



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

March 18, 2021

Teleconference

10:00 AM – 11:30 PM

### MEETING NOTES

#### **Participating**

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- BMTS – Ashley Seyfried
- CDTC – Jordan Solano-Reed
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- FHWA – Maria Chau
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYBC – Keith Pickett
- NYSDOH – Jennifer Hogan
- NYSDOT – Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT – Michael Grant
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Jim Ercolano
- NYSDOT – Jim Cuozzo
- NYSDOT – Meghan Webster
- NYSDOT – Colleen Smith Lemmon
- NYSDOT – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT – Lanny Wexler
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT – Bruce Cunngham
- OCTC – Ashlee Long
- HOCTC – Alex Turner
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- PTNY – Erica Schneider
- 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 December 2020 Zoom meeting were approved for posting to the website.

#### **3. NYSDOT Updates**

Karen Lorf noted that the punch-list of final items for the Empire State Trail are being completed. Due to utility work in the Units and Syracuse areas, the trail is not yet open but the trail system is functionally complete. The CSX crossing in the Pattersonville area is now open. The EST work will transition to a longer-term focus on how to link to Villages and utilize existing roadways to connect to communities and services.

Karen noted that the Statewide Bicycle Plan Update will be moving forward this year using an existing contract. The process should begin this summer.

There have been discussions about the guidance requirements for installation of shards (shoulder rumble strips). They are permitted to be used as long as the remaining shoulder is at least 4' wide. The internal review is assessing how to potentially change the policy to ensure that they are installed correctly. It may result in a change to the EI for this item. There isn't a design issue with these, it is primarily an installation issue. If anyone knows of

an area where shards are not installed correctly, please contact Karen at [karen.lorf@dot.ny.gov](mailto:karen.lorf@dot.ny.gov).

NYS DOT is also assessing the use of stop signs on paths and trails. There may be additional guidance forthcoming to ensure that these devices are installed appropriately. Staff is reviewing the state bike routes to identify any deficiencies now that they are all mapped. Jordon Solano Reed stated that CDTC has found issues with the use of stop signs on shared-use trails and paths.

Scott Reigle asked if the RRFB video effort was moving forward. Karen noted that it has been delayed but should be completed in 2021.

#### **4. Partner Agency Updates**

##### **i. PTNY**

Dylan Carey stated that the focus is currently on the Canalway Trail. There is a PTNY-supported business program for businesses supporting cycling. Pop-up event planning is underway. The updated guidebook was released about a month ago. For next year, PTNY hopes to identify routes from the trail to destinations and will be looking for input. The Cycle the Erie Canal ride is still on. The number of participants is limited to 300. Registration opens on April 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a new effort underway along the Genesee Valley Trail to undertake a count program, develop itineraries, and conduct a Bikes Bring Business effort. It is funded through the Ralph Wilson Foundation.

##### **ii. NYBC**

Keith Pickett introduced himself and explained the situation with NYBC over the last several months. The organization was unstable and the Board put things on pause to re-group. Finances have improved and the organization's direction and focus is squarely on public safety, including Complete Streets and Safe Streets. NYBC is beginning to hire staff through GTSC grant funding. There is a renewed interest in advocacy and NYBC is now partnering with the League of American Bicyclists. The organization has held 13 meetings with state elected officials and held safety trainings across the state. NYBC is looking to re-engage with partner agencies and stakeholders.

There maybe an opportunity to get funding in upcoming Federal earmarks. Suffolk County approved 3' passing legislation – it took 7 months to get to adoption. Emily Dozier asked Keith to pass along a copy of the legislation, when available. NYBC is working with a few other Counties to get the same legislation passed. If a few Counties pass the law, it is hoped that it may be feasible to get the state to pass a similar law. NYBC is also supporting the NY Crash Victims Act.

#### **5. Legislation Tracking**

- i. **Complete Streets Act**  
The passing of this Act will close a loophole that currently exists. The bill passed the Senate in March 2020 but has not moved since that time.
- ii. **3' Passing Law**  
Legislation is pending in Committee on this potential law.
- iii. **Scooter Safety & e-bikes legislation**  
Nothing to report on these at this time.
- iv. **NYC Legislation**  
There is a push from NYC legislators to look at identifying safe bike routes on MTA-owned bridges. This would require the MTA to only study the issue(s).
- v. **Speed Limit Reduction Legislation**  
There is a bill being discussed to permit municipalities to drop speed limits from 30mph to 25mph
- vi. **MUTCD Proposed Changes**  
There are changes proposed to the MUTCD and the NYSAMPO Association is developing a summary document for staff to understand what the changes are going to include. Emily Dozier discussed the draft document. A copy of the final document will be sent to the Working Group when completed.

