



## NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs SAFETY WORKING GROUP

April 28, 2021

Webinar

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

### MEETING NOTES

#### **Participating**

- AGFTC - Jack Mance
- CDTC – Sandy Misiewicz
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Courtney Taylor
- GBNRTC – Hector Boggio
- GTC - Alex Kone
- HOCTS – Alexander Turner
- OCTC – Ashlee Long
- SMTc - Mike Alexander
- UCTC – Brian Slack
- UCTC - David Staas
- NYSDOT - Regina Doyle
- NYSDOT – Harriet Lewis
- NYSDOT - Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT - Robert Zitowsky
- NHTSA – Allison Beas
- NYSDMV – Chuck DeWeese
- CLRP – David Orr
- Planning4Places – Kathy Ember
- Cambridge Systematics – Danena Gaines

#### **1. Introductions**

Sandy Misiewicz opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

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

The March 24, 2021 meeting notes were accepted as written.

#### **3. MUTCD Rulemaking Comments**

Sandy Misiewicz thanked everyone involved in putting together the memo on the MUTCD Rulemaking Comments. The only edit from the NYSAMPO Directors was to drop the word internal from the title. A copy of the memo was sent via email to the Working Group members.

#### **4. Recreational Marijuana Legislation**

Chuck DeWeese reported that the bill was several hundred pages and will focus on the traffic safety elements for the discussion. The requests from GTSC did not make it into the legislation however driving under the influence of marijuana will remain a misdemeanor (so that is status quo). The bill provided funding through the Office of Cannabis Management to

increase training for Drug Recognition Experts (DREs). GTSC will have 6 classes in 2022, 8 in 2023. ARIDE will also continue training (all state troopers are to be ARIDE trained in the next year). There will also be education campaigns related to marijuana. The Department of Health will be studying cannabis impairment detection technology. Sandy Misiewicz asked if there is information from other states who have legalized recreational marijuana – what are the traffic impacts? Chuck DeWeese believes more research is needed.

## **5. HSIP Flow Chart Development Discussion**

Sandy Misiewicz led the discussion on what the HSIP Flow Chart could be. She noted that FHWA has local and rural safety resources as well as CLRP and NYSDOT. CLRP has a local road safety manual but it did not discuss funding resources. Sandy noted that there is still a lack of understanding what makes a good HSIP project however there have been larger capital projects funded through other sources (such as for Complete Streets projects). Funding available beyond federal sources include CHIPS. A potential outline might be to introduce the big picture – what funding options are out there (including Tribal Resources, other federal funding resources, state, and local level – CHIPS, development mitigation, capital and maintenance programs at the local level, etc.). We can provide some information on technical support, data resources, project ideas and other resources. For example, guide rail replacement could be funded through maintenance at spot location or if a larger systemic project is needed, it could be an HSIP project. Alex Kone noted that GTC has been supporting the safety planning aspect of local projects. Brian Slack noted that the City of Kingston has used the Climate Smart Communities Program for funding sidewalk projects incorporating Complete Streets elements. Sandy Misiewicz agreed that that is a good resource in addition to the Recreational Trails program. Emily Dozier noted that safety assessments are funded through CHIPS or county funds rather than federal funds mostly due to the hurdles of federal funds. Sandy Misiewicz will consult with Regina Doyle and David Orr and put something together for review. Please send Sandy any thoughts you may have on this topic.

Sandy believes locals might need MPO support to help with the new CLEAR HSM safety analysis methodology and in rural areas, regional offices may need to help as many communities are not network screening now and may not even with the new tools. Karen Lorf asked if more training or templates might be helpful with locals using federal funding? Can NYSDOT assist disadvantaged or rural communities to use federal funding? Sandy Misiewicz believes if there is some other way to help local governments analyze crash data that would be helpful. Regina Doyle wanted to clarify that using HSM methodology in CLEAR should not make it more difficult for the end user to do network screening. NYSDOT is hopeful that locals can do their own network screening. There will also be systemic screening and the system will create all the crash trees for you and add up the risk factors at all the sites. This is contingent on having local road data. CLEAR training classes will be available online. David Orr stated that the challenge is the federal aid process. May want to look at the culvert projects for state dollars rather than federal dollars. Sandy – has NYSDOT talked about HSIP moving forward with FHWA in terms of the next legislation. Can it be made easier or simplified? Regina Doyle will check with Emmett McDevitt on this question. Karen Lorf stated it would be helpful if we knew what the barriers are. David Orr noted that the process trips up the locals (having to have someone to manage the process). The main issue is that the Town or Village does not own their right-of-way. Sandy Misiewicz will send the Peer Exchange proceedings for information on the issues.

Emily Dozier agreed that federal funding is trickier and was wondering if there is a way for NYSDOT to deal with the HSIP funds so that everyone is not competing for them? Then the state can create local project funding (a simplified funding package). Sandy Misiewicz noted that there is a new transportation bill in the works. Regina Doyle asked if a pot of money for local funding be set aside or would a call for projects be more successful? Sandy Misiewicz stated that a CHIPS like allocation for projects might be more useful (provided that the funds are dedicated to safety projects). Or having a set-aside in the TIP for safety projects would be helpful. Perhaps a specific allocation to each municipality would be beneficial. Emily Dozier is not sure for the smaller municipalities that makes sense due to their size but perhaps at the county level it would be allowed to fund reasonably sized projects. Emily Dozier also thinks a designated project manager from the state might be helpful.

## 6. Partner Updates

- a. NYSDOT: Regina Doyle reported that NYSDOT is continuing with development of CLEAR. It will be released in two pieces – the first piece will be released around June – the piece that DMV uses to process and locate all the crashes. The October timeframe is the schedule for the other public facing pieces. NYSDOT is working with GTSC to develop 2022 performance targets. We received notice from FHWA that NYS missed the 2019 targets (2018 were met). We need to do an implementation plan and we need to obligate all the HSIP that we are required to.
- b. ITSMR: No report.
- c. GTSC: Chuck DeWeese reported that equity for enforcement and with programming of dollars is something they are looking to do. They are also looking at how underserved communities can assist with the HSSP and the PSAP and if those in underserved communities have more crashes by population. The new federal administration is focused on equity and climate change in particular. Sandy Misiewicz reported that MPOs have to look at demographic and Environmental Justice populations, including those with limited English proficiency. It is becoming a standard business practice. It will be a topic that is on the forefront for all of us.
- d. Cornell Local Roads Program: Sandy Misiewicz noted that the virtual and in-person training opportunities are on the CLRP website.
- e. NHSTA: No report.
- f. FHWA: No report.
- g. NYSATSB: Sandy Misiewicz noted that NYSATSB have not met since the last SWG meeting.

## 7. Training/Conferences and Other Topics

Sandy Misiewicz noted that training and events are listed on the agenda. The 2021 NYS Highway Safety Symposium is scheduled for the fall virtually. Alex Kone noted that the USLIMITS2 presentation is scheduled for May. We are also working with GIS WG to schedule the ESRI training sometime soon. Emily Dozier asked if the equity piece will be discussed during the training on crash mapping – how equity can be considered with crash analysis. This topic can be raised with the trainers.

## Action Items

- Please send ideas for the HSIP Flowchart development to Sandy Misiewicz.