



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

December 13, 2018

Teleconference

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Jennifer Ceponis
- CDTC – Jordan Solano-Reed
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Scott Shaw
- NYSDOT Main Office – Tom Benware
- NYSDOT Main Office – Colleen Smith Lemmon
- NYSDOT Main Office – Jim Ercolano
- NYSDOT Region 1 – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT Region 2 – Joseph Kaczor
- NYSDOT Region 4 – John Harmon
- NYSDOT Region 5 – Jim Kuczo
- NYSDOT Region 5 – Bruce Cunningham
- NYSDOT Region 7 - Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT Region 9 – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT Region 10 – Lanny Wexler
- SMTC – Mike Alexander
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- NYBC – Paul Winkeller
- Planning4Places – James Levy

1. Introductions

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes – September 2018

The meeting notes from September were approved for posting to the NYSAMPO website.

3. NYSDOT Updates

Tom Benware noted that the Empire State Trail is moving along quickly. He met with the HRVG today. The next big item is HRVG releasing an RFP/letting the electric trail portion from Rensselaer County to Hudson on the 19th of December.

The State Bike Plan from 1997 needs to be updated. Paul Winkeller noted that NYBC is extremely interested in seeing this effort move forward. Lanny Wexler asked about the bike map update. Tom stated that in about 1-week ICF should be unpacking all the data. There are issues with duplicative data entries that need to be resolved. There will be stable data

for the State routes. Tom is hoping for a schedule from ICF soon. Tom stated that in 2019 it would be good to look at challenges and opportunities surrounding non-auto mobility. This would include how to organize and maintain the online bike map. There are significant complexities and scope to putting together the map. Lanny noted that Region 10 has a new staffer proficient in GIS who will be helping them to compile their data. Emily asked what the MPO role will be with the map. Tom stated that close coordination between DOT and the MPOs will be vital. Will need an offline discussion on coordination.

Emily asked about the bike plan update. It seems like it would be a significant effort, especially considering the EST work that will continue into 2019. Is there capacity to start an update in 2019? If so we can put this into our 2019 workplan, if it is feasible. Tom stated that he would like to think the effort can begin but there is a significant effort for EST letting and construction in 2019. Regardless, there will be an effort to press for starting the bike plan update. Lanny noted that having the bike map done will be imperative for the Plan update. Tom stated that the bike trail network is ever expanding and being able to capture local segments will be critical.

Colleen asked about efforts related to the State Department of Health's Creating Healthy Schools and Communities efforts. Specifically, she was wondering how many MPOs have been engaged in these types of efforts. Paul noted that NYBC has been talking with DOH as part of their core work. ECTC stated that they have been very active in this program. CDTC noted that they have worked with State Dept. of Health and with the Albany County Health Department on Complete Streets. They have also worked with Capital Roots in Troy. Pilot projects and demonstration projects related to Complete Streets have been undertaken but not much work has been focused directly on schools. Emily noted that only some communities have NYS DOH grants. DCTC is working with the Dutchess County Health Department on a Complete Streets safety outreach effort with schools in City of Poughkeepsie, but it is through a GTSC grant. Paul stated that he would like to talk with Colleen about the NYBC efforts.

4. Partner Updates

a. NYBC Update

Paul Winkeller provided an update on plans for 2019. NYBC has developed a strategic plan led by Dan Suraci and TransPro (as a donation) that will help manage growth at NYBC and focus on priorities. NYBC has a new communications manager/photo journalist, Dave Kraus, who will be involved in work in 2019.

There will be significant changes in the new year. There will be significant updates on the new website. New info is coming out regularly. NYBC used to distribute 50,000 events calendar copies but that was stopped in 2010. It is expected that they will be available digitally. The calendar is self-populating and NYBC is hoping to have a robust statewide calendar ready in a few months. It has an interactive map with TPA information on bike-based tourism (one of NYBC's 4 pillars).

One area NYBC can diversify is funding. The Annual Appeal paper version was mailed and a mail chimp version will be distributed. The Appeal provides funding for policy work that grants can't support. Reiterating what Tom Benware said – Paul noted that he knows NYSDOT is committed to a bike master plan update. NYBC has stated they want

to be part of the process with NYSDOT and MPOs to create a great 21st Century Master Plan. Seven state agencies were paid sponsors at the Bike Summit in Saratoga which is proof there is interest in bicycling. Paul stated that NYS should be in top 10 in the Country— not #23. Working with Dan Suraci, there are a few projects winding down and in final report stage. 1) Cycling strategy for Hamilton County – could be model for bike tourism in Adirondacks. 2) NYSERDA CS Curriculum - can visit the new webpage (“expert assistance” tab) describing the training and view the training request form. This is a free training on-call for the next 5 years which was funded through a NYSERDA grant. The NYSDOH has put these into their program for County Complete Streets work. NYBC can provide 3-5 trainings per year. Justin Booth is focused on Upstate while Dan Suraci is focused on the Hudson Valley and Downstate areas. The course was oversubscribed at the Bike Summit. NYBC is very interested in working with MPOs and NYSDOT Regions to set these up. Need a free venue, would like to have food covered.

