

NYSAMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group Meeting

Thursday June 12, 2014 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Conference Call

MEETING NOTES

1. Introductions / Roll Call

MPOS:

A/GFTC – Kate Mance

BMTS - Scott Reigle (chair)

ECTC – Scott Shaw

GTC – Bob Torzynski

HOCTS – Dana Crisino

PDCTC – Emily Dozier

SMTC – Danielle Krol

UCTC – Dave Staas

NYSDOT:

NYSDOT Main Office – Cathy Kuzsman, Mary Harding

Region 6 – Jeff Spencer

Region 10 – Lenny Wexler

NYBC – Josh Wilson

NYSAMPO Staff: Corey Mack, RSG

2. Work Plan Implementation

a. Survey of Past Funding Recipients (Krol)

Survey has been developed and is ready to distribute. The survey link and a draft cover letter template were emailed to the MPOs Wednesday, June 11.

The survey is intended to be completed by the local project sponsors of federally funded bicycle and pedestrian grant programs. The intention of the survey is to gather data on the project development and implementation process. MPOs are encouraged to customize the cover letter and send it to project sponsors who have received funding in the past 10 years. Participation by the MPOs and the sponsors is voluntary.

Recommendations for participating:

- MPO should call the sponsor prior to sending the link to introduce the concept.
- Determine who from the sponsor is most likely to have project knowledge. There may have been staff turnover since the project was completed.
- Sponsors may be asked to complete a survey for each project. The survey isn't intended to aggregate experiences from multiple projects.
- Include the project name, number, and funding source in the cover letter and email to help remind sponsors.

- Federal project sources were compiled by Emmitt McDevitt – MPOs should review the sources to determine if any sources have been overlooked. **Danielle to send federal source spreadsheet.**

The survey is expected to be completed by participants by July 31.

The development of the survey was a collaborative effort with thanks due to Mark Bowers, Sharon Heyboer, Cathy Kuzsman, Matt VanSlyke, Emily Dozier, and several others.

b. Questions on Driving Exam (Reigle)

The questions that were developed for inclusion in the driver exam pool were similar to existing questions. Since then, S6143 / A4194 has been introduced. The bill adds a 4-5 hour bicycle and pedestrian safety component to the pre-licensing driver's education course, and mandates "ONE OR MORE QUESTIONS CONCERNING BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY." The bill has passed the transportation committee and is expected to go to the assembly soon. There was one amendment to the bill modifying the effective date of the bill from immediate to 90 days.

The bill may be found here:

<http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/S6143-2013>

<http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/A4194-2013>

The need for additional questions on the exam is unlikely if the bill is successful.

c. Bicycle and Pedestrian Counters (Reigle)

Past research into equipment needs and shared purchasing identified MioVision as the preferred equipment provider. After discussion with the MPO directors, it was decided that the joint purchase would be difficult to manage, citing concerns over equipment scheduling, transportation, and maintenance. A joint purchase will not be pursued.

MioVision is available to present to the working group on the hardware and software used in their equipment. **Scott will follow up with MioVision to present at next meeting. Perhaps compile a list of available consultants with the equipment? Rental rates directly from MioVision?**

NYBC is conducting a bicycle and pedestrian count survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LVHLSHC>. This survey will help document the current methods and best practices for bicycle and pedestrian counts in the region. The survey will be closing by the end of June.

d. Develop Fact Sheet on Bicycle & Pedestrian Laws (Reigle / Wilson)

NYBC has developed a brochure-style list of bicycle laws for enforcement training. The list is intended as a "pocket guide" for enforcement personnel. Additionally, there is a FAQ section for bicycle and pedestrian laws on the NYBC website (<http://nybc.net/bike-law/>, currently empty). For both resources, the laws are applicable statewide – specific local laws or variations are not detailed.

Josh Wilson to distribute “brochure-style” bicycle law reference. WG to review for applicability or relevance for wider distribution. Corey Mack to distribute Burlington / Local Motion example law handout.

