



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs SAFETY WORKING GROUP

July 15, 2020

Webinar

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- AGFTC - Jack Mance
- BMTS - Cyndi Paddick
- CDTC - Sandy Misiewicz
- DCTC - Emily Dozier
- GBNRTC - Hector Boggio
- GTC - Alex Kone
- HOCTS – Alexander Turner
- OCTC - Ashlee Long
- OCTC – Lauren Burns
- SMTC - Mike Alexander
- UCTC - David Staas
- NYSDOT – Regina Doyle
- NYSDOT – Harriet Lewis
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYSDOT – Andrew Sattinger
- NYSDOT – Geoffrey Wood
- NYSDOT - Robert Zitowsky
- NYSDOH – Jennifer Hogan
- NYSDMV – Chuck DeWeese
- FHWA – Maria Chau
- FHWA – Chimai Ngo
- NHTSA – Shannon Trice
- Cambridge Systematics – Danena Gaines
- Cambridge Systematics – Richard Denbow
- Planning4Places – Kathy Ember

1. Introductions

Sandy Misiewicz opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

2. Meeting Notes

The June 17, 2020 meeting notes were accepted.

3. Presentation on the FHWA Vision Zero Peer Exchange

Chimai Ngo of the FHWA Office of Safety presented on Vision Zero at MPOs. Vision Zero started in Sweden in 1997 to eliminate road fatalities and injuries altogether. Vision Zero started in the United States in 2012 with New York City and Chicago being pioneers. Vision Zero is based on the Safe System approach. FHWA and ITE has additional information on Safe Systems for staff who would like to find out more about it. There are about 50 cities in the country that have Vision Zero. Vision Zero states include North Carolina, North Dakota,

and Maryland. FHWA worked with 9 MPOs throughout the country in 2019 and held a peer exchange. Some of the MPOs adopted Vision Zero themselves while others support cities who have adopted Vision Zero. Common challenges are related to non-facility owners, safety performance targets, sustaining stakeholders, and increased fatalities. Success stories include the Washoe County MPO, the Denver Regional COG which put together a web survey, and Metro. The Hillsborough MPO rebranded as Vision Zero for safety performance measures and Broward County MPO also has had success. How do MPOs ensure safety is a priority? Showcasing Vision Zero successes and using demonstration projects help to get the word out about Vision Zero. Denver did surveys and others have used data portals and websites to collect information from the public. Broward County MPO did a walk audit to engage stakeholders. The Denver Regional COG created a Regional Vision Zero plan to provide a toolkit of resources for local governments. The local governments are encouraged to adopt Vision Zero in their municipalities and/or create local safety action plans. Sandy Misiewicz asked if the peer exchange proceedings are available? Chimai Ngo said that they are available for peer exchange participants; however, while it can be shared with Sandy, they are unable to widely share the proceedings.

4. CLEAR Update and Brainstorming

Andrew Sattinger noted as part of the CLEAR update process that NYSDOT will update some items in the Highway Safety Improvement Program Procedures and Techniques ("Red Book") and the Safety Investigation Procedures Manual ("Yellow Book"). Sandy Misiewicz requested that NYSDOT share an update on what has changed since the last discussion. Andrew Sattinger noted that NYSDOT is following the AASHTO Highway Safety Manual method and they are following the steps of network screening, predicative formulas, and site analysis, etc. to build out the database. In terms of the dashboards, they are trying and incorporating dashboard suggestions received and NYSDOT will be reaching out when they are built to get some input on how the dashboards are working. Maria Chau asked if CLEAR will consider the life cycle of the infrastructure and considering high accident locations and the result of a project being implemented. Andrew Sattinger stated that there is a process to identify projects from beginning to end which will help with project evaluation. Andrew also noted that NYSDOT is working on linear referencing for crash reporting. Sandy Misiewicz reported that the NYSAMPO Directors were interested in hearing about CLEAR and suggested a more formal presentation in the Fall to that group when CLEAR is ready for a demo. Sandy Misiewicz asked if NYSDOT could let the MPO staff know what data is missing so that each MPO can see if they can collect any data that is needed. This topic will continue to be on the Safety Working Group agenda.

5. Roadway Departure Plan

Robert Zitowsky reported that NYSDOT held a virtual stakeholder meeting on July 9th and comments due on the draft are due on July 17th. There will be another meeting in late summer/early fall to discuss appropriate countermeasures and there will be a local component to this plan as well. Sandy Misiewicz asked if the document can be shared and if it is expected that the plan will be finished by the fall. Robert Zitowsky noted that the draft can be shared. Regina Doyle noted that Region 11 will be shown separately in the next version of the report.

6. Statewide Sign Program for Wrong Way Driving and Low Bridges

Regina Doyle report that there are two systemic initiatives underway. Wrong way driving crashes is one of the initiatives (while wrong way driving is rare, it results in fatalities and

serious injuries). Installation of a standard signs and marking treatments on limited access highways to increase visibility and consistency across the network will be a part of the sign program. Additionally, there may be ITS components installed at trouble spots in the state as needed. There are about 1,700 ramps being treated with funding from the HSIP program. The Wrong Way Driving Program is found in TSMI 19-03. The bridge hit mitigation program (less than 14 feet of clearance) which make up the majority of hits – there are about 1,200 bridges in this category. There will be a minimum sign package and enhanced treatments with bridges with known problems (including ITS and additional signage). Also, TSMI 20-01 is available with the policies and treatments. Sandy Misiewicz asked if the Wrong Way Driving program is included in the STIP and the TIPs? Regina believes so as it is using HSIP funds and will check that it is included there. Regina will forward on the relevant TSMIs related to these programs.

7. Safety Projects from MPO's UPWPs

This item will be tabled until the next meeting.

8. Outdoor Dining in Roadways

This item will be tabled until the next meeting.

9. Partner Updates

- a. NYSDOT: Regina Doyle noted that safety targets for 2021 have been set and will be shared with the Safety Working Group.
- b. ITSMR: No report.
- c. GTSC: No report.
- d. Cornell Local Roads Program: Kathy Ember passed along from David Orr that CLRP is finalizing their fall schedule (and if it will be live, virtual, or a hybrid) by the end of July. The August schedule will be posted by the end of next week.
- e. NHSTA: Shannon Trice reported that only New York State have submitted their plan and the remaining states have until August 3rd to submit their plans.
- f. FHWA: No report.
- g. NYSATSB: Sandy Misiewicz will have an update at a later meeting after the NYSATSB meets again.

10. Training/Conferences

Sandy Misiewicz noted that the FHWA Roadway Departures webinars are very informative – please see the agenda for links to these training resources.

11. Meeting Schedule/Other Topics

The meeting schedule is posted on the agenda. The tabled items from today's meeting will be added to the August agenda. There is the potential for a joint Working Group virtual meeting with the Transit, Bike/Ped, and/or GIS Working Groups in the fall.

Action Items

The following items were noted for follow-up:

- Materials from NYSDOT related to performance measures and the TSMI's for the Statewide Sign Program for Wrong Way Driving and Low Bridges will be passed along to the Safety Working Group.