



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

**December 12, 2019**

**Teleconference**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

### **MEETING NOTES**

#### **Participating**

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Jordan Solano-Reed
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- DCTC – Dylan Tuttle
- ECTC – Courtney Taylor
- GTC – Alex Kone, Bob Williams
- HOCTS – Alexander Turner
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYSDOT Main Office – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT Main Office – Meghan Webster
- NYSDOT Main Office – Jim Ercolano
- NYSDOT Main Office - Korie McAllister
- NYS Parks – Chris Morris
- NYSDOT Region 1 – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT Region 2 – Kristina Graveling
- NYSDOT Region 7 - Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT Region 10 – Lanny Wexler
- NYSDOT Region 4 - Bruce Cunningham
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- PTNY – Rebecca De La Cruz
- 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 September were approved for posting to the website.

#### **3. Update on Walk-Bike NY Conference**

The Conference is taking place from June 11 – 12, 2020 in Rochester. Organizing Committee reviewing proposals and developing the agenda. The Working Group will hold an in-person meeting. A. Kone is working on keynotes and panels, as well as a walking tour. PTNY submitted a proposal, as did NYSDOT and DCTC.

## 4. Work Plan

### a. Ped/Bike Counts

- i. Coordinated with DVRPC earlier this year. Looking to establish a counters' user group. Scott will follow up with DVRPC. GTC is also interested.
- ii. NYSDOT EST count program – looking to undertake a 2<sup>nd</sup> set of counts in fall 2020 to compare with the first count. They will share data when available. NYSDOT is looking at the FHWA data field recommendations to see if a template can make it easier to compare/share information. K. Lorf will share.
- iii. DCTC did 40 counts this year using tubes or video cameras (26 tubes, 14 cameras) in addition to 37 2-hour manual counts. DCTC is still working on how best to review and analyze the data. Their new traffic counts RFP is more specific about non-motorized count requirements.
- iv. BMTS has an ESRI-based online bike/pedestrian map that allows viewers to see monthly counts on their trails (see <http://www.bmtsonline.com/node/41>). BMTS is considering how to develop annual reports. S. Reigle will share GIS data tables and more information once reporting formats are developed.

### b. Safety Education

- i. See <https://www.nysmpos.org/safety-education-toolkit>. The MPO Association is looking to regularly update this toolkit so please forward any new information for posting.

### c. Complete Streets

- i. Smart Growth America's National Complete Streets Coalition offers Complete Streets implementation workshops (<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/work-with-us/workshop-types/complete-streets/>).
- ii. NYBC has funding for six Complete Streets workshops in 2020, only two workshop opportunities remain (see <https://nybc.net/en/expert-assistance/training>). NYBC may be able to get more funding if there is significant demand for the workshops. Training materials may be able to be provided to other organizations but it would require a "train the trainer" course so that the materials could be properly utilized.
- iii. Other training opportunities are available through NYSDOT.
- iv. OCTC is updating their model Complete Streets ordinance which will be shared with the Working Group when complete. It will be in-line with Smart Growth America's best practice policy elements.

### d. ADA Transition Plans

- i. UCTC will have a spring intern finish the ADA ratings in the City of Kingston and then work in Ulster County Villages. They are using GIS Pro and the Collector app.
- ii. Not much ADA work currently in the A/GFTC area. Project consultants are collecting ADA data in coordination with project fieldwork.
- iii. See <https://www.nysmpos.org/ada-toolkit> for tools. J. Mance or D. Staas can provide more information on how their tools have been used.

**e. Shared-Mobility Research**

- i. BMTS is looking into the feasibility of an area-wide bike share program. Bike share currently only exists at Binghamton University.
- ii. SMTC has seen a noticeable drop in the number of Gotcha bikes available. The plan was to have bikes available year-round, but Gotcha was recently purchased by another company.
- iii. ITCTC is reviewing Lime bike data and looking at hotspots to identify the need for bike facilities. It appears people are riding to destinations like grocery stores and then taking Uber for the return trip. There may be a need for new types of bikes (like cargo bikes) to meet trip needs.

**5. NYSDOT Updates**

- a. K. Lorf introduced herself. She has been with NYSDOT for 13 years, previously with the design group. She is a landscape architect. She started her new role on October 31.
- b. NYSDOT will be removing the outdated online bike map and replacing it with a new map, focused on the State Bike Routes (expected by the end of January). They will then add other routes.
- c. For the Empire State Trail, all work is to be completed by the end of 2020. E. Dozier asked if there is a GIS layer that MPOs can incorporate into their databases. NYSDOT is currently discussing data ownership/availability of data. State Parks or Greenway may host the online maps.
- d. NYSDOT is developing a scope of services for a statewide bike plan update. This should be done in January.
- e. E. Dozier noted that NYS moved up in the League of American Bicyclists' rankings to #13 (see [https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/BFS%20Report%20Card 2019 NewYork.pdf](https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/BFS%20Report%20Card%202019%20NewYork.pdf)). K. Lorf noted that some of what helped was that NYSDOT spent a lot of time answering questions and going through the questionnaire.