NYBC has several 1-day rides to offer. The organization also has some grants out including one to the REDC to do some EST Pilot Rides to draw attention to the formal launch. These types of rides could help diversify NYBC funding and Paul has a formal write-up on the idea. NYBC is also working on going back to the NYS Fair next year.

There is so much activity around e-bikes and scooters in context of a campaign for the last 4 years in Albany, but also in terms of bike share. Incredible amount of venture capital money in this area. NYBC has been fielding many calls about their role. The industry is not interested in scooters being part of Class 1 e-bikes, however the e-bikes community want to be part of Class 1. NYBC is likely to be very involved in this topic.

The 3-foot passing legislation hasn't moved forward. E-bikes legislation had flaw with helmets and age restrictions that went through the Senate but not the Assembly. Complicating things further, NYC is permitting Class 1 e-bikes. There may be interest in Albany in permitting Class 1 at the state level.

Lanny Wexler asked for a clarification on the Complete Streets training regarding whether it is ½ or 1-day. Paul noted that information on the training opportunities can be found on the website.

Paul discussed a report for extension of the EST onto Long Island. It is done but not ready for circulation. NYBC was thankful to have Andy Beers review the report before it went final as he provided great input. The Trust for Public Land led the report and has been meeting at the County Executive level. Copies of the report will be provided to Emily & Jim when it is released. Paul believes there will be a phase 2 to do a deep dive into specific sections

Finally, NYBC has been approached by Ithaca, Schenectady and Auburn to move the Bike Summit. There are a lot of questions about whether the Summit should be on Saturday with Friday training and rides on Sundays. Weekday events are tough for grass-roots attendees and Paul asked those on the call if a Saturday would work? NYBC needs MPOs and NYSDOT Regions there so it is a difficult decision. Scott Reigle noted that a Saturday might be prohibitive for MPO staff, however, if a 2-day event could be

developed, maybe MPO and elected official sessions could be held on a Friday with grass-roots focused sessions on a Saturday.

Emily Dozier asked about the online event calendar. It appears to require a log-in to submit events. As such what is the best way to submit information? Paul will look into the log-in requirement. Emily then asked about a report from The League of American Bicyclists that noted that NYSDOT didn't respond to their survey and asked if anyone knew why they stated that NYSDOT didn't respond. Paul was involved in an update. Tom Benware noted that this year the League didn't provide an official survey. They offered an opportunity to update or provide additional input as an option and all our progress had already been provided so there was no need to update. If that is what the report notes, it isn't a fair statement that NYSDOT didn't provide information. Paul noted that the LAB came to the Bike Summit and he told them they know what is happening and that NYSDOT has been responsive. Their measures focus on a State advisory committee, safe passing legislation, and a State Master Plan which they hold everyone to across the board. Tom noted that these efforts have had executive level staff involved. Paul stated that if we get the advisory committee, safe passing legislation and a Master Plan completed, that will get NYS into the top 10 immediately. Paul reiterated his appreciation to NYSDOT for their focus on the EST.

b. PTNY Report

No Report

5. ADA Transition Plan – Inventory Process Training Session

Warren County will host an in-person training based on the PDF Jack shared at the Sept. in-person meeting. It was thought it would be helpful to use the tool in the field and use through the shared GIS account. We are planning to schedule a ½ day training in Glens Falls or Queensbury where the app. is already set-up. Can do an introductory session/overview and then go out into the field with the 6-8 tablets, then reconvene and demo how the data is uploaded. If joint meeting with GIS WG, GIS staff could go off with GIS staff to discuss technical app. issues and then have discussion with Warren County planning about implementation of an ADA transition plan with local communities – particularly the very small communities. We can discuss lessons learned, etc. Probably best to do this in the spring – likely an April or May date. Emily – it is likely this training will be limited to MPO staff. Jeff asked about bringing in Safety Working Group as well. Jack stated that the training can probably handle 30-40 people with 5-6 people assigned to each tablet. Jack will check with Warren County staff to determine any bad dates, then we can work on dates and invite all MPO staff.

