



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

June 10, 2021
Teleconference
10:00 AM – 11:30 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- BMTS – Ashley Seyfried
- CDTC – Jennifer Ceponis
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Courtney Taylor
- GTC – Alex Kone
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Jon Harman
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT – Meghan Webster
- NYSDOT – Sandra Lusher
- NYSDOT – Colleen Smith Lemmon
- NYSDOT – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT – Lanny Wexler
- NYSDOT – John Simpson
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT – Bruce Cunningham
- HOCTC – Alex Turner
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- Planning4Places – James Levy

1. Introductions

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes

The meeting notes from the December 2020 Zoom meeting were approved for posting to the website.

3. NYSDOT Updates

Karen Lorf noted that she received input from the Regions regarding the use of SHARDS and is still working with the NYSDOT Design group on this. She is also working on guidance about the use of stop signs on streets crossing shared-use paths (eg, how far back the path needs to be for a stop sign to be appropriate on the side street, so the path is treated as a midblock crossing rather than a path along the main street). If anyone has examples or thoughts on this, please provide it to Karen (karen.lorf@dot.ny.gov). The State Bike Routes evaluation is on-going; Meg Webster will reach out to MPOs when appropriate. The RRFB/HAWK video may be completed by late summer and will be shared. Scott Reigle noted that a HAWK will be installed near a high school in August to provide students with a safer road crossing to access restaurants during lunch periods.

Regarding the State Bike Plan update, the scope needs to be approved. Karen is looking at Iowa's plan as a model. Regarding DOT/MPO coordination, the MPO bike/ped contact list has been posted for DOT staff to access.

Karen also noted that if anyone is planning to use a State route as part of a local bike route, they should contact her and the Regional Bike/Pedestrian Coordinator.

4. Partner Agency Updates

No updates.

5. Work Plan

Work plan items have been assigned to sub-committees. Calls to discuss work plan items will be scheduled before the next meeting to further define each effort and get them moving forward.

i. Ped/Bike Counters Sub-Committee

This committee has been meeting quarterly since it was established. An online forum was established last year. The sub-committee, led by Ashley Seyfried, developed a survey to assess counter usage across NYS. All MPO staff were encouraged to complete the survey by 6/30 if they are involved in using counters. If anyone would like access to the forum, please contact Jim Levy: jlevy@planning4places.com.

ii. Complete Streets Toolkit

Ashlee Long has been working on developing a model ordinance. The document is currently in the feedback stage and should be ready for distribution soon. Scott Reigle noted that UCS (consultant) may have a workshop opportunity available. Reach out to Dan Suraci (dan@urbancyclingsolutions.com) if you are interested.

iii. Cost Estimating Fact Sheet

There are several cost estimators available online, but the intent of this effort is to develop data for use across the state and to account for different scenarios – federal vs. local dollars, downstate vs. upstate cost differences, etc. Emily suggested reviewing NYSDOT's new PCET tool. See the following for more information on the PCET tool:

Hwy Design Manual Chapter 21—see link to PCET and other references:
www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/design/dqab/hdm/chapter-21

PCET Training Videos available:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdauzvEu1kfdxk_YEtM0uZf5g0g_cy_mE

iv. E-Bikes Fact Sheet

This fact sheet is needed to help assist municipalities and others to understand what the law says and what they are required to do (if anything). The sub-committee has met and assigned roles for specific topic areas. It is envisioned that this document will include a flow chart, trail use laws and regulations summary, and details on etiquette and existing laws. Karen Lorf noted that she just discussed these issues with the Traffic and Safety Division and the general belief, but not an official position of the NYSDOT, is that e-bikes should not be regulated differently than other bicycles. Studies have shown that there generally is not a speed differential between e-bikes and other bicycles. There are concerns about laws differing from one community to another and how that would potentially impact the use of e-bikes when moving between communities. Karen noted that she has a whitepaper that she can share with the group on this topic.

6. Legislation Tracking

i. MUTCD Proposed Changes

There are changes proposed to the MUTCD. It will be some time before any changes are made. The USDOT has received over 25,000 comments.

ii. Complete Streets Act

No update.

iii. 3' Passing Law

Legislation is pending in Committee on this potential law.

iv. Scooter Safety & E-Bikes legislation

No update.

v. Speed Limit Reduction Legislation

No update.

7. Other Topics:

- i. David Staas provided a presentation on the ADA inventory data sharing process that UCTC has undertaken. He shared his screen to show how the GIS platform works.

The viewer can be accessed here:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/dd1f7ce49aac4ddda51c6df1712626e5>

- ii. The Governor's Highway Safety Association produced a Pedestrian Fatalities by State 2020 Preliminary Data document. A copy was sent to the Working Group with the June meeting summary email on June 18, 2021.

- iii. BMTS is sponsoring a ride on August 7th. Information is available online at <https://bmtsonline.com/bikeped/bridge-pedal> and <https://www.facebook.com/BinghamtonBridgePedal>

- iv. There was discussion about potentially holding an in-person meeting. Jim Levy will bring this idea to the MPO Directors for discussion and guidance. Emily noted that Walk Bike NY is planned for spring 2022 in Rochester.

8. Action Items

The following items are noted for follow-up:

1. If anyone has examples or thoughts on the use of stop signs on streets crossing shared-use paths, please contact Karen Lorf (karen.lorf@dot.ny.gov).
2. Work Plan – The e-bikes fact sheet, counters sub-committee work, bicycle & pedestrian facility cost estimating toolkit, and the Complete Streets toolkit efforts will continue by holding meetings to discuss details. Jim Levy will work with each sub-committee to schedule these meetings prior to the next Working Group meeting.

Karen Lorf will share a whitepaper with the e-bikes subcommittee.