. These projects will be assigned to a unique HRRR PIN in each region. The expenditure of these funds will be permitted on all public roads, but it isn't clear if it is permissible to spend the funds on the off-state system. With this recent agreement on expenditure of HRRR funds, the previous guidance is no longer required.

Ms. Dozier discussed her research regarding safety work being undertaken at MPOs throughout the country. She found that the Cheyenne, WY MPO has an award-winning regional safety plan. DVRPC (Philadelphia, PA MPO) has also undertaken safety assessments. Every year DVRPC undertakes corridor safety assessments and is working to develop a system to track crash data and information. They also have a safety task force.

Mr. Boggio discussed a previous program where money was provided by AMPO for innovative safety projects. GBNRTC received a grant and has some information that can be shared with the SWG. Mr. Boggio will get the information to Mr. Levy for distribution to the SWG.

b) Human Behaviors Subcommittee

Mr. VanSlyke attended the last NYSATSB meeting at the Crossings in Colonie, NY. Karen Liddle asked if Mr. VanSlyke could attend the December 3rd meeting to provide information on the NYS MPOs to the group. Mr. VanSlyke will attend and is planning to present the MPO 101 presentation. Mr. VanSlyke has also been asked to attend the Executive Committee meeting the night before the meeting and will attend if possible.

Mr. VanSlyke stated that he still has not received contacts from all MPOs for this subcommittee. It is not envisioned that this will be a group with regularly scheduled meetings - it is likely to primarily consist of email correspondence.

c) ALIS & Data

Ms. Misiewicz discussed the QRA module with Don Terry at NYSDOT. Mr. Terry has proposed a staged rollout of the program for the MPOs beginning in November 2009. There is an issue with access – only four users can be on the system concurrently. QRA has a 1000 record download limit, however Mr. Terry may be able to provide a mass data download upon request. Mr. Boggio will talk with Mr. Terry further regarding ALIS and QRA and report back to the group at the October meeting with his findings.

d) Strategic Highway Safety Plan

The SHSP has been drafted since April and will be delivered to FHWA by December. A draft copy has been provided to NYCDOT because of a large pedestrian element section that directly affects the City. A draft should be available for review by the MPOs in November.

Ms. O'Rourke announced that NYSDOT just received the non-reportable data which will bring the data set up-to-date. The data should be available within the next two weeks.

e) Training

Reviewed and briefly discussed the FHWA Low Cost Safety Improvements and RSA Training opportunities. The Pedestrian Action Plan training will take place in two locations: Albany November 17 & 18 and Rochester November 18 & 19. Attendance is by invitation and RSVP only. Mr. Levy is working with NHI to deliver the Low Cost Safety Improvements webinar.

f) Safety Roundtable

This is a reminder item only. Mr. Levy will work with Ms. Misiewicz to schedule a conference call with the panelists prior to the conference.

5. Other

- a) GTSC Update – Nothing to report.
- b) NYSDOT Update – Items discussed previously
- c) NYSP – The email issue regarding TraCS reporting should be resolved and the group should be receiving monthly updates from Ms. Misiewicz soon.