



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs SAFETY WORKING GROUP

November 20, 2019

Webinar

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- AGFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Cyndi Paddick
- CDTC – Sandy Misiewicz
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Mike Perry
- GBNRTC – Hector Boggio
- GTC – Alex Kone
- HOCTS – Alexander Turner
- NYMTC – Sherry Southe
- SMTC – Mike Alexander
- UCTC – David Staas
- NYSDMV – Chuck DeWeese
- NYSDOT – Mike Flynn
- NYSDOT – Christina Graveling
- Planning4Places – Kathy Ember

1. Introductions

Sandy Misiewicz opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

2. Meeting Notes

The October 16, 2019 meeting notes were accepted.

3. NYCDOT Green Wave Presentation

Carl Sundstrom presented on the Bicycle Green Wave for Hoyt Street and Bond Street in Brooklyn, New York. NYCDOT is excited about this concept – focusing on operational and signal strategies to improve our bicycle network. Timing signals along the corridors for bikes has been done in Copenhagen, San Francisco, and now NYCDOT is doing a pilot on Hoyt Street and Bond Street between Schermerhorn Street and Baltic Street approaching downtown Brooklyn and the East River Bridges. There are often 600 cyclists per hour in this area and the existing conditions are one-way pair of streets and a 20 mph slow zone. The pilot provides a “green wave” signal progression for cyclists using a typical speed of 15 mph. The goal is to provide a faster route for the cyclists. From this change, it has saved 1.5 minutes in travel time and forced less stops for cyclists. In terms of data collection, looking at cyclist arrivals, there is a 28% increase in proportion of green to red arrivals. Recently the project went public so results may adjust. Looking at red light compliance – cyclist signal compliance increased by 10%. Traffic volumes did not change on Bond and Hoyt. Automobile speeds and travel times changed on Hoyt Street, but these are not major driver corridors. NYCDOT is continuing to collect data (the pilot was installed in December). Overall, NYCDOT is pleased with the results and is looking at three more corridors for 2020 (in Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn).

Sandy Misiewicz asked given that site selection for pilots is tricky, is there a threshold of number of cyclists you would consider for a Green Wave Corridor? Carl Sundstrom stated that there is not really a threshold. NYCDOT is looking at major cycling routes and not major avenues or major cross-streets. He added that they are choosing streets with existing cycling facilities and one-way travel). Sandy Misiewicz asked what are the minimum requirement for equipment or is it simply retiming signals? Carl Sundstrom stated that they are just retiming the signals of the traffic lights (and there are no bicycle signals). The only change was at Atlantic Ave where there is a 7-second leading pedestrian interval (LPI) and cyclists are now hitting the next intersection at the start of the green. LPIs is something to consider for future corridors. Sandy Misiewicz asked if there was a change in City law to have cyclists using the LPI? Carl Sundstrom stated that there was a change in City law. Carl Sundstrom is available to answer questions any time about this pilot project.

4. Walk-Bike NY NYSAMPO Session Brainstorming

Emily Dozier stated that DCTC has submitted a session proposal and asked if anyone else has submitted a proposal so far? The deadline was extended to December 6th and it is a simple submission. Alex Kone is talking with GTC partners and plans on submitting some topics (including a panel session and walking tours).

5. Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan

Sandy Misiewicz shared that NYSDOT is beginning work on a Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan modelled on the PSAP. The Directors selected Sherry Southe and Alex Kone with Sandy Misiewicz backing them up as SWG Chair to represent the MPOs. This item will be an agenda item going forward to let everyone know about the project as it progresses. The plan will be done by end of the 2020.

6. Wyoming County Local Road Safety Technical Assistance Project

Sandy Misiewicz let the Working Group know that FHWA had technical assistance available and Wyoming County was selected for that assistance. Alex Kone will be participating in that project. Alex Kone noted that Wyoming County will be looking at lane departures and are interested in systemic treatments with an interest in guiderails. Alex noted that he hopes this work will inform the NYSDOT Roadway Departure Action Plan going forward.

7. Washington, DC "How's My Driving" App

Sandy Misiewicz came across the "How's My Driving" App. The app allows users to look up information by plate number and any outstanding tickets with that vehicle. It is an example of how technologies are being developed using open source data to tackle safety problems. Sandy Misiewicz asked the group if something like this app is possible in New York? Jack Mance stated there may be privacy concerns. Sandy Misiewicz agreed on the privacy concerns issue and noted that the app basically allows for self-policing on traffic safety. Emily Dozier noted that it's interesting to have crowd sourcing of infractions but it's concerning about who would be using this application.

8. Partner Updates

- a. NYSDOT: No report.
- b. ITSMR: Kathy Ember provided a report from Renee Varone. The biggest update for TSSR was last month with the addition of the Final 2018 crash, ticket, and demographic data available on the site.

- c. GTSC: Chuck DeWeese noted that they just had the annual traffic safety meeting of all the agencies. GTSC is writing the annual report which will be done in December. There is concern about January 1st and Bail Discovery. Police departments have to turn over data within 15 days of arraignment. The concern is that police agencies may no longer want to do traffic enforcement due to limited staff resources and there may be fewer grant requests for traffic enforcement. Sandy Misiewicz reported that this was a big topic at the Highway Safety Conference and is a challenge given the procedural changes and impacts on traffic safety enforcement.
- d. Cornell Local Roads Program: Kathy Ember relayed a message from David Orr. The Cornell Local Roads Program has just gotten their 2020 work plan approved and the workshop schedule is being developed right now. This schedule should be available in December. In terms of safety workshops, CLRP can do any workshop by request and will be hosting a couple of safety related engineering workshops in 2020. CLRP is also involved in the Wyoming County project.
- e. NHTSA: No report.
- f. FHWA: No report.
- g. NYSATSB: Sandy Misiewicz let the Working Group that the NYSATSB has refreshed its website. Please let Sandy know if anything needs to be updated.

9. Training/Conferences

Sandy Misiewicz mentioned that NYMTC will be hosting a micro-mobility and safety workshop in early 2020 and pedestrian safety workshops in Spring 2020. All are welcome to attend – please get in touch with Sherry Southe if you are interested.

10. Other Topics/Meeting Schedule

Sandy Misiewicz reported that Hector Boggio will be presenting on the December call on the Niagara Falls Boulevard Pedestrian Safety Corridor Evaluation. Also, on the next call, the Working Group will discuss the upcoming meeting schedule and have an initial conversation about the Work Plan for this Working Group.

Action Items

The following items were noted for follow-up:

- All: Please review the NYSATSB website for updates.
- Visit the ITSMR website to submit session proposals for Walk-Bike NY.
- Contact Sherry Southe if you are interested in participating in the upcoming NYMTC workshops.