



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

**April 18, 2017
In-Person Meeting
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

MEETING NOTES

1. Participating

- AGFTC – Jack Mance (via phone)
- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Anne Benware
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Scott Shaw (via phone)
- GTC – Alex Kone
- GTC – Darin Ramsay
- HOCTS – Ethan Brennan
- OCTC – Ashlee Long
- UCTC – David Staas
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- WJCTC – Geoffrey Urda
- NYSDOT-Main Office – Tom Benware
- NYSDOT-Main Office – Jim Ercolano
- NYSDOT-Main Office – Cathy Kuzsman
- NYSDOT-Main Office – Meg Webster
- NYSDOT-Region 1 – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT-Region 2 – Joe Kaczor
- NYSDOT-Region 3 – Jeffrey Sterly
- NYSDOT-Region 4 – Bruce Cunningham
- NYSDOT-Region 6 – Jeffrey Spencer
- NYSDOT-Region 8 – Chris Lee
- NYSDOT-Region 9 – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT-Region 9 – Katie Mangan
- NYSDOT-Region 10 – Lanny Wexler (via phone)
- NYSDOT (Retired) – Mark Bowers
- NYSDOH – Jennifer Hogan (via phone)
- Paul Winkeller – New York Bicycling Coalition

1. Introductions

Reigle opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

2. NYSAMPO Staff Services Update

Reigle introduced Richard Perrin of T.Y. Lin International who will be serving as the project manager for the NYSAMPO Staff Support consultant team that includes Cambridge Systematics and Planning4Places. Perrin expressed the team's excitement about working with NYSAMPO and its working groups, including the Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group (BPWG). Perrin informed the BPWG that James Levy of Planning4Places would be serving as

the Facilitator/Primary Subject Matter Expert for the BPWG but was unable to participate in this meeting due to previous obligations.

3. New York Bicycling Coalition (NYBC)

a. NYBC Update: Projects, Legislation, New York Bike Summit

Winkeller thanked Reigle for the opportunity to present to the BPWG, noting the importance of the MPOs in advancing the NYBC agenda. Winkeller gave a presentation that covered NYBC's key activities. Winkeller informed the BPWG that thanks to financial support from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC), NYBC is able to expand its staff to four FTE and would like to get to six staff members. Winkeller asked for questions.

Reigle asked if there were opportunities to partner with DMV and GTSC regarding getting the online quizzes out to the public. Winkeller responded that MPOs and other organizations could help with getting them exposure.

Reigle asked if Winkeller would share the slides from the presentation. Winkeller responded in the affirmative.

Krol asked about the Travel with Care campaign. Winkeller responded that it is a grassroots, Creative Commons initiative of People for Bikes that launched in Pittsburgh and is being advanced with billboards in Syracuse and Albany.

4. NYSDOT Initiatives

a. Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

- Projects/Infrastructure
- Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign

Tom Benware reported that that the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan is progressing and multi-regional design services agreements are being put in place with countermeasures expected by year end. The NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) is working on a new Failure to Yield Right of Way PSA but may use the existing Distracted Driving one if not ready at the time of the blitz.

Hogan stated that NYSDOH is busy meeting with local counterparts in 12 communities to provide information about the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and have them assist with outreach.

Tom Benware informed the GTSC that NYSDOT is advancing the update of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan with a draft anticipated in August; vulnerable users will be a focus area.

Tom Benware provided the following additional updates:

- Meghan Webster has joined NYSDOT as a Transportation Analyst.
- Numerous activities related to the Empire State Trail are being advanced including, but not limited to, identifying on-road segments, developing guidelines for various types of facilities to be used in different situations and locations, reconciling the NYSDOT Design Manual with AASHTO and NACTO guidelines, and looking for synergies between this effort and the State Bicycle Routes.
- The SPR project to expand online GIS resources is currently working through items related to ensuring that duplication of data does not occur and the editing

of data is a difficult task. NYSDOT is considering a supplemental consultant agreement to assist with these activities.

Dozier and Urda asked about the timing of the TAP/CMAQ award announcements: Tom Benware responded that the announcements are expected shortly.

