



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs SAFETY WORKING GROUP

June 22, 2022

Webinar

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- AGFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS - Cyndi Paddick
- CDTC – Carrie Ward
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Courtney Taylor
- GBNRTC – Hector Boggio
- GTC - Alex Kone
- HOCTC - Alexander Turner
- ITCTC - Jay Lambrix
- OCTC - Lauren Bennett
- SMTC – Mike Alexander
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC - Barbara Cadwell
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Jonathan Hill
- NYSDOT - Robert Zitowsky
- NYSODT - Geoffrey Wood
- NYSDOH – Jennifer Hogan
- FHWA - Daniel Wood
- FHWA – Nicole McGrath
- NYSDMV - Chuck DeWeese
- Cambridge Systematics – Cory Hopwood

1. Introductions & Updates

Alex Kone opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

2. Meeting Notes

The May 25, 2022 meeting notes were shared. SWG members can send changes over the next few weeks.

3. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) – Planning and capital opportunities

- a. Recap of USDOT Webinars - Alex shared an update on the SS4A resources and information shared via the latest webinars.
- b. Resources – Daniel (FHWA) recommended reviewing the resources and attending the webinars or listening to the recordings. These are available on the SS4A [website](#).

- c. Discussion of Co-Letter of Support – There are constraints in bringing funding together and applying together. A letter of support would help show how we are connecting with one another and the SHSP. Jack (AGFTC) asked if this letter would be used in individual applications. Alex confirmed that this would be used to still show partnership in individual applications for the MPOs, including knowledge transfer, shared efforts, and efficiencies gained. Ideally the Directors would sign this, and support from the state partners would help as well. Karen (NYSDOT) would like to see this come from GTC with Director support. Hector (GBNRTC) agreed this is a good idea. They are performing outreach to the municipalities to let them know they are creating multijurisdictional plans and would like them involved in the plan development process and stakeholder engagement process.

Nicole (FHWA) reminded everyone that applicants need to register on Grants.gov and get a unique id number, which can take up to a month. Daniel (FHWA) reminded everyone to pay close attention to grant application deadlines and funding deadlines. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM EDT on Thursday, September 15, 2022. Late applications will not be accepted. All FY 2022 SS4A funds must be expended within five years after the grant agreement is executed and DOT obligates the funds. There was interest in hearing from groups that might be considering supplemental planning activities or implementation grants.

4. Regional Safety Plans/'Comprehensive Safety Action Plans'

- a. Issues concerning liability of planning documents and analyses – NYSDOT noted that network screening will not be provided by their staff since it would constitute official notice; however, locals can request support from NYSDOT and MPOs. The working group noted that having a Regional Safety Plan would help resolve the liability concerns, unless there is no effort towards addressing the related strategies in the plan. The plan should set you up for the items that will be addressed, and justification should be provided if something critical is not included or if a specific strategy is not addressed going forward.

Lauren (OCTC) and Geoff (NYSDOT) pointed out different approaches to hot-spot network development, as well as avoiding liability. There were questions about how to identify safety priorities for local jurisdictions without making them liable for addressing them. CLEAR should assist in developing these lists for specific roadway types of interest. Jack mentioned using the potential funding for implementation grants as an incentive for engagement on Action Plan development and agreements. Michael (SMTTC) provided an example of a completed plan that focused on county roadways. David Staas mentioned that all roadways and various ownership types were included in their plan and priority lists. He supported a need for a plan as a way to call out need, as oppose to making the MPO or locals liable for improvements.

Emily (DCTC) discussed the [training](#) available from Cornell Local Roads Program on planning-level liability. It discusses the protection in documenting and following through with strategies. Daniel expressed the importance of not getting hung up on liability, as these plans will help justify the need for future funds and grants towards implementation.

- b. Sub-Working Group - Alex announced that a doodle poll will be released to determine everyone's availability for a kickoff meeting with this group.

5. Partner Updates

- a. NYSDOT: Robert announced CLEAR is set to go live July 13th. Information on training and resources can be found [here](#). They also said the Roadway Departure Plan is expected to be complete in early 2023. They are working with partners on education and enforcement aspects of the plan.
- b. ITSMR: The Annual New York Highway Safety Symposium in Albany will take place October 26-28, 2022. Additional information on the cost and registration are posted on the [website](#).
- c. GTSC: Chuck noted that motorcycle fatalities are showing a downward trend for the first time in a couple years. Fatalities, however, in general continue to rise. The HSP is due to NHTSA this month. They are reviewing over 500 grants right now.
- d. Cornell Local Roads Program: No report.
- e. NHSTA: No report.
- f. FHWA: Daniel suggested signing up for notifications regarding the NOFO even if they are not applying this year. They are finalizing an offer for a new safety staff and are hoping to include them in the following months.
- g. NYSATSB: No report.

6. 2022 Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is on July 27 at 1:30 PM.

Action Items

- Please provide any changes to last month's meeting notes.
- Please fill out the doodle to be sent by Alex Kone know if you are interested in joining a sub-group for regional and local road safety plans, as well as SS4A grants for Safety Action Plans.