**6. Other Partner Updates**

- a. PTNY is working on a GTSC-funded project. Two documents were distributed to Working Group members in an earlier email from J. Levy. One was a guide providing information and case studies. The other was a decision matrix to determine street conditions and assess opportunities for improvements. PTNY is requesting feedback by January 10th. A third component is a demonstration project to be conducted in May 2020. PTNY is looking for recommendations on a good pop-up demonstration location. E. Dozier noted that it might be good to break-up the document into Chapters and noted that NACTO has a similar matrix. D. Carey noted that this matrix is heavily influenced by the NACTO document.
- b. D. Carey noted that the non-motorized multi-use trail plan (Greenway Plan) effort is underway. Legislation was passed last month giving NYS Parks 1 year to complete the effort. C. Morris from NYS Parks provided an overview of the Greenway Plan. He noted that MPO and NYSDOT Bike/Ped planners and coordinators will be critical to this effort. This plan will likely be at the Statewide/County/Regional level looking at the larger connections. D. Carey requested any information available from MPOs regarding regional trail plan

efforts. Any regional or county-wide data and information should be sent to both C. Morris and D. Carey.

## **7. Work Plan Updates**

- a. Please provide any information or comments to J. Levy by January 3rd.

## **8. Legislation Tracking**

- a. The proposed NYS Complete Streets Act revision has passed in the Assembly only. It is a priority for PTNY for the next session. D. Carey noted that the bill changes the current regulations which exempt maintenance and resurfacing projects – those project types would be required to go through the Complete Streets checklist.
- b. Another proposed law would increase state funding to local projects that include Complete Streets elements.
- c. e-bike/scooter share legislation is still being considered by the Governor.

## **9. Other Topics**

- a. No updates on the status of updates to the MUTCD.
- b. Communities are increasingly interested in new crosswalk designs but FHWA is generally not in favor of the idea. There is hope that FHWA will provide more guidance regarding crosswalk colors/designs. K. Lorf stated that crosswalks need a certain level of contrast and if that isn't met, it is a safety consideration. Up to locals to decide what they want to do on local streets but if not consistent with the MUTCD, they may be liable if something happens. J. Ercolano stated that designs in violation of the MUTCD is an issue. K. Lorf stated that this is really a safety and liability issue. See MUTCD FAQs:  
[https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/knowledge/faqs/faq\\_part3.htm](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/knowledge/faqs/faq_part3.htm)
- c. V. Deane discussed bicycling on sidewalks. NYS does not prohibit it, but some municipalities do prohibit it.

## **10. Upcoming Events**

- a. Walk-Bike New York – June 11-12, 2020 (Rochester, NY)
- b. G. Urda proposed hosting an in-person meeting in Watertown. It was agreed that the September meeting would be "penciled-in" as in-person in Watertown.
- c. J. Levy noted that calendar meeting notices for 2020 meetings have been sent out.

## 11. Action Items

The following items are noted for follow-up:

- Ped/Bike Counts:
  - o Scott to follow up with DVRPC re eco-counter user group
  - o Scott to share GIS data tables for online ped/bike count map to NYSDOT (see <http://www.bmtsonline.com/node/41>)
  - o Karen to share FHWA's 22 recommended data fields
- Safety Education
  - o All: review Safety Education Toolkit and suggest any updates (see <https://www.nysmpos.org/safety-education-toolkit>)
- Complete Streets:
  - o All: let Scott/Ashlee know if you'd like to help work on a Model Complete Streets ordinance for our March meeting
  - o NYBC Complete Streets training: <https://nybc.net/en/expert-assistance/training>

League of American Bicyclists NYS report card (#13):

[https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/BFS%20Report%20Card\\_2019\\_NewYork.pdf](https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/BFS%20Report%20Card_2019_NewYork.pdf)

PTNY:

- o All: send feedback on GTSC project by Jan 10<sup>th</sup> via email to Rebecca/Dylan.

PTNY/Parks – Multi-use trail plan:

- o All: send Chris Morris ([christopher.morris@parks.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.morris@parks.ny.gov)) & Dylan Carey ([dcarey@ptny.org](mailto:dcarey@ptny.org)) MPO-level trail plans; suggest partners
- o Jim to send BPWG email list to Chris M (cc Dylan at PTNY)

- Work Plan:
  - o Subcommittees, PTNY, NYSDOT and others: review and provide edits to Jim by 1/3/20.
  - o Anyone interested in joining a small group to work on the 2020-21 work plan- let Jim know.
- Creative Crosswalks: MUTCD FAQs here:  
[https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/knowledge/faqs/faq\\_part3.htm](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/knowledge/faqs/faq_part3.htm)