



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs SAFETY WORKING GROUP

May 20, 2020

Webinar

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Participating

- AGFTC - Jack Mance
- BMTS - Cyndi Paddick
- CDTC - Sandy Misiewicz
- DCTC - Emily Dozier
- ECTC - Mike Perry
- GBNRTC - Hector Boggio
- GTC - Alex Kone
- NYMTC - Sherry Southe
- OCTC - Ashlee Long
- OCTC – Lauren Burns
- SMTC - Mike Alexander
- UCTC - David Staas
- NYSDOT – Harriet Lewis
- NYSDOT – Regina Doyle
- NYSDOT – Geoffrey Wood
- NYSDOT - Robert Zitowsky
- NYSDMV - Chuck DeWeese
- NHTSA - Shannon Trice
- CLRP - David Orr
- ITSMR - Renee Varone
- Cambridge Systematics - Danena Gaines
- Planning4Places – Kathy Ember

1. Introductions

Sandy Misiewicz opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

2. Meeting Notes

The April 22, 2020 meeting notes were accepted with the one change regarding the potential for a local HSIP program similar to the PSAP program.

3. COVID-19 Safety Impacts

Sandy Misiewicz shared New York State VMT data from StreetLight Data, Inc. which shows an uptick in travel right before things closed down in March (around March 7th) and then a spike in travel before the official closing down on March 15th. Since then there has been about 100 million miles of vehicle travel ever since the closure compared to 500-600 million miles of vehicle travel previously. Most travel now is on Thursday or Friday with the lowest day being Sunday.

Chuck DeWeese discussed that the state has seen an increase in speeds during the COVID-19 pandemic particularly above 90 mph. ITSMR is analyzing changes and is using both preliminary and complete data. So far, the analysis is not seeing a decrease in fatal crashes and serious injuries comparing the same period to previous years. Renee Varone from ITSMR is analyzing January to March statistics currently. Personal injury and property damage are down from the previous years. Chuck also noted that there will be more enforcement starting on Memorial Day, particularly by State Police. Sandy Misiewicz asked if there are concerns about safety performance target setting moving forward. Chuck DeWeese noted that the state is not planning on changing the targets at this point. The biggest concern is that speeds are way up and a lot more people are walking and biking so that is a concern. Sandy Misiewicz noted that the Safety Working Group should check out the PSA on speeding on GTSC's website and encourages the MPOs to share this PSA on social media with your local partners. Emily Dozier asked if the Streetlight data is available for other regions? Sandy Misiewicz stated that it is available by county and it can be downloaded for free from their website. Sandy will share the state-wide chart to the Working Group as well.

4. SWG Work Plan – COVID-19 Impact Discussion (Challenges & Opportunities)

Sandy Misiewicz reported that there was a small group discussion held to review the Safety Working Group Work Plan and how we might change things in light of COVID-19. One item for discussion is the idea of meeting every other month. Possible future agenda topics include a presentation on the FHWA Vision Zero peer exchange. Alex Kone noted that he would be interested to hear how Vision Zero relates to the local Strategic Highway Safety Plans.

Sandy Misiewicz suggested a virtual meeting with the other working groups instead of the proposed in-person meeting where we could bring in some speakers. Sandy suggested that we could follow-up on the HSIP peer exchange and perhaps hold another workshop. Kathy Ember noted that additional topics discussed for consideration included behavioral safety, roadway departures, and speeding. Jack Mance noted the topics sound great but suggested a shorter time period than 10 AM – 2 PM (i.e. the webinar would be for a shorter period of time than an in-person meeting would have been). Sandy suggested it could be a brown bag lunch hour and a half session or over multiple days. The other discussion was related to holding monthly meetings versus meeting every other month. The plan is to play it by ear and if there is a light agenda one month to cancel the meeting. Sandy also asked if there are any training needs that people would like to see and suggested that MPO staff check out the CLRP and FHWA webinar series. Additionally, please send your MPO UPWPs so that we can catalogue safety efforts (even projects that have an indirect safety component).

