



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP
March 14, 2024
Virtual Meeting
10:00 AM –12:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- A/GFTC – Jack Mance
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CRTC – Chaim Simon
- CRTC – Rebecca Odell
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Courtney Taylor
- GBNRTC – Amy Weymouth
- GTC – Charlie Reick
- HOCTC – Amy Heiderich
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYBC – Mark Hoffacker
- NYBC – Anne Savage
- NYBC – Ed Brennen
- NYMTC – John Simpson
- NYSDOH – Christine Akey
- NYSDOH – Kris Alfonso
- NYSDOT – Colleen Smith Lemmon
- NYSDOT – Michael Grant
- NYSDOT – Samantha Marrone
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT – Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT – Renee Casler
- NYSDOT – Peter Dunleavy
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Victoria Fix
- NYSDOT – Kaylee Noll
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT – Christine Graveling
- NYSDOT – Julie Baldwin
- NYSDOT – Daniel McCormick
- NYSDOT – Valerie Dean
- NYSDOT – Yacob Shenkute
- NYSDOT – Sharon Heyboer
- OCTC – Alan Sorensen
- OCTC – Jessica Ridgeway
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- Warren County – Sara Frankenfeld
- Warren County – Amanda Beck
- Planning4Places – James Levy

Introductions

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

Approval of December Meeting Notes

Approved for posting.

Presentation – ADA Assessment Tools

Jack Mance opened the presentation with an introduction and background on the effort. This work has been a collaborative effort between A/GFTC, Warren County and the Regional Planning Board. The project aimed to simplify the process for local municipalities to collect ADA rating criteria. Jack also shared experiences from a 2023 project with the City of Glens Falls, where AGFTC conducted sidewalk and pavement ratings, and collected data on various

condition issues. For an earlier effort, AGFTC used a dedicated tablet but for this effort smartphones were used to collect data with work being done on a computer. A smart level for data collection of slopes was also used and found to be very helpful. Arc GIS Pro, ArcGIS Online and Field Maps were used.

Sara and Amanda from Warren County Planning discussed the process of digitizing sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps in GIS using high resolution aerial photography and Google Street view. They noted that this method was more efficient than collecting features with a GPS in the field. Sara mentioned that an intern initially worked on this project, but Amanda had to revisit and fix the data. They also considered the time it takes to generate data, estimating about an hour per mile. Sara highlighted that they created a separate layer for crosswalks, sidewalks, and curb ramps, adding attribute fields for inspections. They collected condition information and also took photos. Field Maps Designer in ArcGIS Online was used to set up the data collection interface. Sara showed examples of how the system looks in Field Maps and explained its functionalities.

Jack provided an overview of a data collection process undertaken by Sam from the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board, highlighting the importance of scheduling, considering weather conditions, and using a mobile application that changes feature colors to aid in tracking progress. He noted that the process is time-intensive, taking between 45 to 60 minutes per mile of sidewalk to complete ratings, and suggested synching only when on Wi-Fi or back in the office. Colleen inquired about the timeline, and Jack confirmed the data is updated regularly. Sara added that she created a dashboard in ArcGIS Online to monitor progress and planned to revise it for city use.

Emily suggested updating the Warren County Methodology information in the ADA Toolkit on nysmpos.org. Jim asked if the field maps field data training provided by Esri in late 2022 was useful and should be provided again for MPO staff. Jack and Emily found it helpful. Dylan suggested automating the mapping of sidewalk segments using AI. Sara confirmed that AI methods could be used. Charlie asked about the data collection method used. Jack and Sara noted that the team decided that using block by block data collection was the most efficient method and provided the clearest way to assess what areas had been complete when out in the field. A question was asked about the effectiveness of collecting linear data in the field and Sara confirmed that office-based data collection was more efficient. Emily suggested a future in-person training session to familiarize users with the tools and back-end setup. Charlie provided the following link as an FYI - <https://www.esri.com/en-us/lq/industry/publicworks/stories/county-innovates-using-geoai-to-inventory-ada-curb-ramps-saving-significanttime>.

