



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

September 9, 2021

Teleconference

10:00 AM – 11:30 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Jennifer Ceponis
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Mike Perry
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYBC – Keith Pickett
- NYMTC – John Simpson
- NYSDOH – Jen Hogan
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Jon Harman
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT – Christina Gravelding
- NYSDOT – Sandra Lusher
- NYSDOT – Colleen Smith Lemmon
- NYSDOT – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT – Lanny Wexler
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT – Nicole McGrath
- NYSDOT – Jim Cuzzo
- OCTC – Ashlee Long
- PTNY – Erica Schneider
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- SMTC – Mike Alexander
- 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 June 2021 Zoom meeting were approved for posting to the website.

3. NYSDOT Updates

Karen reported that there is an internal NYSDOT working group looking at the Complete Streets checklist. The group is coordinating with several divisions within NYSDOT to understand what works and what could be improved. The group will be reaching out to MPO staff for feedback on the draft after their internal review.

Karen presented a draft “white paper” regarding the use of signs for bicycles in New York State. Signage across the State is not consistent, and the Department is looking to improve consistency and ensure proper sign usage moving forward. There was discussion about signage amongst attendees including examples of local issues, issues with existing law(s)/requirements for cyclists, enforcement concerns, and the ability to create consistent signage across the State given all the different entities responsible for bicycle signage. Based on the discussion, Karen will make some revisions and additions to the “white paper” and send it out to the Working Group for review. Overall, everyone agreed that there will need to be significant outreach to local municipalities and those charged with installing

signage to make this effort successful. Emily suggested reaching out to the Cornell Local Roads Program to ask for assistance in spreading the word to local municipalities.

4. Partner Agency Updates

Parks & Trails New York – Dylan reported on three topics of interest to the Working Group. He noted that there is nothing to report regarding legislation at the State level.

- a. Bikes Bring Business – This is an annual event organized by PTNY and this year it will be held in Illion with a focus on a newly completed segment of the Empire State Trail. This effort will help Village leaders and other realize the potential benefits of the Trail to the Village. PTNY is also currently updating the Bikes Bring Business guidebook. It will be available digitally in the near future.
- b. PTNY is creating a new HRVG & National Heritage Trust-funded guidebook for rides between New York City and Canada. The guidebook includes maps with attractions, lodging and bicycle shop locations. Dylan will likely be reaching out to MPO staff along this corridor for assistance & feedback.
- c. PTNY is working to help bring projects identified in the NYS Greenway Trails Plan (released earlier this year) to fruition. PTNY is going to talk with stakeholders about how best to move the Plan and projects forward. Stakeholder meetings are intended to include State Agencies including NYSDOT, MPOs, regional advocates and others. The schedule for these meetings should be released soon.

New York Bicycling Coalition – Keith reported on the NYBC bicycle safety campaigns being undertaken. There is an e-bike/scooter campaign scheduled for November and a conference call with GTSC in October to discuss e-bike laws & training sessions. There will also be a campaign to increase safety for riding at night, a campaign focused on children and youth, and a general safe riding on roads campaign. NYBC is looking for partners for these campaigns. NYBC will have an e-bikes video produced this fall and rack cards, posters, social media posts and digital material(s) downloads available on their website. Emily noted that the NYSAMPO is currently drafting a digital e-bikes fact sheet that should be online by the end of the year. Karen noted that NYSDOT is looking to develop a policy and any feedback and input on these efforts is welcome. Jen Hogan noted that the NYS Association of Transportation Safety Boards could distribute materials. Information could also be distributed to local health department offices.

New York State Department of Health – Jen Hogan noted that the obstructions PSA is running from June 7th – July 2nd. The National Lifesavers Conference is being held in Chicago. There are several workshop ideas including micro mobility and work being undertaken in New York State. Jen noted that Gina is leaving NYSDOH.

5. MPO Projects

Jack presented on the A/GFTC Regional Bike Plan Update. The update created a Priority Project inventory in ESRI (a link can be found on the A/GFTC website- www.agftc.org/bicycle-pedestrian) for projects listed in the Regional Bike Plan. The online map shows local priority projects, the bicycle & pedestrian priority network, and includes a 1-page project description for each project. All work and mapping was done in-house, though it is anticipated that a consultant or municipality will do the description sheets in the future. The description sheets have been added as an appendix to the Regional Bike Plan.

6. Work Plan

Work plan items have been assigned to sub-committees.

i. **Ped/Bike Counters Sub-Committee**

This committee has been meeting quarterly since it was established. An online forum was established last year, and posts already online will be reorganized. If anyone would like access to the forum, please contact Jim Levy: jlevy@planning4places.com. Karen noted that NYSDOT has updated ped/bike count guidance & protocols, which they will share.

ii. **Complete Streets Toolkit**

Ashlee Long has been working on developing a model ordinance. The sub-committee met and agreed that a toolkit similar to what was done for the Safety Toolkit on nysmpos.org would be useful.

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. The sub-committee is developing an outline of what this effort should include. Karen noted that NYSDOT PCET tool should provide what staff are looking for from this effort. Sub-committee members are encouraged to review the tool and provide feedback.

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). Fact Sheet development is underway, and the document should be finalized by the end of the year.

7. Legislation Tracking

i. **Bicycle & Pedestrian Infrastructure/Best Practices** – This discussion was requested by Jay but will be tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints.

ii. **Legislation Tracking**

As noted by Dylan, there are no notable updates at this time.

iii. **TAP/CMAQ**

The call for projects is out.

iv. **Meeting Format**

Meetings will remain virtual for the foreseeable future.

v. FYI

Jim provided two items that may be of interest – an update to Apple Maps that is touting significant upgrades for use by cyclists and a new Complete Streets Tool and User Guide from Smart Growth America that was released in August.

vi. Future Speaker/Topic Ideas

- Additional signage consistency discussion.
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Infrastructure/Best Practices discussion as requested by Jay.

8. Action Items

The following items are noted for follow-up:

1. If there are any additional thoughts on the signage discussion, please contact Karen Lorf (karen.lorf@dot.ny.gov). Karen will share the updated white paper with the Working Group.
2. Work Plan Items – The e-bikes fact sheet, counters sub-committee work, bicycle & pedestrian facility cost estimating toolkit, and the Complete Streets toolkit efforts will continue to progress toward completion.