Sandy Misiewicz mentioned that FTA has delayed implementation of PTSAPs due to COVID-19, however there is still a question whether the targets and the 180-day timeline will be postponed. One item noted was how the Safety Working Group can assist with HSIP training materials. David Orr suggested discussing off-line about who can assist with the effort. He would be happy to set up a small panel for training via Zoom. Sandy Misiewicz noted that this year's Work Plan does not have Fact Sheet or whitepaper however, it would be interesting to track state data – especially if numbers drastically change and how that relates to performance measures. Sandy also suggested a routine quarterly check on the resources available on the Safety Education Toolkit. She reported that she saw the Safe Cycling Video on TV and that there will be an October visibility public service announcement

campaign. She suggested that the Safety Working Group can send out social media materials. There are opportunities to collaborate with Bike/Ped Working Group. Could add speed to transportation safety campaigns. Is there a niche NYSAMPO can fill to assist? Marijuana legislation did not pass this budget cycle, but the impairment materials could still be developed. Alex Kone believes this is a good outline and gives us the opportunity to be flexible and cancel meetings as needed. Kathy Ember will resend the spreadsheet and ask for comments from the Working Group asking for comments back on a certain date.

5. May and June Safety Campaigns

Sandy Misiewicz noted that National Bike Month in May and in there is the June Pedestrian Safety Campaign. We did start posting for National Bike Month through the end of May. Sandy is developing sample posts for the "See and Be Seen" campaign and will work with Emily Dozier on developing these posts. Since walking and biking is up throughout the state, it will be important to remind drivers that there are a lot of users using the roads.

6. Shared Mobility Resource Page Update

Kathy Ember previewed the live page on nysmpos.org and noted that a small working group (made up of the Co-Chairs from Safety, Bike/Ped, and Transit) met to develop the shared mobility webpage. NYSDOT representatives also participated in the process. The webpage describes shared mobility, provides a New York State legislation summary, gives direct links to 511NY and 511NYRideshare (which are updated on a regular basis), and provides links to other resources. Some MPOs are also sharing their shared mobility resources which will be posted soon. Sandy Misiewicz can develop social media posts related to the resources available on the Shared Mobility page.

7. Partner Updates

- a. NYSDOT: Robert Zitowsky discussed that data analysis on the Roadway Departure Action Plan is underway and will be sent to rest of stakeholder group for review shortly. The CLEAR meetings are ongoing and beta testing will be beginning.
- b. ITSMR: Renee Varone reported that the TSSR is on a new platform with quicker responses. Additional reports are available on the ticket side including drivers by age and gender, by day of the week, and there will be reports on aggressive driving. On the crash side there will be a report available by the contributing factor by the individual level. So normally if impairment were a contributing factor in a crash, it would be noted once but if both vehicles had impaired drivers, this will now be noted.
- c. GTSC: No report.
- d. Cornell Local Roads Program: David Orr reported that CLRP is setting the June schedule for webinars. If you have a particular topic, in mind, please contact David. CLRP will be reducing webinars to one webinar a week going forward in June. There are also planning for the Fall.
- e. FHWA: No report.
- f. NYSATSB: Sandy Misiewicz noted that the group has not met in some time and most of their in person events are cancelled.

8. Training/Conferences

Sandy Misiewicz noted many conferences have been rescheduled and there are links to helpful webinars on the agenda. The NY Highway Safety Symposium was moved to September in 2021.

9. Meeting Schedule/Other Topics

Unless needed, we will cancel August's meeting.

Action Items

The following items were noted for follow-up:

- All: Please review the spreadsheet regarding the Safety Working Group Work Plan and send UPWPs with your safety related UPWP tasks (or just send your MPO's full UPWP). An email will be sent with a due date for these requests.
- All: Please follow-up with David Orr, CLRP, if you would like a certain safety-related webinar to be made available.