NYS DOT Updates

Karen Lorf announced that she is back with NYS DOT in the Landscape Architecture Bureau as the Statewide Bike/Ped Coordinator & Manager of the Department's Active Transportation Strategic Plan Update and program. Karen stated that the Active Transportation Strategic Plan will be getting back on track.

Colleen noted that the Complete Streets Checklist is undergoing a clearance review process that will take a few months to complete.

Regarding the TAP/CMAQ/ Carbon Reduction Program submission and review process, any feedback or questions are probably best coordinated between Deb Nelson at NYSDOT and MPO Directors.

Michael mentioned the updates on the Traffic Data Viewer, with the public viewer link now available. TMCs are being added. There is no timeline yet for the addition of bike/pedestrian elements. See <https://nysdottrafficdata.drakewell.com/publicmultinodemap.asp> and the Traffic data viewer guide: https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/technical-services/hdsrespository/Tab/TrafficDataViewer_UseGuide.pdf.

Partner Updates

Parks & Trails NY - Dylan announced the completion of Trails Across New York: A Grassroots Guide to Developing Greenway Trails - <https://www.ptny.org/our-work/support/nys-greenways-plan>.

PTNY is continuing trail count efforts. They are using Placer.ai for visitation data in addition to trail counters (Cell phone data -provides ties to other data sets to provide a picture of users through proprietary algorithms - <https://www.placer.ai/>). Who's on the trail is expected to be released in April. See Who's on the Trail: Genesee Valley Greenway (2021-23) - https://www.ptny.org/application/files/4017/0740/5426/Whos_on_the_Trail_GVG_2021-23_FINAL.pdf.

Dylan noted that the release of the New York State guidelines for the Bond Act funds through the Climate Smart Communities program includes funding that can be used for on- and off-road transportation facilities. See <https://dec.ny.gov/news/pressreleases/2024/3/dec-releases-environmental-bond-act-draft-eligibility-guidelines-forclimate-smart-communities-grant-program-projects>. He also mentioned some legislative updates including a package of Greenway trails related bills which are expected to be a focus once the state budget is completed.

Dylan announced the first Greenway Advocacy Summit is scheduled for May 20th at The Egg in Albany. See <https://www.ptny.org/events/greenwaysadvocacy-summit>.

He shared news about the Reconnecting Communities awards and about New York City receiving a grant to convert a former rail corridor into a greenway. Finally, a new data and mapping coordinator will be starting at PTNY and will be working on GIS and data analysis, including use/count estimating tools.

NYBC - Anne provided an update on upcoming events. The Bike Summit will be in Albany on October 17th and 18th. If the Working Group wants to hold an in-person meeting, that can be done at the Summit. Mark is coordinating the schedule. This summit is not going to be lobbying focused because ARPA funding is being used. Will be looking to MPOs for ideas and content for the conference. Program and key notes will be developed over the next month or two.

The next advocacy day is May 7th. Priorities are around safe streets and there are some bills

looking at this. PTNY works closely with NYBC on these topics. Will be in DC doing federal advocacy and can share fact sheets. Would like to get input from the Group.

Mark noted that NYBC has GTSC grant funding and some priority work includes working in Disadvantaged Communities (Albany-Colonie area – Ed Brennen contacting groups in this area, working with migrants, CDTA, others; and on Long Island – Village of Hempstead and some of Suffolk County). NYBC may partner with a bike co-op and get bikes to migrants. Also hoping to start training for law enforcement on pedestrian and bike laws in May. Had interesting conversation about training police on how to talk at an assembly, hold a bike rodeo, and do bike safety outreach. Hoping to do this in coordination with Disadvantaged Communities outreach work. NYBC materials are going to be translated into Spanish soon.

NYSDOH – Christina updated the group on the Department of Health's pedestrian safety initiatives. DOH is looking to get focus groups going to talk about vulnerable road users in high-risk communities. What do community members believe are barriers to VRU safety. Starting in Albany, but efforts will be in other areas as well (Rochester, Ramapo). This effort looks to identify the three high risk areas and devote resources. For the Albany effort, DOH is working with Carrie Ward at CRTC. This is how they got connected with the Albany High School – DOH will be talking with 15 high schoolers to learn more about their needs.

