



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP
September 14, 2023
In-Person: Kingston, NY
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CRTC – Chaim Simon
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- DCTC – Clayton Gurnett
- DCTC – Tara Grogan
- GBNRTC – Amy Weymouth
- GTC – Charlie Reick
- NYSDOT – Kyle Fellows
- NYSDOT – Michael Grant
- NYSDOT – Peter Dunleavy
- NYSDOT – Julie Baldwin
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT – Meghan Fennell
- NYSDOT – Valerie Dean
- NYSDOT – Sharon Heyboer
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- UCTC – David Staas
- UCTC – Brian Slack
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- City of Kingston – Emily Flynn
- City of Kingston – Kristen Wilson
- Planning4Places – James Levy

Introductions

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

Approval of June Meeting Notes

No edits requested.

NYSDOT Updates

The Cost Estimator has been updated and is available on the NYSDOT website (<https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/completestreets/funding>). There was discussion about some of the costs appearing to be high. NYSDOT staff noted that the costs are based on real expenses reviewed to complete the document.

The Vulnerable Road User Plan (SHSP) is wrapping up. Meghan will look into the ability to forward the document to the MPOs.

Kyle is working on updating the Complete Streets Checklist and the effort is nearing completion. It is being reworked into a plans, specifications & estimates format. It should be completed in 2024.

The Master Plan effort is underway and a community engagement toolkit has been developed (see attached). There is a survey online that NYSDOT anticipates leaving open until mid-

October – please spread the word to encourage people to take the survey. To-date, there are over 1,000 responses and the consultants are planning to develop a 2nd survey based on feedback received.

The Active Transportation Plan is moving forward with public engagement efforts. The project is now being led by Peter Dunleavy (NYSDOT Main Office Landscape Architecture Bureau) with the departure of Karen Lorf, but the planning effort is on a pause while some transition items get worked out. This will be incorporated into the Master Plan.

The Traffic Data Viewer has been updated and is out for review. It is anticipated to be fully released before the end of the year. This update will integrate TMCs and ped/bike counts into the system and MPOs will be able to have count information uploaded. Trail counts may be able to be added in the future.

FHWA Updates

Nicole McGrath provided an email update for the Working Group meeting that was reviewed by Jim. Nicole also provided the NYSAMPO Directors with an FHWA Office of Planning September updates email that Jim shared with the Working Group. The email contains information that might be of interest. The emails were attached to the meeting summary email.

Partner Updates

Parks & Trails NY - PTNY held two successful tours. The Greenway Trail Development Guide should be completed this year. The Greenway Trails Plan update will become an annual update and the trails committee calls will be quarterly beginning in 2024. The recently passed Bond Act has the potential to provide funding for bike/pedestrian projects. The Safe Streets Coalition is working on a number of legislative items.

NYBC - Tom Benware has stepped down from his position at NYBC. Anne Savage is filling in, but NYBC is looking to fill the Bicycle Safety Director position. NYBC is still accepting applications and has asked that if anyone is aware of an individual that might be interested, to please encourage them to apply. The job posting is here: the listing for NYBC's Bicycle Safety Director position: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.idealist.org/en/amp/nonprofit-job/99365556256c415ea72bd6bbd9d19566-bicycle-safety-director-new-york-bicycling-coalition-albany>. NYBC has materials available for use. Information was provided to the Working Group on what was available.

Work Plan Items/Subcommittee Updates

Ped/Bike Counts – The sub-committee met earlier this year. There is a lot of interest in continuing to coordinate efforts and share information on counter work being done across the State. PTNY is looking to develop a methodology for developing annual estimates. PTNY is still undertaking regular trail counts across the State. PTNY uses Eco Counters. The counters are becoming smaller and more technologically advanced. It is hoped that development of a statewide methodology for trail counts will be feasible in the near future. With all the different count programs taking place across the state, it would be good to have a Standard Operating Procedure established.

Walking/Bicycling Cost Estimating Toolkit – The NYSDOT has updated the Cost Estimate MS Excel file. It is available online at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/completestreets/funding>. There may not be a need to retain this subcommittee now that the cost estimator has been finalized.

Shared Mobility – There continue to be concerns regarding e-bikes, particularly as the technology continues to change and evolve rapidly. Non-classified vehicles are an issue that is heard regularly and the lack of regulations that address the current technology and lack of enforcement bring about concerns.

It was determined that Pedestrian & Bike Counts, ADA and Shared Mobility would remain on future agendas.

MPO Project updates

CLEAR Safety & Vulnerable Road User Analysis – There is interest from the Working Group in holding a joint training with the SWG before the end of this year.

PROWAG – The US Access Board published the Final Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines in the Federal Register – see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/08/2023-16149/accessibility-guidelines-for-pedestrian-facilities-in-the-public-right-of-way>. It is not enforceable until the DOJ and DOT adopt accessibility standards that are consistent with the PROWAG through separate rulemaking procedure. NYSDOT will adopt PROWAG via an Engineering Instruction or similar method. There is a PROWAG webinar scheduled for October 5th (<https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ao/session/?id=111079>). While registration to attend the webinar is full, there will be a YouTube Livestream available to watch and it should be recorded.

ADA Assessment Tools - This might be a good joint meeting opportunity with the GIS Working Group. Work done by A/GFTC and others could be a future presentation or possibly a standalone meeting.

Meeting Wrap-up/Field View - The meeting concluded with a presentation by City staff and UCTC staff on the Broadway Cycle Track (Lower-resolution emailable PDF of the presentation was distributed with the meeting summary email). After the presentation, the group undertook a field view of the entire project by walking along Broadway. As requested, Planning4Places uploaded pictures they took to a Google Drive for use by anyone that wants them - see <https://photos.app.goo.gl/nTmMNC8KFr29jSVGA>. If anyone else has pictures to share, please contact Jim Levy so that you can receive administrative access to upload images. Information on the safety education component of the Broadway project can be found here: <https://engagekingston.com/be-a-road-hero>.

Discussion ensued regarding funding options. It was noted that MPOs can now apply for TAP funding, but the struggle is to find the required local match. It was noted that CDBG Entitlement Communities can use CDBG funds as a match on some programs. Additional discussion ensued including a mention of CHIPS funding issues; if a shoulder is marked for bike

use, it may reduce CHIPS funding because it is re-purposing the space away from vehicle use. Cornell Local Roads may have more info on this.

Other information provided for working group member review

Alan Sorensen forwarded a copy of the Orange County Bikeway Vision and noted "I wanted to share the Orange County Bikeway Vision, which is working its way through the Legislative process to be adopted as a Supplemental Chapter 7.0 of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan."

Julie Baldwin forwarded an email with details on how to share your ideas for how the Bond Act should be implemented. The deadline for submitting comments is September 30th.

Action Items:

- Meg to see if the Vulnerable Road User Plan (SHSP) can be distributed to MPOs.
- Everyone to spread the word about the NYSDOT Master Plan Survey that will be open until mid-October.
- Everyone to spread the word about the NYBC Bicycle Safety Director position.
- Anyone with photos to share, please request admin. access (from Jim) to the Broadway Field View Photos folder.
- Jim to (re)initiate NACTO training discussions for sessions to be scheduled in early 2024 – likely one in the Capital District and one in the lower Hudson Valley.
- Bring forward any future presentation and/or joint meeting topics that would be of interest to the Working Group. Some topic ideas include the following:
 - o ADA Assessment Tools
 - o CLEAR training
 - o MUTCD training
 - o NACTO Transit Training (will talk about this again in 2024)

Final meeting of the year is on Zoom - December 14th.