Reigle asked if the TAP/CMAQ solicitations would occur on a two-year cycle. Tom Benware responded that a two-year cycle is being considered. Kuzsman added that NYSDOT Local Programs Bureau is working toward a two-year cycle.

Tom Benware stated that Ercolano is working on an application associated with the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, and that a solicitation may occur this fall. Ercolano stated that the intent is to fund treatments such as refuge islands, curb extensions, and other enhanced systemic improvements.

5. Work Plan

a. Updating NYS Driver's Manual and Website

Reigle stated that the intent of this initiative is to see if bicycle- and pedestrian-related questions can be added to the written component of the DMV's driver test. There are legislative issues that would make this a heavy lift. Accordingly, the BPWG is looking to work with GTSC and DMV to better promote resources that enhance education about the rights of bicyclists and pedestrians.

Winkeller offered NYBC assistance and suggested that there are existing NYSDOT, NYSDOH, and other agency materials that can be used to eliminate duplication of efforts.

Dozier commented that she thought adding bicycle- and pedestrian-related questions to the test was being considered. Winkeller responded that it was included in the Governor's proposed budget but removed before enactment; there was and continues to be a push for replacing "accident" with "crash" on DMV reporting forms.

b. MPO Safety Education Tool Kit

Reigle stated that if MPOs or others want information added to this portion of the NYSAMPO website (www.nysmpos.org), they can send materials to him.

Krol informed the BPWG that SMTC is doing a PSA campaign regarding bicyclists to complement the State one for pedestrians with videos to air on Spectrum (formerly Time Warner Cable) in May.

Anne Benware reported that CDTC has a mini-grant "ambassador" program to fund small-scale activities with towns like bike rodeos. Winkeller stated that NYBC is working to develop a video on safe and healthy bicycling program for 3rd graders that they will see if the NYS Education Department will use.

c. Complete Streets

• Complete Streets in Long Range Plan Compilation

Reigle discussed the compilation of Complete Streets components of MPOs long range plans. He asked members to provide him with their components so that the consultant team can create a hyperlinked page on the NYSAMPO website.

• Complete Streets Implementation Guide & Training Program for Local Agencies

Reigle stated that the purpose of this action item is so that each MPO and others can see what the MPOs are doing and efficiently locate and use State and national resources in their own work.

Anne Benware informed the BPWG that CDTC has conducted a round of workshops modeled after NYSDOT's Smart Growth training. CDTC has a Complete Streets Advisory Committee and a white paper in its New Visions 2040 Plan. For the workshops, a call was issued to 78 municipalities and the workshops themselves were full-day events; the second round of workshops will be half-day events. Summary reports with action steps are available on the CDTC website.

Kuzsman stated that NYSDOT still sponsors workshops and will continue to do so; MPOs should contact her directly if interested. Based on the nine workshops that have been held, they are very valuable because they get people from various agencies to have a dialogue. She also likes the half-day format as two can be done in the same region in one day via a morning and afternoon workshop. Reigle asked if counties were eligible and Kuzsman responded that they are. Reigle noted that BMTS partnered with Broome County Planning for an evening workshop and the feedback indicated that more rural examples of Complete Streets are needed. Dozier stated that OCTC does training for Orange County departments including public works, health, and aging.

Reigle asked for MPOs to send him their respective Complete Streets implementation and training information and documentation for posting on the NYSAMPO website.

- Economic Benefits Report

Reigle referenced the GOBike Buffalo *Evaluating the Impact of Complete Streets Initiatives* report, which was released in fall 2016 and the desire to have a presentation on it at the NYSAMPO conference or a future BPWG meeting or teleconference.

Anne Benware asked if there was any similar analysis done or being conducted for the Empire State Trail. Tom Benware responded that there is no quantitative analysis available.

Winkeller noted that NYBC attempted to get funds to do a similar study on a statewide basis.

- MPO/Region Initiatives

Reigle requested that BPWG members send him their updates via email (can be done with information on Complete Streets implementation and training information and documentation).

