



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

March 19, 2020

Teleconference

10:00 AM – 11:30 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Jennifer Ceponis
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- FHWA – Maria Chau
- FHWA – Gautam Mani
- HOCTS – Alexander Turner
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYMTC – Leslie Fordour
- NYSDOT Main Office – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT Main Office – Jim Ercolano
- NYSDOT Main Office – Michael Grant
- NYSDOT Main Office – Colleen Smith-Lemmon
- NYSDOT Region 1 – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT Region 2 – Kristina Graveling
- NYSDOT Region 7 - Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT Region 7 – Lynn Godek
- NYSDOT Region 9 – Susan Pitely
- OCTC – Ashlee Long
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- PTNY – Rebecca De La Cruz
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- Planning4Places – James Levy

If I missed your name above, please contact jlevy@planning4places.com to be added.

1. Introductions

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes

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

3. Update on Walk-Bike NY Conference

The Conference is still scheduled to take place on June 11th & 12th. A contingency plan is being developed with the venue based on other available dates. The preferred alternate dates are August 27th & 28th but August 31st and September 1st is also being considered. For more information visit itsmr.org. [Note: the conference has now been cancelled and will be rescheduled in 2021].

4. Work Plan

i. **Ped/Bike Counts**

- i. S. Reigle talked with DVRPC staff about developing an Eco-Counter user group. Based on discussions, we will start with creating an email list. Anyone interested in being included on the list should let J. Levy know.
- ii. E. Dozier stated that Dutchess County DPW is looking to undertake a trial installation of permanent counters on the Dutchess Rail Trail.
- iii. D. Carey noted that the Canalway count program is still taking place. For the first time, PTNY is using 8 count locations to estimate total trail usage. Based on preliminary calculations, the estimate is approximately 3 million trips in 2019. PTNY is using the methodology developed by Alta to estimate usage on the Empire State Trail. It was found that use generally correlates with population density. D. Carey will share the report once it is available.
- iv. NYSDOT is extending its count contract and working on a better data table for ped/bike counts. They will focus on on-road locations, including sections of the EST.

ii. **Safety Education**

- i. Plans for May Bike Month – PTNY is still planning to run the pop-up bike lane demonstration project in the City of Poughkeepsie on May 8th [note: it has since been postponed to June 5th]. CDTC is planning to move their projects/programs to the month of June. There will be a bike to work registration process but no in-person events. There is a ride planned in the City of Utica for the end of May or early June. It is expected that this will lead to a monthly 'Slow Roll' ride put on by the Oneida County Health Department through the Healthy Communities Program. HOCTS is involved in this effort.
- ii. The Working Group discussed and reviewed the newly released NYSDOT brochure *Pedestrian Signals and How to Use Them*. The brochure has been posted to the Safety Education Toolkit on the NYSAMPO page (<https://www.nysmpos.org/safety-education-toolkit>). NYSDOT owns all graphics so the brochure can be reproduced and posted without any concerns about copyright issues.
- iii. Binghamton has a HAWK that was put in as part of a State Street project. This brochure is needed as there has been confusion about the HAWK. BMTS will post this and is thinking about additional enforcement and education; NYSDOT is considering developing an educational video on the use of HAWKS. A/GFTC said there are two HAWKS in the region – one in Glens Falls and one in Greenwich. There hasn't been much feedback on either location. They distributed the brochure to the Planning Committee at the last meeting. E. Dozier asked anyone with best practices related to HAWKS to send the information/link to J. Levy so it can be distributed and added to the toolkit.
- iv. L. Godek noted that it would be useful to coordinate with the court system regarding HAWKS so that any efforts of law enforcement are fully supported and understood as these are new(er) devices. It would be useful to educate the public and use warnings first, then tickets, if necessary.

iii. **Complete Streets**

- i. OCTC is has updated their model Complete Streets ordinance. A. Long reviewed the ordinance with the Working Group. It is based on a few model ordinances and best practices including Smart Growth America's best practice policy elements. This is a more detailed update to a policy that was developed for, and adopted by, Orange County in 2017. Municipalities are likely to modify the performance measures. C. Smith-Lemmon stated that it would be interesting to compile feedback on the suggested Performance Measures from municipalities. A copy will be sent to the Working Group; comments on the document are welcome – along@orangecountygov.com.
- ii. J. Lambrix stated that he is concerned about requiring Complete Streets elements/projects that are not part of a larger system/plan/network. L. Godek stated that in general there seems to be too much emphasis on on-road bike lanes as many people are uncomfortable riding on-road. The focus should be on separated facilities such as a protected bike lane or side path. G. Urda noted that there are a lot of people riding on sidewalks. J. Lambrix mentioned that it would be interesting to reconsider the idea that bicycles are vehicles and redefine them as something other than a vehicle.

iv. **ADA Transition Plans**

- i. UCTC's intern put ADA inventory information for the Villages and Towns into GIS. In Kingston 80% of the field work is complete. Local communities would like access to the data and UCTC is working with ESRI to identify the best method to do this.
- ii. At OCTC interns digitized all data for the county into GIS. They are anticipating more work on the project this summer. The data is available to municipalities if they want it. The County is planning to incorporate this information into their 239-m review process. The GIS data makes it easy to identify gaps in the system.
- iii. At A/GFTC, the inventory data was provided in PDF and table format to the villages for integration into plans.
- iv. E. Dozier asked that OCTC and UCTC share their methods for sharing data with municipalities once the process is finalized.

