



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

December 10, 2020

Teleconference

10:00 AM – 11:30 PM

### MEETING NOTES

#### **Participating**

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Jennifer Ceponis
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Courtney Taylor
- GTC – Bob Williams
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYSDOH – Jennifer Hogan
- NYSDOT – Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT – Sandra Lusher
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Jim Ercolano
- NYSDOT – Meghan Webster
- NYSDOT – Chris Church
- NYSDOT – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT – Jon Harman
- NYSDOT – Lanny Wexler
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT – Bruce Cunningham
- NYSDOT – Christina Graveling
- NYMTC – John Simpson
- HOCTC – Alex Turner
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- PTNY – Erica Schneider
- SMTC – Mike Alexander
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- Planning4Places – James Levy

*If I have missed your name above, please let me know: [jlevy@planning4places.com](mailto:jlevy@planning4places.com).*

#### **1. Introductions**

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

#### **2. Approval of Meeting Notes**

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

#### **3. Presentation by PTNY on the NYS Greenway Trails Plan**

Dylan Carey presented the work that PTNY and NYS Parks has undertaken to develop the plan. The effort is intended to be a springboard to continue trail development after completion of the EST effort. A survey resulted in over 2,400 responses which helped inform the goals and recommendations. Dylan noted that a take-away from the effort is that the Long Island and New York City regions were under-represented in the survey. The two most common uses of trails were identified as bicycling and walking. The top two reasons to use trails were exercise and health/wellness. Transportation ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> to last among the reasons to use trails. The plan details trail types and uses, benefits, needs/trends and resources, and goals and recommendations for the future. There is an identified need to coordinate/collaborate more as trails are under different ownership/management and first/last mile connections are vital.

A map was created which is available online. Dylan asked everyone to review it and see if it is accurate for your area. There is a link on the map to report errors. Next steps include completing a Type 1 SEQR assessment, 60-day public review period, and a January 6, 2021 Public Hearing. Comments on the plan are due by January 19, 2021 and can be sent to [StatewideTrailsPlan@parks.ny.gov](mailto:StatewideTrailsPlan@parks.ny.gov). The plan will be finalized in spring 2021. More information at: <https://parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx> or <https://www.ptny.org/our-work/support/nys-greenways-plan>.

#### 4. Work Plan

i. **Ped/Bike Counts**

Dylan Carey noted that count data along the EST/Canalway Trail in Rochester, Syracuse, Canastota, the Mohawk Valley and Schuylerville will be available. The information will come out in February 2021. If anyone has other count data on the EST, please contact Dylan to share the data. Scott Reigle noted that there is new information posted on the Counters forum. At BMTS, a counter was unknowingly removed by NYSDEC for work they were doing. This issue resulted in a discussion about how to label counters with contact information. Dylan noted that PTNY has discussed how to better label counters but also doesn't want to draw attention to them. Karen Lorf requested that Michael Grant be added to the Counters subcommittee. A link to the Counters forum log-in page will be placed at the bottom of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Working Group page on [www.nysmpos.org](http://www.nysmpos.org).

ii. **Safety Education**

Jen Hogan noted that complete Pedestrian Safety month television ad reports are not yet available. There was a visibility campaign from October 1 – October 30 on several social media platforms. These efforts resulted in 13M impressions and 14,000 clicks. 11 of the 20 focus communities participated in the enforcement wave. The NYS Association of Traffic Safety Boards will resume in January 2021. Emily noted that the National Pedestrian Safety Action Plan has been released and everyone should review it. More information at: [https://highways.dot.gov/sites/fhwa.dot.gov/files/2020-11/FHWA\\_PedSafety\\_ActionPlan\\_Nov2020.pdf](https://highways.dot.gov/sites/fhwa.dot.gov/files/2020-11/FHWA_PedSafety_ActionPlan_Nov2020.pdf)

iii. **Complete Streets**

The link to the Safe Routes to Transit webinar will be emailed to everyone. More information at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cYPDEgIDW6OHcbHVma6zzWmlw6xfYBRI?usp=sharing>.

iv. **ADA Transition Plans**

Jack Mance discussed changes to NYSDOT's Local Project Manual (Chapter 13) related to ADA Transition Plans. It now includes the need for local ADA Transition Plans and clarifies ownership and treatments. Local governments should include sidewalks along State-owned roads in their ADA plans since they provide maintenance. The State also needs to bring sidewalks into compliance if they are doing work on a State road. Karen Lorf will look for more information/guidance and

report back. More information at:

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/portal/page/portal/plafap/view-document?id=1423>.

v. **Shared Mobility**

Jen Ceponis noted that there are more e-bikes on trails than ever before and enforcement is an issue. It has been noted that police department staff may not recognize the difference between a legal e-bike and an illegal one. Dylan noted that the State legislation requires e-bikes to be labeled but that may not take effect immediately. PTNY is working on revisions to the legislation to clarify shared use path regulations and remove the road speed limit restriction. Jen noted that the use of e-bikes was expected to increase so this issue isn't really a surprise but assessing how these new bike types fit into the existing infrastructure may be an effort to undertake. Trails may need widening. Reaching out to disability groups should be part of this effort.

Karen noted that there may be a need for signage about permitted bicycle types (i.e., no throttle bikes). Scott noted that there are issues with gas-powered bicycles and a lack of enforcement. Jim Levy noted that he has seen these in the Capital District as well recently and that it doesn't seem that most municipalities/municipal staff are aware of the current law or the explosion of e-bikes and to a lesser degree gas-powered bicycles. Education and outreach to municipal staff may also be something to consider. The development of a fact sheet discussing e-bikes (and gas-powered bikes) might be a good Work Plan item for 2021. Working Group members should think about what the role of MPOs might be regarding this topic.

**5. NYSDOT Updates**

K. Lorf noted that staff is primarily focused on the EST with a completion date at the end of the year.

**6. Other Partner Updates**

Dylan noted that a new PTNY Cycling the Erie Canal guidebook will be released in 2021. PTNY is looking at advocacy efforts for the 2021 Legislative session. Some priorities include dedicated funding for trails, streamlining regulations for trail development, tax credits for landowners for greenway trails, a 3' safe passing law, municipal ability to set (lower) speed limits on roads (this is a very popular topic across NYS), closing the Complete Streets loophole for maintenance projects, development of a state-wide vision zero policy, and streamlining permits for temporary/pop-up projects. Let Dylan know if you suggest other priorities.

**7. Other Topics**

Danielle Krol had asked if MPOs had information on project costs. One cost estimate was submitted. Cost estimates for paved shoulders, sharrows, off-road paths, bike lanes and plastic delineator posts are needed. It was suggested that compiling costs could be a 2021 Work Plan item.

## **8. Upcoming Events**

The next meeting will be via Zoom on March 18, 2021. Log-in information will be provided with the agenda. The Work Plan will be drafted by the end of January and should be approved by the end of March.

## **9. Action Items**

The following items are noted for follow-up:

- Karen Lorf will look for more information/guidance on the ADA Transition Plan Chapter 13 requirements and report back if there is anything to add to the discussion from today.
- Comments on the NYS Trail Plan are due by January 19, 2021. Dylan asked everyone to review it and see if it is accurate for your area. There is a link on the map to report errors. Let Dylan know if you have other 2021 priorities.
- Let Jim know if you would like to join the Bike/Ped counters group.
- If you have EST Counter data that you can share with PTNY, please contact Dylan.
- Working Group members are encouraged to begin assessing the potential to provide cost estimates based on projects in your MPO area.