6. Working Group Chairperson & Co-Chairperson Rotation

Reigle proposed that the BPWG adopt a policy whereby the Chairperson and Co-Chairperson would serve two-year terms with the Co-Chairperson rotating into the Chairperson role at the end of the two-year term and a new Co-Chairperson being named at that time. This would provide opportunities for members to take on leadership roles, bringing new ideas and direction to the BPWG.

Bowers expressed his support for the proposal and stated that he felt the BPWG plays an important role in advocating for bicycle and pedestrian planning. Ercolano added that it is

really advocating for good engineering and improves the culture of planning and design statewide.

Krol offered to help with the transition to a new Chairperson and Co-Chairperson. Dozier asked if Krol intended to move into the Chairperson role. Krol responded that she did not intend to do so. Dozier stated that she would be interested in assuming one of the two roles.

Members of the BPWG thanked Reigle for his leadership and dedication to the group.

7. BMTS & Region 9 Presentation

Reigle reviewed and discussed the bicycle and pedestrian activities and events being undertaken at BMTS and in NYSDOT-Region 9. These include but are not limited to:

- BMTS Complete Streets Policy (adopted June 2016) and those of localities (City of Binghamton and Village of Johnson City);
- NYS Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Grant;
- Educational initiatives (cycling skills and bike helmet fitting clinics, B-Mets games, SUNY Broome children's fair, and Complete Streets training);
- Encouragement activities (walk to school day, Binghamton Bridge Pedal, and yield to pedestrian operations);
- Social Ecology Model;
- Bicycle parking; and
- Regional examples of Complete Streets projects.

Bowers discussed public art initiatives and how they complement bicycle and pedestrian projects and programs in transforming Binghamton.

8. Upcoming Events

Reigle reviewed upcoming events as listed on the agenda.

- a. One Day Training – FHWA: Incorporating On-Road Bicycle Networks into Resurfacing Projects – April 19 in Binghamton, NY
- b. NYSAMPO Statewide MPO Planning Conference – June 20-21 in Syracuse
Krol informed the BPWG that there would be a session at the conference entitled "Transportation Options for All Users." While Mark Fenton was contacted regarding his participation, he is not available. Jeff Olson of Alta Planning + Design has been contacted regarding the Empire State Trail and Justin Booth of GObike Buffalo has been contacted regarding the *Evaluating the Impact of Complete Streets* report discussed previously.
- c. NYBC - New York Bike Summit – Friday, September 15 in Albany, NY
Winkeller stated that NYBC is looking for sponsorships to defer the cost. There are approximately 20 sessions, plenary speakers, and workshops planned. The invited keynote is Paul White.
- d. NY Highway Safety Annual Fall Symposium – October 16-19 in Niagara Falls, NY
- e. Walk-Bike NY 2018 – Details forthcoming

9. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

Reigle reviewed the BPWG's remaining meetings for the calendar year.

- a. The next meeting will be a teleconference on June 15 at 10 a.m.
- b. The September meeting will be an in-person meeting on a date to be determined (a Hudson Valley location is being considered)
- c. The final meeting of the year will be a teleconference on December 7 at 10 a.m.

Krol added that the World Canals Conference will be held in Syracuse this year from September 24-28 (<http://wcc2017syracuse.com/>).

10. Walking Tour

The BPWG conducted a walking tour of downtown Binghamton led by Reigle, Mangan, and Bowers.

Action Items

The following were noted for follow-up by the Chairperson:

- Reigle to contact Jim Knapp to ask about coordination possibilities to provide easy-to-find website links for new and existing drivers to access the latest pedestrian and bicycle laws, signs, signals, and pavement markings.
- Reigle to email requests to MPOs and NYSDOT Regions regarding:
 - MPO Safety Education Tool Kit: Send Reigle any new information and materials
 - Complete Streets (CS):
 - ✓ CS in Long Range Plan: Send Reigle information of where CS is addressed in each MPO's Long Range Plan
 - ✓ CS implementation Guide & Training Program: Send Reigle each MPO's and NYSDOT Region's implementation and training information and documentation.