



## NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

June 9, 2022  
Teleconference  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### MEETING NOTES

#### Participating

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Chaim Simon
- CDTC – Jen Ceponis
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Courtney Taylor
- GTC – Bob Williams
- FHWA – Nicole McGrath
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYMTC – John Simpson
- NYSDOH – Jennifer Hogan
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Colleen Smith Lemmon
- NYSDOT – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT – Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT – Julie Baldwin
- NYSDOT – Bruce Cunningham
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT – Meg Webster
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- OCTC – Lauren Bennett
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- SMTC – Michael Alexander
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- NHTSA – Allison Beas
- NYS Parks & Recreation – Chris Morris
- Planning4Places – James Levy

#### 1. Introductions

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

#### 2. Approval of Meeting Notes

The meeting notes from the March 2022 Zoom meeting were approved for posting to the website.

#### 3. NYSDOT Updates

Colleen noted that the Complete Streets checklist effort is moving forward. NYSDOT staff will connect with MPO staff in the future and provide the updated checklist for review, hopefully within the next several months.

Karen noted that there are no updates on the Active Transportation Plan at this time. Scott asked if the RRFB video had been finalized. Karen stated that the video was developed but segments of it had to be redone. There are pamphlets available for distribution.

#### 4. FHWA Updates

Nicole reported on the Moving to a Complete Streets Design Model: A Report to Congress on Opportunities and Challenges (<https://highways.dot.gov/sites/fhwa.dot.gov/files/2022-03/Complete%20Streets%20Report%20to%20Congress.pdf>). This document was released in March. FHWA sees Complete Streets as a way to address several agency priorities. Nicole

provided a detailed review of the document and FHWA priorities and gave a presentation. Complete Streets are an emphasis area in BIL consistent with the National Road Safety Strategy & Safe System approach. FHWA has a Complete Streets website with more information: <https://highways.dot.gov/complete-streets>.

The report has five opportunity areas and potential solutions: data, safety assessments, standards/guidance for innovation, safety coordination and capacity building, and Complete Streets as a default approach. The new bridge program will require pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure unless is not feasible.

Jay asked if LOS is still defined as number of vehicles or if it will be redefined to count more than vehicles. If LOS includes all users, it changes the conversation. If it just counts vehicles, the analysis is constricted. Emily noted that California and other state(s) have adopted multi-modal LOS analysis so the regulations/analysis can be changed/revised. Nicole stated that FHWA is hoping to develop more consistent guidelines for everyone to use and emphasize that if federal funds are used, a project needs to consider non-vehicular users of a road.

## **5. Partner Agency Updates**

NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation – Empire State Trail.

Chris Morris from Parks discussed how they have worked over the last several months to develop an Empire State Trail program. Management of the EST was transitioned to Parks because their oversight is Statewide and Chris is now managing the EST program. Their program was launched in May 2022. This transition does not change ownership of the trail or the rules that apply – jurisdiction still falls to the trail segment owner. Parks is looking at the next phase of the effort – sustaining the trail. The main goals of Parks in this effort are communication, marketing and funding (Chris noted that the CFA will have grants for trail projects). There shouldn't much of a change to stakeholders. There are new tools available on the EST website – <https://empiretrail.ny.gov/>. There are two emails for use to contact Parks staff about the EST - [ESTProgram@parks.ny.gov](mailto:ESTProgram@parks.ny.gov) for use by staff (MPOs) and [EST@parks.ny.gov](mailto:EST@parks.ny.gov) for use by the public. You can also reach Parks staff directly - Chris Morris – [christopher.morris@parks.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.morris@parks.ny.gov) and Molly Reilly – [Molly.reilly@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Molly.reilly@parks.ny.gov).

Emily asked about outreach undertaken so far to trail owners. Chris noted that outreach was undertaken early on. There was a Hudson Valley session and there has been agency outreach as well. As Parks identifies new contacts, staff will add them to the contact list and will try to reach out to anyone that is identified so that information can be shared.

Chris also provided an update on some of the work of PTNY. They launched the implementation effort for trail plan stakeholder meetings. The plan was to do 5-year updates. Parks is working with PTNY to do an annual roll-up of all things trails and Parks is facilitating this effort. If more information is needed, reach out to Chris or Dylan.

NYSDOH:

Jen Hogan noted that traffic injury date reports by county are available. Each table provides breakdowns by age, gender, race, ethnicity, hospitalization, etc.