## 6. Work Plan

- i. **E-bikes Fact Sheet**  
This fact sheet is needed to help assist municipalities and others to understand what the law says and what they need to do, if anything. It was noted that the law currently limits e-bikes to roads of 30mph or less. Municipalities appear to be permitted to change elements of the law, but likely not the speed limit element. There are questions about what elements a municipality can change and what roads are eligible. Scott Reigle, Jack Mance and Emily Dozier volunteered to work on this item.
- ii. **Cost Estimating Fact Sheet**  
This toolkit came out of discussions over the last few years, and a request by Danielle Krol at SMTC, to document actual project cost for typical bike/pedestrian elements. The NYSDOT has a pay item catalog ([www.dot.ny.gov/pic](http://www.dot.ny.gov/pic)). Jim Cuozzo noted that he has been working on cost estimation but it has been difficult to define categories and what each covers in a particular project.
- iii. **Counters Sub-Committee**  
This committee has been meeting quarterly since it was established last year. Ashley Seyfried at BMTS did an annual trail usage report for 2020 which is on the BMTS website ([www.bmtsonline.com/note/4.6](http://www.bmtsonline.com/note/4.6)). The analysis found a significant increase in trail usage from 2019 – 2020. Dylan Carey noted that usage of the Canalway Trail was up about 30% from the year prior. Info on PTNY counts can be found at

[www.ptny.org/trailcounts](http://www.ptny.org/trailcounts). Emily Dozier inquired about whether counters are located at the same place each year or if they are moved. The general consensus was that to acquire year-to-year data, it was important to keep counters in the same location.

iv. **Safety Education**

This sub-committee will be dropped as the effort is really more developed and active in the Safety Working Group. Members are asked to report-out on any safety-related items where it makes sense on future agendas. Mike Alexander noted that GTSC is continuing to have one of the PSAs broadcast and will do so into 2022.

v. **Complete Streets**

The Committee will be reformatted into an effort to develop a toolkit. Ashlee Long, Scott Reigle, Geoff Urda, Colleen Lemmon Smith, Jay Lambrix, and Karen Lorf volunteered to work on this item.

vi. **ADA Transition Plans**

This sub-committee will be dropped. Members are asked to report-out on any safety-related items where it makes sense on future agendas. David Staas noted that the UCTC sidewalk inventory effort resulted in sharing GIS data with some local government agencies. Using ArcGIS online, UCTC was able to create a product that allows editing of layers and inputting of condition ratings. For others, a viewer was produced. Because of the number of photos in the product, the total package was 1.9GB which did cause some issues.

vii. **Shared Mobility**

This sub-committee will be dropped. A shared mobility webpage was created on nysmpos.org last year which can be accessed here: <https://www.nysmpos.org/sharedmobility>. Members are asked to report-out on any shared mobility items where it makes sense on future agendas and provide updates to the webpage as-needed.

## 7. Upcoming Events

Jen Hogan noted that the Lifesavers Conference will be held virtually on April 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be via Zoom on June 10, 2021. Log-in information will be provided with the agenda.

## 8. Action Items

The following items are noted for follow-up:

1. If MPO staff are aware of any existing issues/locations related to implementation of SHARDS and/or examples of stop sign designs that work well, please let Karen know.
2. Please let Dylan know if you have a community that may be interested in a pop-up bike lane demo project assistance effort.
3. NYBC worked with Suffolk County to pass a 3' passing law and is looking to work with other Counties. Keith will provide a copy of the legislation.
4. Work Plan – There are three action items in the plan that will require assistance from MPO staff including development of an e-bike fact sheet, bicycle & pedestrian facility cost estimating toolkit and a Complete Streets toolkit tailored to NYS laws and

regulations. We have several volunteers already but please let Emily and Jim know if you would like to volunteer for any of these efforts.

5. May is Bike Month – if any MPOs are planning a social media campaign or other event(s), please let Emily and Jim know.
6. Ashlee Long is working to finalize the model ordinance and will distribute to the Working Group when complete.