



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

September 12, 2019

Teleconference

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- CDTC – Jen Ceponis
- NYSDOT Main Office – Meghan Webster
- NYSDOT Main Office – Colleen Smith-Lemmon
- NYSDOT Main Office – Jim Ercolano
- NYSDOT Main Office - Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT Region 1 – David Comey
- NYSDOT Region 7 - Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT Region 9 – Susan Pitley
- NYSDOT Region 10 – Lanny Wexler
- OCTC – Ashlee Long
- SMT/TC – Danielle Krol
- SMT/TC – Michael Alexander
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- PTNY – Rebecca De La Cruz
- Planning4Places – James Levy

1. Introductions

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes

The meeting notes from June and July were approved for posting to the website. Emily noted that presentations from the NYSAMPO Conference are online.

3. NYSDOT Updates

Empire State Trail & Ped/Bike counts – Meghan noted that trail counts were undertaken and Jim Ercolano stated that 26 counts were scheduled, though they have not received an update on how many were conducted. Hwy. Data Services said most of them were completed. There may be a few more done later on in the Fall. There was some discussion about count methodology. NYSDOT did require that video be provided for the counts. A ped/bike count program is in the next data collection contract.

Regarding Empire State Trail construction, Meghan noted that most projects are in the construction stage. Some alterations have been needed but looking good to complete the projects by the end of 2020.

Bike Plan Update – Consultant has been designated to support traffic needs and NYSDOT is looking to have them update the 1997 plan. Will get info. on the timeline. Emily stated that the MPOs are happy to support this effort.

Bike Map – The online map is still a work in progress. NYSDOT is working with the consultant to update data and make it more user friendly. Will need to get info on the timeline. Lanny noted that Region 10 is looking to update their map.

Bike Route Signage – NYSDOT Main Office staff are working to identify the responsible group in NYSDOT for undertaking an inventory and ensuring maintenance for bike route signage. Lanny has inventoried signs and has the information for Region 10. Emily stated that it would be great to undertake a pilot to do the same in other regions. Lanny noted that the effort just requires doing field work and plotting the locations in GIS (Region 10 plotted them in Google Earth). **Lanny** will share his project with others at NYSDOT.

Colleen noted that NYSDOT is working to get someone to replace Tom but Meghan, Jim and Geoff Wood are continuing to move work forward.

4. Other Partner Updates

NYBC – Not on call.

PTNY – Dylan and Rebecca provided an update. PTNY held their annual bike tour in July – it was a great success. PTNY also held a Bikes Bring Business roundtable in Glens Falls earlier this week and will have a report coming out shortly. PTNY has a GTSC grant to produce a toolkit for communities to increase roadway safety for bike infrastructure. A traffic calming guide and decision-making matrix to help communities figure out what is best for their community are part of the effort. Hoping to get input on the documents as they get drafted. Dylan asked if there are any good case studies of innovative bike infrastructure installed in more rural communities. **Dylan** will send out a request email to the B/P WG. Rebecca noted that the work will include a demonstration/pilot element.

Lanny – Region 10 will be the first region in the state outside NYC and the City of Syracuse to implement green bike lanes (late 2020). Five test intersections are being undertaken initially – green colored pavement at conflict points at intersections on high volume roads using CycleMax paint – the paint used in NYC. Looking to see how long it lasts. Will track use/wear pattern over the first few years, public reaction, etc.

Meghan Webster asked if the green paint is just for intersections and Lanny stated it will be installed just at intersections with established bike lanes to improve visibility of existing conflict points.

5. NYSAMPO Conference debrief/follow-up

General Feedback on Conference - Jen stated that she thought it was good with a good variety of sessions. Geoff liked the session discussing lowering speed limits to 25 mph.

It was noted that one item that stuck out the first day was that sessions seemed autonomous vehicle-focused and didn't include how other modes fit into the discussion. Would like to see discussion on how AV technology works with other road users. Discussed changing state law to permit municipalities to lower speed limits. Dylan noted that the state law that prevents local muni's from lowering the speed limit is being assessed by PTNY and Eric Hathaway at the City of Ithaca has presented on this topic. **Jen** will share his information with the Working Group.

Tactical Urbanism – Aaron McKeon, Meghan Vitale (SMTC), and Emily participated in this discussion. SMTC is working with the City of Syracuse to improve facilities for bikes and peds in the City. The group discussed creative crosswalks and any MUTCD restrictions related to creative crosswalks, as well as funding and implementation program ideas. Jen said that in the Capital District, CDTC has a mini-grant program that has been funding some tactical urbanism demonstration projects in the region. Was some MUTCD compliance push-back initially but their understanding is as long as white parallel bars are incorporated in the design, they are ok. Creative bump-outs are ok. \$25,000 grant program annually – most projects are under \$5,000 and can lead to more permanent solutions The program has been popular.