3. Discussion Items

The following conversation threads were discussed among the group. The email threads have been attached to the notes, and any additional information added below.

a. Sidewalk Inventory / Liability – Original Question from Jen Ceponis, 5/30

b. AADT Sharrow Threshold – Danielle Krol, 5/27

In addition to the email thread, Danielle Krol described communication with the City of Ithaca regarding their experience with shared lane markings. The City has installed shared lane markings on streets with AADTs between 5,000 – 13,000 vehicles per day. The greatest benefit was noted on the lower end of the AADT range. **Danielle will compile the SLM communication for distribution to the group.**

c. Alternative Shoulder Pedestrian Marking – Danielle Krol, 5/27

d. Local Examples of RRFBs – Emily Dozier, 5/5

e. Takeaways from Walk-Bike New York

Presentations from the event will be posted to the Walk Bike New York conference web page. **Mary Harding will update the group when available.**

Several Working Group members who attended the conference noted that Rutgers is a significant resource for bicycle and pedestrian research and best practices for New Jersey; a similarly active relationship would be beneficial in New York.

Scott Shaw noted that it appeared evident that more education is still needed for Complete Streets concepts and applicable state and local laws.

4. NYSDOT Initiatives

a. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Update (Harding)

TAP grant applications were due June 11. All regions that had reported noted that many applications received; the scoring will be competitive. Application scoring will be due to the main office September 10.

b. Complete Streets (Kuzsman)

The checklist has been delayed due to staff turnover. There have been many comments on earlier drafts, and once the checklist is reassigned to DOT staff, these comments will be addressed with a revised checklist for review.

The National Complete Streets Coalition is conducting four workshops across the state, customized specifically for the community. These workshops are being held in Rochester, Jamestown, Babylon, and Queensbury. Based on how these workshops are received, the process may be repeated in other communities. The communities were selected based on

geography, regional support, local interest, approved local policies, and documented intention to follow up.

Department of Health is planning more Complete Streets webinars. **Cathy Kuzsman will update the group as the webinars are scheduled.**

c. Status of Policy on Rumble Strips (Kuzsman/Mendosza)

The policy has been drafted and reviewed, but there is no date for it to be signed.

d. Raised Crosswalk EI (Kuzsman/Mendosza)

Signed and approved. Available online:

https://www.dot.ny.gov/portal/pls/portal/mexis_app.pa_ei_eb_admin_app.show_pdf?id=11366

e. Travel Lane & Shoulder Width EI (Kuzsman/Mendosza)

Signed and approved. Available online:

https://www.dot.ny.gov/portal/pls/portal/mexis_app.pa_ei_eb_admin_app.show_pdf?id=11376

f. Walk to School Day (Harding)

Walk to School Day is October 8, 2014. Tips, event ideas and planning, and registration resources can be found here: <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>

5. Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (Reigle)

NYSDOT and FHWA are preparing an update to the statewide Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. The PSAP is a systemic approach to pedestrian safety. The current phase of the PSAP is undertaking a comprehensive analysis of available crash data from 2009 – 2013, reviewing crash locations, regional and local trends, intersection versus midblock locations, reasons for crashes, and other relevant information. Once the data analysis is complete, the PSAP will investigate two crash reduction strategies: engineering solutions, and education / enforcement solutions. **Scott Reigle will look to schedule a NYSDOT status presentation at the next meeting.**

6. Notice of Proposed Rule Making – Metropolitan & Statewide Planning

The Performance Based Planning Proposed Rule Making comment period ends August 30. Steve Gayle will be sorting through the document subject areas and working with the MPO committee chairs to circulate relevant sections to the various Working Groups for comment. **Steve Gayle and Scott Reigle to compile issues affecting bike-ped laws for comment. Scott to send out status update to group.**

7. Schedule of Upcoming Meeting

a. **In-Person Meeting: Moved to Thursday September 18 (10 AM – 4 PM) in Utica**

b. **Conference Call: Thursday, December 11 (10 AM – 12 PM)**