



Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee

Virtual Meeting Agenda Thursday, September 21, 2023 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

1. Introductions/Meeting Attendance

Rick Hyde, NYSDOT
Ben Wolfe, LaBella
Tim Crothers, FHWA NY
Mark Castiglione, CDRPC
Audrey Ruffinen, NYSDOT
Ethan Warren, CDTA
Robert Zitowsky, NYSDOT
Mark Sargent, Creighton Manning
Megan Quirk, CDTA
Sue Hawkins, DOT
Bill Trudeau, City of Albany
Andrew Sattinger, NYSDOT
Brian Menyuk, NYSDOT
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Andrew Tracy, Transportation Council
Carrie Ward, Transportation Council
Rebecca Odell, Transportation Council
Chirs Bauer, Transportation Council
Chaim Simon, Transportation Council
Rima Shamieh, Transportation Council

2. NYSDOT Roundabout Public Information Campaign

- Rick Hyde, Social Media Manager
- Audrey Ruffinen, Internal Communications Manager
- Carol Breen, Director of Marketing and Multimedia Operations
- NYSDOT Social Media campaign was part of FHWA 'National Roundabouts Week', September 19th to 23rd
- General notes from Audrey Ruffinen and Rick Hyde presentation:
 - Roundabouts are safer, but may be confusing to members of the public unfamiliar with them. The campaign is intended to promote safe use of

roundabouts. Malta has one of the highest number of roundabouts per capita in the state.

- Many benefits—less idling and safer. Fewer overall crashes and 75% reduction in fatal/serious injury crashes.
- PSA video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH8kbrEhL2U&t=1s>
 - Other video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcxnCngm7E4>
- Social media campaign thoughts
 - Targeting motorists
 - Roundabout graphic “went viral” ~6.5 million impressions
 - Thought it was valuable to say “hey we know not everyone likes roundabouts, but the facts say it’s safer”
 - Cut off negative comments before they happened by acknowledging feelings of public
- Thoughts in the meeting:
 - Mark Castiglione: supportive of the messaging; anecdotally, people feel roundabouts are unsafe, good to have a campaign that shows it’s safer
 - Chris Wallin: two lanes roundabouts are more confusing than one lane, example of roundabout in Schenectady
 - Stephen Maples: how to communicate with public in which contexts roundabouts are appropriate?
 - A Ruffinen: use “where possible” messaging, clarify we only implement when they are the best possible option
 - Andrew Sattinger: reduce conflict points and more importantly reduce severity (even though it sometimes increases fender-benders). Really important to focus on severity
 - Rick Hyde: we definitely considered discussing severity, mentioned it in one of our videos
 - Sue Hawkins: What is the difference between roundabouts and traffic circles
 - Andrew Tracy: tend to be larger, lane enters at more of a right angle. Modern roundabouts are more compact and have more of an angle/deflection on approach.
 - NYSDOT shared the following link with more resources:
 - <https://www.dot.ny.gov/main/roundabouts>

3. Congestion Management Process

- Andrew Tracy, Transportation Council
- Congested Locations List, Strategies, and Implementation
 - Summarizing next steps taken with the CMP
 - How the CMP network was developed
 - Showing top congested arterials in region
 - Comments on top congested arterials
 - Robert Zitowsky: I-87 southbound junction getting on 90/87, backs up a lot due to confusion, in particular people going from Lake George to NYC
 - AT: making a separate list for interstate, this is on DOT’s radar

- Rima Shamieh: I'm surprised that Balltown from Union St to Nott St or even farther north didn't make the cut, but Balltown from Union to Central did.
 - AT: I can extend the limits on Balltown road to include this
- Chris Wallin: Broadway underneath 890, used to be on DOT worst intersections list, that is one of the most congested areas in Schenectady
 - AT: I will look at this, make sure it's in the network
- Survey: 200 responses, 400 locations, heatmap of congestion reports
- Made a matrix to track which areas showed up in data, stakeholder outreach, public outreach, future growth, and equity/EJ
- Summarized congestion management strategies.
- Comments on Congestion Management strategies
 - Brian Menyuk: when implementing technology-based strategies, consideration should be given to maintaining the technology after implementation. ITS platforms require certain skillsets and staffing levels to maintain. Life-cycle and personnel costs should be considered in addition to implementation costs.
- Summarized programming and implementation strategies

4. Additional Updates:

- Safe Streets and Roads for All
 - Carrie Ward: the RFP has not been released yet, highlights include:
 - Putting together methodology for lowering speed limit in each municipality type for our region.
 - Demonstration projects, including in each county
 - List of projects on local roads we can assign HSIP funding to
- Red Book Update
 - Robert Zitowsky: crash analysis toolbox, summarizes CLEAR, Red Book and Yellow Book
 - <https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/osss/highway/crash-analysis-toolbox>
- Albany County Traffic Safety Weekend
 - Carrie Ward: this coming weekend at Crossgates
- PROWAG finalized
 - CW: these have been finalized by the Access Board, they have been proposed since 2011. USDOJ and FHWA have yet to adopt.
 - <https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/>
 - <https://www.access-board.gov/news/2023/08/08/u-s-access-board-issues-final-rule-on-public-right-of-way-accessibility-guidelines/>

5. Wrap Up and Next Meeting