6. Work Plan

- a. **Ped/Bike Counts** Subcommittee: NYSDOT (Kathleen – Highway Data Services, Jim E); PTNY (Dylan); BMTS (Scott); CDTC (Jen).
 - i. Working toward developing best practices for statewide implementation. There will be a call on September 27th from 1-2. NYSDOT, DVRPC, BMTS, and PTNY will have speakers on the agenda. There is also an Eco-Counter webinar on September 25th regarding collecting and applying data.
- b. **Safety Education** Subcommittee: CDTC (Jen/Sandy); SMTC (Mike).
 - i. The **BPWG members** should review the safety education toolkit on our website and suggest any items to add. See <https://www.nysmpos.org/safety-education-toolkit>
- c. **Complete Streets** Subcommittee: BMTS (Scott); OCTC (Ashlee).
 - i. Ashlee noted that OCTC has developed a model ordinance. It was shared with Scott and they will update it based on Smart Growth America guidelines. It will be more equity and performance measure- based. **Ashlee and Scott** will share it with the WG once it is ready.
- d. **ADA Transition Plans** Subcommittee: AGFTC (Jack); UCTC (Dave); OCTC (Ashlee).

- i. David and Ashley are using the GIS template and associated methodology. At OCTC, interns did initial mapping of all sidewalks, crosswalks and intersections in the county. Next year, interns will do a detailed analysis of conditions. UCTC did a basemap and inventory in Kingston and got about 1/3 of the city completed using a phone to take pictures in the field. Will continue in the future. OCTC has a pretty detailed methodology document. **Ashlee** will send this document so it can be added to the online ADA toolkit.
- e. **Shared-Mobility Research** Subcommittee: CDTC (Jen); SMTC (Danielle).
 - i. **BPWG members** will provide any comments on the latest fact sheet to Jen. **Jen and Danielle** will update it for the next BPWG call.
- f. **Legislation Tracking:** E-bikes law passed the Legislature but not yet signed into law by the Governor. There are areas where e-bikes aren't legal (mostly downstate). Lanny noted that the concern is primarily how they operate on shared use paths. E-bike speeds are not compatible with other users on the paths. Lanny asked if the Working Group should create a committee to discuss how/where to allow e-bikes. Dylan noted that his understanding is that the provision is explicitly written to ban them from the Hudson River Greenway and Niagara River Greenway trails. Also restricts use to pedal assist e-bikes which are far slower than the handlebar throttle bikes. Municipalities have discretion on where they can be used. Need a coordinated approach to how to regulate where they can be used so that a trail crossing municipal boundaries don't change from allowed to banned. **NYS DOT** will continue to track this bill.

NYS Complete Streets Act proposed revision: this would remove the exemption for maintenance, resurfacing, and pavement recycling projects so that the Act applies to all projects. Dylan noted that the legislation passed the Senate, but a new sponsor is needed in the Assembly for the legislative session starting in January.
- g. **Bicycle & Pedestrian Level of Service:** Jen at CDTC evaluated 4 different methodologies and didn't get consistent results. CDTC assessed how they would be using the methodology and decided on the Mineta Transportation Institute's Level of Traffic Stress analysis as it was the most accurate based on the results that would be expected and needed for studies. It can also be calibrated for local conditions. CDTC will use the Highway Capacity Manual analysis for engineering. They will also use visual preference surveys. Other options are more data intensive to undertake on a regular basis. **Jen** will share the memo and matrix she developed with the WG.
- h. **Other Local Projects:** Syracuse Bike Share: Danielle said it appears to be going ok. Had an issue soon after it was launched and had to take the system offline, but all appears to be fixed. Mike asked about the Bike PSA's: anyone use them beyond the online version? Anyone run their own campaign on TV? GTSC used the Share the Road video statewide. No one noted that they had used it on their own.
- i. **NYSAMPO Website:** <https://www.nysmpos.org/bikeped-working-group>. **BPWG members** to review and provide any feedback to Jim Levy.

7. Walk Bike New York conference

Emily asked if anyone had ideas for a session. None noted by WG members. Dylan stated that PTNY is planning to be involved but hasn't come up with the specifics yet. Session proposals due at the end of November. **BPWG members** to think about potential topics for presentations (see www.itsmr.org/events).

8. Upcoming Events

- NY Upstate Chapter APA Conference – October 2nd-4th (Rochester, NY)
- AMPO Conference – October 21st – 25th (Baltimore, MD)
- Walk-Bike New York – June 11-12, 2020 (Rochester, NY)

9. Action Items

The following items are noted for follow-up:

- Schedule 2020 calls & meetings for approval in December
- Add tool links/documents
- Jen to share contact information for Eric Hathaway (per discussion about reducing speed limits).
- Lanny will share his bike route sign inventory project with others at NYSDOT.
- Dylan will send out a request email to the B/P WG regarding any good case studies of innovative bike infrastructure installed in more rural communities.
- BPWG members should review the safety education toolkit on our website and suggest any items to add. See <https://www.nysmpos.org/safety-education-toolkit>.
- Ashlee and Scott will share the model Complete Streets ordinance with the WG once it is ready.
- Ashlee will send a copy of OCTC's ADA methodology so it can be added to the online ADA toolkit.
- BPWG members will provide any comments on the latest Shared Mobility fact sheet to Jen. Jen and Danielle will update it for the next BPWG call.
- NYSDOT will continue to track e-bike implementation.
- Jen will share the Bike/Ped LOS memo and matrix she developed.
- BPWG members to review the BPWG portion of the NYSAMPO website and provide any feedback to Jim Levy.
- BPWG members to think about potential topics for presentations at Walk-Bike NY (see www.itsmr.org/events).