v. **Shared-Mobility Research**

- i. J. Levy showed the draft shared mobility webpage on nysmpos.org to the Working Group. The page is nearly complete. It is intended as an information resource. Details on systems and real-time data is provided through links to NYSDOT webpages. Next steps include coordination with the Chair and Co-chair of the Bicycle & Pedestrian, Safety, and Transit Working Groups, then Working Group members, as well as staff from NYSDOT to get their approval. Once approved, the page will go live.
- ii. J. Lambrix noted that there is concern about the survival of shared mobility systems now that there are significant layoffs announced.
- iii. BMTS is moving forward with plans to assess the ability to expand the shared mobility program, currently only on the SUNY Binghamton campus, to the Binghamton area.

5. NYSDOT Updates

- i. K. Lorf noted that Empire State Trail work is progressing. There were some issues related to trail tunnels under railroad lines, but that is now moving forward. Work is still on-schedule to be finished by December 2020.
- ii. The State Bike Route map is now online. M. Webster (NYSDOT) will be reaching out to MPOs to identify local and regional bike routes utilizing state highways. The focus of the map is currently on assets within state ROWs. NYS Parks is doing a more comprehensive analysis of trail systems as part of the statewide trail plan effort.
- iii. NYSDOT is working with a consultant on the US Bike Route System. K. Lorf will send more information on the system to J. Levy for distribution to the Working Group.
- iv. K. Lorf noted that the scope for the NYS Bicycle Plan Update is being drafted. Thoughts such as these, or others, are welcome to help develop the scope for the Update. NYSDOT is hoping to begin the plan within the next year. Please send any thoughts on items for inclusion in the NYS Bicycle Plan scope of work to K. Lorf (karen.lorf@dot.ny.gov) no later than mid-April.

6. Other Partner Updates

- i. PTNY is continuing work on the GTSC-funded project (documents were distributed to Working Group members in December). The document is being revised based on comments received, and will be web-based. PTNY is excited to be planning the pop-up bike lane demonstration project in the City of Poughkeepsie.
- ii. D. Carey noted that the non-motorized multi-use trail plan (Greenway Plan) effort is continuing. If MPOs have access or knowledge of regional trail plans or data on existing greenways and trails, PTNY would appreciate having that information forwarded for use in development of the Plan. Please send any information to Dylan Carey dcarey@ptny.org and Chris Morris christopher.morris@parks.ny.gov. NYS Parks is planning to hire a GIS consultant to assist in the GIS mapping.

7. Legislation Tracking

- i. D. Carey stated that there hasn't been any recent activity on the Complete Streets Act.
- ii. E-bikes were in the Governor's budget proposal. It is an amended version of the last proposal but was likely to pass. Not sure where any legislation currently stands given the state of things related to COVID-19. Scooters are not included in the above referenced legislation. While scooters and e-bikes were in one bill previously, they are now separate bills.
- iii. The Rails to Trails tracking of Federal Legislation link is provided as an FYI (https://www.railstotrails.org/policy/trailstransform/?utm_campaign=trailstransform&utm_medium=email&utm_source=030420_TEN_message).

8. Meeting Schedule

- i. The next meeting was scheduled to be in-person at Walk-Bike NY. Note: With the conference cancelled, we will instead hold a teleconference call on June 11th at 10:00am).

9. Upcoming Events

- i. Walk-Bike New York has been cancelled.

10. Action Items *(note – the following information was distributed to the Working Group via email on Friday, March 20th)*

The following items are noted for follow-up:

- Ped/Bike Counts:
 - o Anyone interested in being included in the counter users email list should let J. Levy know.
 - o D. Carey will share the canal count report once it is completed.
- Safety Education
 - o Anyone with information on best practices information related to HAWKs should send the information/link to J. Levy so it can be distributed to the Working Group.
- Complete Streets:
 - o The Model Complete Streets ordinance will be distributed to the Working Group. Send any comments to Ashlee Long (along@orangecountygov.com).
 - o Please send any thoughts on items for inclusion in the NYS Bicycle Plan scope of work to K. Lorf (karen.lorf@dot.ny.gov) no later than mid-April.
- ADA Transition Plan
 - o OCTC and UCTC will share their methods for sharing data with municipalities once the process is finalized.
- Shared Mobility
 - o J. Levy will schedule a conference call with the Chair and Co-Chair of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Working Group, Transit Working Group and Transit Working Group to discuss finalizing the draft shared mobility webpage. Once approved, the page will be shared with the Working Groups for review prior to going live.
- NYSDOT:
 - o K. Lorf will send more information on the US Route system to J. Levy for distribution to the Working Group.
- PTNY:
 - o If MPOs have access or knowledge of regional trail plans or data on existing greenways and trail, PTNY would appreciate having that information forwarded for use in development of the Greenway Plan. Please send any information to Dylan Carey dcarey@ptny.org and Chris Morris Christopher.morris@parks.ny.gov.