



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs SAFETY WORKING GROUP

December 22, 2021

Webinar

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- AGFTC - Jack Mance
- CDTC – Carrie Ward
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC - Courtney Taylor
- GTC - Alex Kone
- HOCTC - Alexander Turner
- NYMTC – Sherry Southe
- UCTC – Brian Slack
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC - Barbara Cadwell
- NYSDOT – Jonathan Hill
- NYSDOT – Harriet Lewis
- NYSDOT - Robert Zitowsky
- NYSDMV – Chuck DeWeese
- NYSDOH – Jennifer Hogan
- Cory Hopwood – Cambridge Systematics
- Planning4Places – Kathy Ember

1. Introductions & Updates

Alex Kone opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

2. Meeting Notes

The November 17, 2021, meeting notes were accepted as written.

3. Presentation on the Ulster County Road Safety Plan

Cory Hopwood, Cambridge Systematics, provided a presentation on the final Ulster County Road Safety Plan which was completed this summer. He discussed the project goals and background (which was previously presented to the Safety Working Group), discussed the priority location analysis and project prioritization efforts, details of the Safety Plan, and future actions. The goal of the Plan was to look at crash trends and analyze the safety data systematically to develop a proactive plan. The first part of the data analysis was to review crash trends (total crashes, fatal and injury, and rates) then look at over-represented crash types and over-represented contributing factors. The second step involved a detailed look at the types of crashes and characteristics of the roadways. Roadway departures represented almost 50% of the fatalities, reflective of the Ulster County's rural setting. Fatalities and serious injuries of walkers and bicyclists are more common in the most populated jurisdictions.

The network screening methodology used crash data from 2014-2018 to calculate crash frequency per average annual daily traffic (AADT) using a sliding window technique for segments and crash severity for intersections. Because there was limited AADT data on the local roads, the analysis used PIL thresholds for crash totals and crash rates.

The screening resulted in a list of the top-50 locations that were narrowed to the top-10 locations. Part of the process included using an online priority location feedback map to receive targeted feedback. Stakeholders could review the data and can say if they agreed if the high priority locations should be priority locations. The top 5 segments and top 5 intersections had different owners, jurisdictions, and geographic spread. For each location, crash diagrams, recommendations, costs, and benefit-cost analyses were completed.

The goal for the Plan is to be a blueprint for improvements. A couple of locations are in implementation. David Staas reported that UCTC is working hard to implement the recommendations. One project was added to the TIP and other projects are under consideration. These projects will be followed-up and added to the long-range plan schedule.

Alex Kone asked about the source of the crash modification factors estimates. Cory Hopwood said it was a combination of looking at New York project data and FHWA guidance. He added that the estimates were on the conservative side.

Emily Dozier asked about examples of systemic treatments in the plan. Cory Hopwood replied that they focused more on roadway departure treatments such as rumble and signage delineation at curves.

4. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update

Alex Kone wanted to add this to the Safety Working Group agenda moving forward. There are upcoming changes to the HSIP program including adding eligible projects (including non-infrastructure safety projects such as education, research, enforcement, emergency services, and safe routes to school). Additional project types are added (railway-highway crossing grade separation projects, traffic control devices for pedestrians and bicyclists, roadway improvements that separate cars from bicycles and pedestrians). There will be a vulnerable road safety (VRU) safety assessment. Fifteen percent of HSIP funds will have to be set-aside for vulnerable road users required for states that exceed a threshold of crashes for bicyclists and pedestrians. There is also a new Safe Streets and Roads for All program. Eligible projects include comprehensive safety action plans and planning, design, and development activities for infrastructure identified in those plans. These topics will be discussed throughout the year as part of our updated Work Program. Alex Kone will share these slides.

5. Partner Updates

- a. NYSDOT: Robert Zitowsky shared in the chat that the CLEAR Data Viewer Training was held on WebEx on 12/15, 12/16, and 12/21. Training will be timestamped and placed on the Accident Analysis Toolbox for later viewing. The Go Live date for CLEAR Data Viewer will tentatively be January 21, 2022. The CLEAR Safety training will be held in January.
- b. ITSMR: No report.

- c. GTSC: Chuck DeWeese reported that fatalities are up in 2021 by 10%. This is consistent with what we are seeing across the country. GTSC is reviewing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It looks like there will be \$10 million more per year for grant funding and will be looking for new partners. Our goal is to try to reach out to disadvantaged communities to increase grants to these areas. They are still trying to work with the Office of Cannabis Management for DRE training and to do PSAs across the state. The GTSC Annual Report was approved and sent to NHTSA. It will be available on the GTSC website. There has also been discussion around the country regarding behavioral traffic safety and that it plays a critical role in the Safe Systems Approach.
- d. Cornell Local Roads Program: Alex Kone noted that the Cornell website has a list of training opportunities [here](#). David Orr would like feedback on trainings.
- e. NHSTA: No report.
- f. FHWA: No report.
- g. NYSATSB: Alex Kone will provide an update at the next meeting.

6. Training/Conferences and Other Topics

Alex Kone noted that conference and training opportunities are found on the agenda. There will be a CLEAR training will be in January. A draft Work Program will be sent in advance of the January meeting.

7. 2022 Meeting Schedule

Kathy Ember asked about if the group can look over the meeting dates and let us know if any of them will be an issue. Calendar invites will be sent out soon.

Action Items

- Alex Kone will share the share slides on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update.
- Cory Hopwood will share his presentation for distribution to the Safety Working Group.