6. Scooter Share Research

Jennifer Ceponis undertook research on e-scooters and scooter share and provided a summary of the findings. This is quickly becoming a topic of discussion in the Capital Region as communities are wondering how it will impact the region. Interest in this topic overlaps the Smart Communities Task Force in Cap. Region, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Working Group and the Climate Change Working Group. It might be useful to coordinate further research and development of a research document amongst all three groups. The document provided is a start of what the document could contain. Please provide

Jennifer with any thoughts on what would be the most useful tool or guide for MPOs and for members (e.g. a fact sheet, white paper, online resource, etc.).

Jack asked if there were any examples of sample regulation language. The Shared Use Mobility Center has a database of legal language. NACTO guidelines are broad but they have links and examples for each type of guideline to the type of language. Emily recommended that the document highlight those resources as locations to find language on regulations. She also recommended that the draft document provide more summary text to describe what types of information can be found at each link. The deadline for comments to Jen is the end of 2018.

Emily asked the group if the document should focus on shared mobility more broadly by documenting the pros and cons of different systems (bike share, scooter share, etc.). It might be useful to focus on city-wide or college-scale applications. In addition, seniors, folks with limited mobility, etc. have concerns about who has rights to sidewalks and other infrastructure. Getting laws and regulations in place could help define roles.

7. Work Plan Items

a. MPO Safety Education Toolkit

No updates. Resources for the website are being compiled. There may be more information by the next teleconference call.

b. Model Complete Streets Ordinance

No update.

c. Bike/Ped County – Use of Eco-Counters

Emily Dozier asked if anyone on the call has pursued the PTNY offer to use eco-counters. CDTC used them several years ago. The information on using PTNY eco-counters will be distributed with the meeting notes.

d. Local Bike Safety PSA Campaign – 2019

Mike Alexander reminded everyone that for coming year, if there is interest in allocating resources to a local PSA campaign, now is the time to consider it. A five-week campaign with 350 commercials, 200,000+ viewers on different stations through the cable company in the Syracuse market (using Spectrum) cost about \$4,300. Mike has contacts for downstate and upstate – please contact him to go about getting the best price. There are logistical issues and a few stumbling blocks to setting up accounts but they can be overcome. Mike can provide help getting through these issues. Mike spoke with GTSC staff at NYS Highway Safety Symposium and there is interest in continuing to run the “Share the Road” video. GTSC may run it again this coming summer and in future years. One MPO did run 4 videos but not the 5th since GTSC was running it. If MPOs wanted to pool resources and pay for running the videos it would cost about \$25,000 (upstate only). Current videos are linked on the NYSMPOS website and they can be viewed for free. You can find links to each video at - http://nysmpos.org/wordpress/?page_id=2031.

e. Local Project Updates

Bike Sharing: Emily noted that there seems to be significant interest and discussion about this topic. Scott noted that the City of Elmira started LimeBike service in October (a dockless system). ECTC and the S. Tier bike league interviewed companies and the MPO reached-out to LimeBike. It took some negotiation but the City ended up with 120 bikes. They are seeing 30-50 rides a day. The effort is currently focused in the City and on Elmira College. Emily asked if there were any policies put in place? LimeBike worked with City Council and there were regulations regarding where they could go but the system covers most of the City. Had to get approval from City Council. Scott can look into whether or not there is legislation that was drafted. Scott will send an email to Emily with the agreement. Lanny added that Suffolk County will launch a system with about 10 stations that covers a wide area. This is one of the first suburban areas to have a large system. Lanny can provide more information. Jack noted significant interest by municipal leaders to set-up something in the Glens Falls area, but they do not seem to be up to speed on the latest technologies.

f. 2019 Work Plan

A draft Work Plan is due to the Executive Committee by the end of January. If you have any thoughts, comments or ideas for the upcoming Work Plan, please provide them to Jim and Emily by the end of the month. A draft Work Plan will be developed by Emily, David and Jim and circulated to the Working Group for review.

g. Complete Streets Fact Sheet Status Update

The Fact Sheet is complete. The current plan is to try to get it printed in early 2019.

h. Website "refresh"

The "refresh" is underway. We have had to tackle some issues but seem to have overcome them so we hope to have a draft ready in the next few months.

8. Upcoming Events

- The next Working Group meeting will be in March 2019 and meeting dates for 2019 will be identified and sent to all Working Group members.

9. Action Items

The following items are noted for follow-up:

- Jack to check with Warren County staff on scheduling the ADA Inventory Process Training.
- Please provide Jen with any thoughts on what would be the most useful tool or guide for MPOs and for members regarding e-scooters and scooter share?
- Scott will send an email to Emily with the City of Elmira agreement.
- Please send any Work Plan thoughts, comments or ideas to Jim and Emily by the end of the month.