



## **NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs SAFETY WORKING GROUP**

**February 16, 2022**

**Webinar**

**1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

### **MEETING NOTES**

#### **Participating**

- AGFTC - Jack Mance
- CDTC – Carrie Ward
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Mike Perry
- GTC - Alex Kone
- NYMTC – Sherry Southe
- OCTC – Lauren Bennett
- SMTC – Mike Alexander
- UCTC – Brian Slack
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC - Barbara Cadwell
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Andrew Sattinger
- NYSDOT - Robert Zitowsky
- NYSDOT – Harriet Lewis
- FHWA – Daniel Wood
- NYSDOH – Jennifer Hogan
- NYSDMV - Chuck DeWeese
- CLRP - David Orr
- Cambridge Systematics – Laura Richards
- Planning4Places – Kathy Ember
- Baltimore Metropolitan Council - Cindy Burch
- Burgess & Niple - Nicole Waldheim
- Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration Highway Safety Office - Tim Kerns

#### **1. Introductions & Updates**

Alex Kone opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

#### **2. Meeting Notes**

The January 26, 2022, meeting notes were accepted with edits provided from Emily Dozier.

#### **3. Presentation: The MPO Role in the Safe System Approach**

Cindy Burch opened the presentation. Nicole Waldheim discussed the Safe System Approach and its emphasis in the [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#). She noted that underlying the Safe System Approach is the safety culture with a focus on equity. Cindy Burch noted what we learned and experienced during the pandemic has influenced us going forward. Nicole

Waldheim discussed equity and how to advocate for all types of users equally and make investments. Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) has an internal equity working group and is exploring how to integrate equity and safety. It has been made up of the whole staff.

Nicole Waldheim noted that USDOT is actively promoting the Safe Systems Approach and equity and that certain BIL funding supports these initiatives – TAP, HSIP, CMAQ, Safe Streets and Roads for All Program. She added that the notice of funding opportunity for the Safe Streets and Roads for All program will be out this spring and applications will be due this summer (for Vision Zero safety plans, implementation of safety plans).

Nicole Waldeim discussed what the Safe System looks like (and there are different contexts including urban, suburban, and rural). BMC held two Safe Systems readiness workshops. Opportunities for MPOs to promote the Safe System Approach include policies (such as Complete Streets policies, culture, local agency education/engagement, public/stakeholder engagement, project prioritization, data analysis, and planning priority).

Cindy Burch noted that key takeaways from their work is that there can be a variety of types of local safety plans. There are no restrictions from the state. Cindy Burch noted that in Maryland the tagline is "Zero Deaths Maryland," but local plans have used the "Vision Zero" and "Toward Zero Death" titles. In addition, the Es of Transportation Safety are tailored uniquely to whatever resonates for the entities involved in the local plans, such as engineering, enforcement, education, empathy, and/or emergency response. She highlighted a summit in Carroll County with over 100 attendees from a variety of different disciplines.

Cindy Burch described a range of next steps including updating the SHSP Development Guide and providing consultation for local entities beginning a plan. The primary support will come from the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO). She added that There is an RFP out now for a Safe System Approach scan of current plans and implementation measures. They are also building a crash data dashboard and hope to add an equity dashboard. BMC is also updating capital project prioritization by doubling points for safety, including points for local plans and equity.

Chuck DeWeese stated that Maryland is a great example and asked if the State Highway Safety Office is funding Cindy Burch's position. Cindy is housed in the Baltimore MPO but is also supporting other MPOs as a liaison for the whole state. Chuck DeWeese stated he would be interested in looking at a grant application for a similar program in New York State. He added that GTSC is currently trying to hire a diversity equity coordinator as they typically get the same applicants every year. GTSC would like to build relationships with not-for-profits and could use someone to make inroads with other entities. Tim Kerns noted that BMC is the one MPO that covers much of the population in Maryland and Cindy's position is funded through a grant so Cindy can work with other jurisdictions or MPOs to develop SHSPs. Tim Kerns noted that the partners in Maryland wanted to combine the efforts of behavioral and engineering side of safety planning. Alex Kone noted that the Safety Working Group would like to create a common scope for regional safety plans, and it would be helpful if someone from GTSC can assist on this effort.

Emily Dozier asked if there is any documentation available on how the workshop was organized such as the agenda? Nicole Waldheim will share the documents. Alex Kone stated that he appreciated that today's presentation was more about bringing people together than strictly focused on the data-driven process. Cindy Burch responded that there should be an 80/20 split between subjective/objective data. She noted that, ultimately, the locals tend to have a good grasp where the trouble spots are already.

#### **4. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update**

Alex Kone noted that as we are looking towards incorporating the Safe Systems approach in our work, we will continue to look at what programs roll out from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Alex noted that the RAISE NOFA was released recently. If you have any questions about the benefit-cost analysis process regarding safety improvements, please let him know. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law update topic will be a standing agenda item going forward for future meetings.

#### **5. Partner Updates**

- a. NYS DOT: Andrew Sattinger noted that NYS DOT is finalizing the CLEAR migration (final testing is underway of the system DMV updates, data, etc.) There have been some delays, but they will be in touch about demonstrations and discussions (the launch is not yet set). CLEAR will help organize the data-driven process from the design process from the very beginning.
- b. ITSMR: No report.
- c. GTSC: Chuck DeWeese reported that the annual report is on the GTSC website. They are working on implementing the Safe Systems approach and GTSC will be doing additional work related to equity reaching into minority and disadvantaged communities. Chuck noted that he is very interested in a grant opportunity to fund a position like Cindy Burch's position if the MPOs are interested in that possibility. Alex Kone will follow-up with Chuck on this topic.
- d. Cornell Local Roads Program: David Orr reported that CLRP webinars are ending soon and there will be an in-person workshop in the summer. They are looking at doing a Safe Systems workshop (maybe 3 times) to introduce Safe Systems at the local highway level. Dates will be posted later this month [here](#).
- e. NHSTA: No report.
- f. FHWA: No report.
- g. NYSATSB: No report.

#### **6. Training/Conferences and Other Topics**

Alex Kone noted that the "Designing for Pedestrian Safety" NYMTC training opportunity coming in March and the Walk-Bike NY in Rochester on May 3-4, 2022. Sherry Southe stated that NYMTC is requesting registrations by February 23, 2022, for the NYMTC workshops. Alex Kone noted that since it is virtual anyone can attend from all over the

state. Emily Dozier asked about the "Deep Dive" sessions in April. There is a 3-day course in March, and you need to attend the first three days to attend the advanced training in April. The Annual New York Highway Safety Symposium will be in Albany October 26-28, 2022.

**Action Items**

- Please reach out to Sherry Southe to register for the NYMTC workshops.
- Please reach out to Alex Kone for any questions on the RAISE benefit-cost analysis process.