



## NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF MPOs BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

October 1, 2020

Teleconference

10:00 AM – 11:30 PM

### DRAFT MEETING NOTES

#### **Participating**

- BMTS – Scott Reigle
- CDTC – Jennifer Ceponis
- CDTC – Sandy Misiewicz
- DCTC – Emily Dozier
- ECTC – Courtney Taylor
- FHWA – Emmitt McDevitt
- GTC – Alex Kone
- ITCTC – Jay Lambrix
- NYSDOH – Jennifer Hogan
- NYSDOT – Alexandra Beck
- NYSDOT – Sandra Lusher
- NYSDOT – Karen Lorf
- NYSDOT – Jim Ercolano
- NYSDOT – Meghan Webster
- NYSDOT – Chris Church
- NYSDOT – Colleen Smith-Lemmon
- NYSDOT – Valerie Deane
- NYSDOT – Jon Harman
- NYSDOT – Lanny Wexler
- NYSDOT – Korie McAllister
- NYSDOT – Susan Pitely
- NYMTC – John Simpson
- PTNY – Dylan Carey
- PTNY – Rebecca De La Cruz
- SMTC – Mike Alexander
- SMTC – Danielle Krol
- UCTC – David Staas
- WJCTC – Geoff Urda
- Planning4Places – James Levy

*If I have missed your name above, please let me know: [jlevy@planning4places.com](mailto:jlevy@planning4places.com).*

#### **1. Introductions**

Emily Dozier opened the meeting.

#### **2. Approval of Meeting Notes**

The meeting notes from June were approved for posting to the website.

#### **3. Discussion with NYSDOT Main Office Pedestrian & Bicycle Staff**

The primary objectives of the discussion were to understand how DOT designates new State Bike Routes, how municipalities select areas for enhanced active transportation, what design criteria is used/appropriate, how approvals come about, and what process is used when a local bike route uses a State route. D. Krol noted that in the Syracuse area, bike lanes have been established on City and other locally owned roads. If a bike route occurred on a State road, coordination with the state would be necessary but it is not clear who is responsible for this coordination. A lot of bicycle route planning comes out of a corridor study or other local planning process. There was general agreement among those on the call that this is how things generally work in their MPO area. K. Lorf noted that they are finding that the use of State routes is not necessarily always the best option for cyclists.

NYSDOT is also finding that it is difficult to assess what is planned and when it is proposed for implementation. M. Alexander noted that SMTC was asked by NYSDOT Region 3 to identify priority locations for bicycle infrastructure in the region. The City of Syracuse

already has a Bike Master Plan. K. Lorf stated that it appears that bike routes are being made simply through a sign permit process, in many cases. She asked if it would be reasonable to develop a consolidated database of planned and proposed projects; the general response was that this would be difficult to undertake and keep up to date. D. Krol suggested that NYSDOT could officially request MPOs to undertake an assessment of bike infrastructure, including State Bike Routes, to be included in individual MPOs' annual work programs (UPWP). L. Wexler stated that many routes on Long Island cannot use State roads and when an improvement is proposed on a local road, NYSDOT can not make improvements to sub-standard conditions. J. Ceponis stated that CDTC keeps a map of local 'linkage study' locations and has a priority routes tool as well as a Complete Streets Committee. NYSDOT provides a list of upcoming projects (including paving projects) to CDTC's Complete Streets Committee for review/comment. E. Dozier noted that CDTC does not typically get this type of information and opportunity for input from NYSDOT. E. Dozier suggested that better coordination and communication between NYSDOT and MPO bicycle/pedestrian staff would be a significant improvement in addressing these types of issues. MPO staff on the call generally agreed that better coordination and communication would likely resolve many of the items discussed. J. Levy and E. Dozier will provide K. Lorf with an updated Bicycle & Pedestrian contact list.

#### **4. Work Plan**

i. **Ped/Bike Counts**

E. Dozier noted that the newly formed Ped/Bike Counters Group held its first collaboration call last week. There is an online forum for staff to post and access information. Let Jim know if you would like to join the group.

ii. **Safety Education**

E. Dozier noted that October is National Pedestrian Safety Month. Sandy noted that a NHTSA webinar held yesterday introduced two new visualization tools and other good data/links. Sandy will forward the NHTSA webinar information. J. Hogan noted that NYSDOH and GTSC are working on a video for law enforcement. The National Pedestrian Safety Plan will be available by the end of 2020. The focus is on speed, traffic calming, technology, and identifying support for pedestrian safety. The annual enforcement mobilization will be October 16-30.

iii. **Complete Streets**

S. Reigle noted that workshop and other information is available from AARP at [www.aarp.org/liveable](http://www.aarp.org/liveable). BMTS has identified annual Complete Streets training as a need for member agencies and others, especially since there is turnover in local officials.

iv. **ADA Transition Plans**

D. Stas noted that UCTC's roll-out of GIS-based ADA information for municipalities is forthcoming. He offered to provide a presentation to the group at a future meeting.

v. **Shared-Mobility**

J. Ceponis noted NACTO recently updated their shared mobility webpage, <https://nacto.org/program/bike-share-initiative/>. The Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association virtual conference will include a session on shared micromobility next week.

**5. NYSDOT Updates**

K. Lorf noted that Empire State Trail work is on-track to be completed by the end of 2020. The State Bike Plan effort is currently on hold but expect the effort to move forward. NYSDOT applied to AASHTO for Bike Route 11 from Pennsylvania to the Rochester area. AASHTO approval is anticipated at an October meeting and NYSDOT hopes to have an announcement by December.

**6. Other Partner Updates**

- i. Rebecca De La Cruz (PTNY) discussed the pop-up bike lane demonstration project in Poughkeepsie. This 2-way cycle track was used by approximately 100 individuals and approximately 50 surveys were completed. Information will be available on the PTNY website.
- ii. Dylan Carey (PTNY) noted that the Greenway plan is being advanced. A draft is anticipated to be released for public review by the end of November.

**7. Legislation Tracking**

K. Lorf noted that there is a limit on which roads an e-bike can use based on the speed limit of the road. D. Carey confirmed that the e-bike legislation includes regulations about which roads they can travel on (roads up to 30mph).

**8. Other Topics**

The next meeting will be via Zoom on December 10, 2020. Log-in information will be provided with the agenda.

**9. Upcoming Events**

NYSAMPO webinars- Safe Routes to Transit, Nov 9.

**10. Action Items**

The following items are noted for follow-up:

- The group discussed State Touring Routes, local route designation and how to best find bicycle and pedestrian plans and information across NYS. The group agreed that discussion between MPO staff and NYSDOT staff could likely help answer questions as they come about. Emily will provide the full Working Group contact list to Karen Lorf.
- Let Jim know if you would like to join the Bike/Ped counters group.
- UCTC will share their ADA data-sharing process during a future Zoom meeting.
- The Shared Mobility website on [www.nysmpos.org](http://www.nysmpos.org) is up and running. If you have information to add, please contact Jim Levy.