



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

**September 8, 2022
In-Person & Virtual
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- CDTC – Chaim Simon
- CDTC – Jen Ceponis
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- DCTC – Tara Grogan
- FHWA – Nicole McGrath
- HOCTC – Alexander Turner
- NYSDOH – Jennifer Hogan
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Colleen Smith Lemmon
- NYSDOT – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT – Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT – Julie Baldwin
- NYSDOT – Lanny Wexler
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT – Jeff Spencer
- OCTC – Lauren Bennett
- OCTC – Jessica Ridgeway
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- 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 June 2022 Zoom meeting were approved for posting to the website.

3. NYSDOT Updates

Signage Whitepaper – This is a work in progress and internal coordination is needed. AASHTO's new bike design guide (anticipated to be released next year) may answer several questions related to this discussion.

Active Transportation Plan – The RFP will be released soon; it is going through the legal review process. There is a significant amount of public outreach and engagement included. NYSDOT is looking for a strong MPO role in this effort. The Plan will have clear metrics (not sure yet what these will be – this will come out of the planning effort) and guidance on policies. The MPOs will likely be part of the executive management discussion group, stakeholder group, a planning group, and technical committee. Meetings will be in-person and via Webex. Some meetings will be held in different regions. Coordination with representatives from rural areas will also be a key element to the planning process.

Complete Streets Checklist – The checklist is being revamped and the questions are being revised. The 1st draft has been completed and staff is looking at how to reformat the layout. The checklist needs to enable more collaboration. A new data collection process is

being considered. Questions are being rewritten to ensure more outreach to MPOs and to require review of plans done for communities (and the MPOs). The Regional Coordinators will need to sign-off on the checklist. The form will be more of a collaborative approach than a checkbox form to just complete. It will probably be another 4-5 months before the document is complete and then it will need to go through the NYSDOT clearance process.

“Get their Green” – Meghan is organizing an internal event to get the NYSDOT Bike/Ped coordinators together during the NYSDEC & NYC Climate Week (September 19th -23rd). A walk audit will be held to discuss active transportation. CDTC is studying Sand Creek Road which could tie-in to this work.

4. FHWA Updates

Presentation on BIL - Nicole provided a presentation on Active Transportation Infrastructure and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). BIL supports planning for and investing in Complete Streets. There is \$350.8B (FY 22-26) for Highway Programs with many having eligibility for projects that support complete streets. There are more than 40 new discretionary grant programs, including several focused on active transportation. The Word document (sent out with summary notes on 9-16-22) lists all the programs/links presented. SS4A was discussed and only Ithaca was identified by those in the room as pursuing a grant (a joint application). Karen noted that land use and zoning regulations and their role in transportation is rarely discussed in funding applications. It was noted that the match for Reconnecting Communities is significant and makes it difficult for smaller communities to participate.

5. Partner Agency Updates

NYSDOH – Jen noted that the See and Be Seen mobilization took place in June. The toolkit of resources is expanding as they continue to work with GTSC. See and Be Seen materials have been translated into 17 languages.

NYSDOH is working with GTSC on law enforcement materials. NYSDOH received GTSC funds to undertake a survey of law enforcement agencies regarding vehicle and traffic laws. Jen will share results when they are completed.

Jen presented NYSDOHs priorities to the Safe States Injury and Violence Prevention Conference in Florida.

The Failure to Yield publication should be finished by the end of September.

The K-5 safety video is being finalized. Though this isn't a target age group in the PSAP, it is important to undertake.

NYSDOH was invited to be part of the NYC Vision Zero team. NYSDOH has also consulted with the visually impaired to review See and Be Seen materials to figure out how to better get materials out to the visually impaired population.

6. Work Plan

Ped/Bike Counts Subcommittee:

The Committee will likely be meeting before the next Working Group meeting in December. Nicole mentioned that the FHWA bike/pedestrian group is looking for examples/programs to help develop national best practice standards for bike/pedestrian data- Count data, facility data, condition data, etc. Karen noted that the TSMO group has suggested a pilot program to assess how existing cameras might be used to count bikes and pedestrians. Julie noted that Region 2 has been working with Michael Grant to secure the use of NYSDOT equipment. Emily noted that DCTC has a volunteer count program and Tara is putting together a database to better identify where to undertake counts and make the effort more manageable.

Complete Streets Toolkit:

The page has been updated but we are always looking for new/updated information to keep the page up to date.

Cost Estimating Toolkit:

There was a disconnect between what NYSDOT thought was useful and what the MPOs were looking for. With that issue identified, the subcommittee developed a list of desired elements to add to the Quick Estimator Tool. The NYSDOT Design Group is working on it. The new Quick Estimator Tool may not have all the elements requested – there were quite a few of them – but it will have several more.

Shared Mobility:

The subcommittee decided that instead of doing another fact sheet, we would update the existing webpage. If anyone has information for the page, particularly information or data from within their region, please send it to Jim Levy for posting.

7. MPO Projects & Discussion Items

E-bikes – We wanted to hear from the group about e-bike integration across the state. It was noted that there is confusion about whether e-bikes are permitted in certain locations. The state law has restrictions on where they can be used but it also gives municipalities the ability to regulate them – how they choose to do is up to the community and advice they receive from their attorney. The Town of Queensbury passed a local law in 2022 that allows e-bikes anywhere that traditional bikes are allowed. The group discussed how it is odd to regulate e-bikes by speed when other bikes are not regulated this way and also to do so when speedometers are not required on e-bikes to ensure that riders know their speed.

Black River Trail Expansion - Geoff provided an overview of the work going on in the Watertown area. (A copy of his Powerpoint presentation was distributed with the 9-16-22 email).

Kingston 2-Way Cycle Track – David talked about the project recently implemented in the City of Kingston. UCTC is currently doing media buys and bus wraps to educate people about the new facilities. Overall, while there has been some

confusion about the new design and a few complaints, overall it has been a great project and has been well received. (Dave later sent more information about the project).

Livingston Avenue Bridge replacement in Albany – A vital AMTRAK connection over the Hudson River needs to be replaced and has been the focus of significant interest in being rebuilt to provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between Albany and Rensselaer. Meeting attendees visited the site visit later in the day.

8. Other Topics:

Lanny's trip to the meeting. He took his bike on Amtrak to the meeting and will be riding the EST back home over the course of several days. Realized how helpful it is to have an elevator at the train station when bringing a bike.

Field Apps ESRI Training – Jim noted that the course has been secured but has been difficult to get the necessary paperwork to get an invoice processed. Still hope to be on track to hold this training in the fall or early winter (virtual).

CLRP Liability Training – Emily noted that David Orr is working on developing a new/revised training course specific to MPOs.

9. Site Visit

In-person attendees visited the recently opened Albany Skyway in downtown Albany after the in-office meeting concluded.

10. Action Items

- Jen Hogan to share results from the Police survey; send links to the Failure to Yield publication; and share the K-5 safety videos.
- NYSDOT to share the updated Quick Estimator Reference tool when ready.
- All: send Nicole examples/programs for FHWA's collection of best practices for bike/pedestrian count data, facility data, condition data.
- All: send Jim any shared mobility data from within your region for posting to the Shared Mobility page.