Staff is working on See & Be Seen traffic control resources. Showing folks how to understand and safely use crossing elements. Pedestrian safety campaigns are on-going. Know there are a few bike rodeos coming up in Albany in May - Bill Van Alstyne hosting them.

Kris Alfonso from NYSDOH is engaged in Walk/Bike/Roll planning. Mark asked if there will be a new Pedestrian Safety Action Plan for NY and Christina Akey noted that she was not sure, but NYSDOH will be working with all partners in the PSAP group. Emily noted that there was going to be a PSAP 2, but the state is holding off on doing another iteration of PSAP and focusing on the Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment and doing a local call for projects based on that.

See <https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/osss/highway/strategic-plan> and

https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/osss/highwayrepository/SHSP2023_Appendix_2_VRUSA.pdf

MPO Discussion Items

Scott discussed the upcoming Walk, Bike, Roll conference in Binghamton, which includes plans for a walking tour and a bike ride. There is still time to submit a session proposal. He mentioned that the conference will take place from September 16th to the 18th, with registration open at 4pm on the 16th. Emily suggested the idea of having an in-person meeting at the conference. A post-conference lunch or Tuesday dinner were suggested as the best times for a potential in-person Working Group meeting. See

<https://www.itsmr.org/event/2024-walk-bike-roll-new-york-symposium/>

SS4A – Updates were given by Amy Heiderich from HOCTS, Charlie from GTC, and Jay from ITCTC. Amy noted that HOCTS is looking to schedule focus group interviews. The plan is to complete the planning effort by the end of the year so they can apply for implementation funding in 2025.

In Rochester, GTC is working with FHWA to get the SS4A agreement in place. Have RFP ready to go out as soon as funding is secured. Will be using some money to do demo projects with Reconnect Rochester, but not until Spring 2025. It was noted that it would be good to hear about demo projects once they are underway. A question was asked about sidewalk maintenance/snow removal element of the SS4A and Charlie noted that was in the City of Rochester application, not the GTC application. Charlie will look into getting information from the City.

Amy asked about a requirement to complete a safety summit. There was uncertainty amongst attendees about the necessity of conducting a safety summit as part of the SS4A planning process. Emily suggested reaching out to other sources for assistance.

Jay noted that the SS4A project in Tompkins County is progressing quickly and the public engagement process/methodology is being finalized. There is a lot of public engagement work being planned.

Reconnecting Communities Award announcements – See the following site for details on the announcements - <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governorhochul-and-syracuse-mayor-walsh-announce-i-81-viaduct-project-officially-receive-180#:~:text=Governor%20Kathy%20Hochul%20and%20City,the%20I%2D81%20viaduct%20project.>

The Albany project is for I-787 outreach to Disadvantaged Communities. Chaim noted that CRTC is aware of the grant and will likely be involved/engaged in the effort, but the MPO was not involved in the application. He noted that it will be important to ensure this effort is complementary of the current study, not duplicative. In Syracuse, the funding is for the I-18 viaduct project, led by NYSDOT.

Jim noted that NACTO Transit Street Design training sessions in Albany and New York City are being developed. Training hosted by CRTC should take place in early summer with a training hosted by NYMTC in the fall. More information will be provided as details are finalized.

Action Items:

- June meeting – Presentation by staff in Ithaca (Peggy Tully) about their sidewalk work. **Jack** will reach out to Peggy to confirm she can attend.
- **Jim** will reach out to the counters sub-committee to schedule a Zoom meeting.
- **Scott and Jim** will confirm the in-person meeting at the Walk/Bike/Roll conference.
- **Amy** will find out if the safety summit is a requirement for SS4A planning grants.
- **Jack** will work with Sara to update the Warren County Methodology information found in the ADA toolkit on [nysmpos.org](https://www.nysmpos.org).
- **Jim** will work with Jack and Sara on an in-person training on the AGOL ADA data collection set-up.
- **All** – still time to submit a session proposal for Walk/Bike/Roll.