[https://health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury\\_prevention/county\\_reports.htm](https://health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/county_reports.htm). NYSDOH is continuing to work with GTSC on the See & Be Seen program. The toolkit is getting bigger – work is underway on K-5 children’s videos and a new campaign on failure to yield. NYSDOH & GTSC have a media PSA buy running through July 10th. More information can be found here:

[https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury\\_prevention/pedestrians.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/pedestrians.htm)

## 6. Work Plan

### **Ped/Bike Counts Subcommittee**

Not much new to report. BMTS had some counter failures due to production issues and got them replaced and reinstalled. Likely the subcommittee will meet again in the fall to discuss work undertaken by MPOs over the last several months. Emily noted that there was some discussion on counters at the Walk-Bike NY gathering, particularly related to counter efforts in the Syracuse area. Julie noted that there was a meeting with NYSDOT Data Services Group to discuss how counts will be undertaken statewide. Karen noted that there is a desire to develop a policy, and this will be discussed with NYSDOT Bike/Ped coordinators within the next six months or so. Emily asked if there are any post- EST opening counts that have been undertaken to compare to pre-EST trail segment counts. Chris noted that he would have to defer to others regarding previous counts. Andy did keep a list of counter locations. Karen noted that NYSDOT is looking to develop a list of where counts have been taken. Chris also noted that Parks is trying to work with stakeholders to create a web map of different ownership & maintenance data including construction project locations, trail closures, and count locations could be added and updated by partner agencies.

### **Complete Streets Toolkit:**

Members discussed this several months ago. Jim has drafted the page and the group will review the work and reconvene to discuss any final changes. Geoff will set up a meeting for the group. After any requested revisions have been made, Jim will make the page “live” on nysmpos.org. You can access the page by clicking the following link: <https://www.nysmpos.org/completestreets>. If anyone has comments on the page, please provide them to Jim by the end of the week.

### **Walking/Bicycling Infrastructure Cost Estimating Toolkit:**

The group has been working with NYSDOT staff for several months. The conclusion was that an update/addition to the existing Quick Estimator Excel file is likely the best option to provide the information generally desired by MPO staff. MPO staff on the committee are drafting a list of desired elements to include which will be forwarded to NYSDOT Main Office.

**Fact Sheets:**

There was discussion about an e-mobility fact sheet. It was agreed that the technology is changing rapidly so a fact sheet may not be the best option. The subcommittee was asked to look at the [nysmpos.org](http://nysmpos.org) shared mobility webpage and provide any requested changes/updates to Jim Levy at [jlevy@planning4places.com](mailto:jlevy@planning4places.com).

**7. NYSERDA New York Cycling Census**

Dan Suraci presented a summary of the initial results of the survey. The survey closed on May 31st with approximately 13,600 responses covering every county in NYS. The survey looked at where New Yorkers are biking, why they don't bike, how they bike to transit, e-bike utilization, bicycle tourism, and other topics. Part of the analysis will be to break down the data by different demographic and geographic levels. Currently, data is being cleaned-up and assessed. There will be an online dashboard created to provide access to everyone. It will allow for manipulation of key data points/types. It is anticipated that this will come out in September. MPOs can also request raw data for their area from Dan.

**8. MPO Projects & Discussion Items****Liability:**

SMTC – had brought up an issue related to legal liabilities. In 2013, SMTC hosted a session with Cornell Local Roads on this topic on behalf of member agencies. The takeaway was that it is better to plan to address issues than not to plan or work toward addressing these types of issues. Cornell Local Roads is revamping this training session currently and it may be available in the Spring. Cornell has a resource document that can be referenced: <https://cornell.app.box.com/v/clrp-ws-ahdll>. There is also a video produced by Cornell on this topic: Roads and Streets Legal Issues Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBhLQOZWE-c>. Emily will follow up with Cornell Local Roads about possible training opportunities.

**9. Other Topics:****Walk-Bike New York:**

Lauren noted that they are regularly getting asked for information on the economic impact of Complete Streets. NYSERDA & NYSDOT produced a resource for measuring Complete Streets impacts: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Files/Publications/Research/Transportation/16-19-Measuring-Impact-of-Complete-Streets-Projects.pdf>. There is also a link to a NYCDOT study on the links page of the MPO website under Economic Impact Studies: <https://www.nysmpos.org/useful-links>. Send any additional links to Jim L for adding to the website.

**ESRI Collector App** – Jim will talk with GIS Working Group Chairs, the Executive Committee, and ESRI about securing a training session for MPO staff.

## 10. Action Items

The following items are noted for follow-up:

- Nicole will send out a copy of her slides or other information on FHWA's Complete Streets policy.
- Scott will schedule a meeting of the Counts subcommittee later in the year.
- Geoff to schedule a meeting for the Complete Streets subcommittee to review the page and make any necessary edits.
- The Cost Estimating subcommittee is developing a list of desired additions to the quick cost estimator. Jim will forward the list to NYSDOT staff for review/consideration.
- The Fact Sheet subcommittee will coordinate with Jim on revisions to the shared mobility webpage.
- Emily will follow up with Cornell Local Roads about training opportunities related to legal liabilities.
- Jim will coordinate with GIS Working Group staff and the Executive Committee on securing a training on the ESRI Collector Application.
- Complete Streets Projects Economic Development and other measures – send any links to Jim L for adding to the website.
- Send Emily and Jim any ideas for future speakers/presentation ideas.
- Emily to send Jim links to ped/bike safety videos from Dutchess County for distribution to the group.