

Meeting Minutes



CDTC Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee May 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Attendee	Organization
Chris O'Neill	CDTC
Sandy Misiewicz	CDTC
Jacob Beeman	CDTC
Tracy Balogh	NYS DOT
Tracy Mance	ASCO, ACTSB
Alanna Moran	VHB
Wendy Holsberger	VHB
Margaret Irwin	River Street Planning and Development
Chris Wallin	City of Schenectady
Peter Knutsen	Schenectady County
Mark Castiglione	CDRPC

1. Introductions

The meeting began at approximately 1:00 pm. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. Preliminary Draft product of the Regional Safety Action Plan – VHB

Alanna Moran of VHB began the presentation by providing background information about the Regional Safety Action Plan, now referred to as the Local Roads Safety Plan. Alanna explained that the plan is designed to be a local version of the State Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The regional plan evaluates the six major emphasis areas that were identified in the state SHSP at the local level. Analysis performed in the study is based on six years of crash data from local roads in the CDTC planning area and focused on fatal and serious injury crashes.

Alanna then gave an explanation of the findings and recommendations shown in the plan. Throughout the presentation there were questions and comments made by members of the committee. These questions and comments are documented below.

Municipal & County Recommendations

Chris Wallin – What is the difference between rumble strips and safety edge? Alanna Moran explained that safety edge is an angled shoulder on roads to allow for a better recovery back onto pavement if a vehicle travels onto the shoulder.

Chris Wallin – Noted that there seemed to be a lot of recommendations for Rural areas, maybe specific recommendations should be broken down by municipality type so that target readers don't need to search for what pertains to them. Sandy Misiewicz noted that we could develop a fact sheet for these recommendations that is targeted to specific types of municipalities (i.e. urban, suburban, rural etc.)

Meeting Minutes

Sandy Misiewicz – Asked the municipal committee members if they would be able to complete a safety audit internally? Peter Knutsen noted that Schenectady County already does similar work so they would likely have the staff time available to do so. Chris Wallin noted that the City of Schenectady would likely not be able to complete a safety audit, given their current staffing.

Tracy Mance – In the south there is reflective striping on most roads, why don't we use it here? The committee noted that glass beads are added to the paint to make it reflective, it is used in the region; however, snow plows remove the glass beads over time and reduce reflectiveness of the striping.

Peter Knutsen and Chris Wallin noted that there are downsides to some of these recommendations from a municipal perspective. For example, rumble strips can impact water drainage and decrease the life of the pavement, and sometimes the ongoing maintenance of these projects can end up being more difficult / costly than their initial construction.

Peter Knutsen – noted that CDTC could provide highlights of safety projects that other municipalities in the Capital Region are doing to spread awareness.

Tracy Balogh – Noted that project funding sources often limit what the money can and cannot be used for. This may not allow for certain treatments to be incorporated into another project type.

CDTC Recommendations

Sandy Misiewicz – If there is an opportunity for CDTC to dedicate staff time to safety projects in the future, what would be the most beneficial to municipalities? Chris Wallin noted that for the City of Schenectady it would be data analysis that the City does not have staff time for.

Mark Castiglione – Is there an opportunity to include crash data in the data dashboard that they are working on with AVAIL? Sandy Misiewicz noted that there may be, and this is something that would need to be looked into further.

Education

Tracy Mance – noted that a problem in officer education is that often times officers that get specific safety training get promoted and no longer serve the same role. She also noted, she will share her driver safety program with CDTC in an effort to get more people to see it, and if CDTC has any materials they would like law enforcement to have she will try and get it into circulation.

Public Meeting

The committee noted that trying to advertise the public meeting through local PTA meetings or local radio shows may be a good way to boost attendance.

Tracy Mance – will there be more than one meeting to connect with different parts of the region? Sandy Misiewicz replied that as part of this study there will only be one public meeting,

Meeting Minutes

however, if there are requests to hold other meetings in more targeted areas CDTC would do more.

Sandy Misiewicz wrapped up the Safety Plan presentation and noted that if committee members have any additional comments to please send them to CDTC within the next week.

3. CDTC New Visions Update: Safety White Paper – Sandy Misiewicz

Chris O'Neill gave a brief overview of the New Visions 2050 plan and handed the topic off to Sandy Misiewicz.

Sandy explained that the safety chapter of the New Visions plan will be updated with the Local Road Safety Plan currently under development, and will be supplemented with data from the state roads in the region as well. Over the next few months CDTC staff will be working on this task and there will be more to review on this topic at the next ROSAC meeting.

4. CDTC New Visions Update: Regional Operations and Travel Reliability White Paper – Chris O'Neill

Chris O'Neill presented a series of charts produced with NPMRDS data showing the difference in reliability between two corridors in the capital region. He explained that the corridor showing less variation in travel speed was the "more reliable" corridor, even though these speeds were generally slower than the "less reliable" corridor. As part of the New Visions plan update CDTC staff will be performing a similar analysis for corridors system wide.

Chris O'Neill outlined other parts of the Regional Operations and Travel Reliability Section and noted particular areas of focus. Some of these focus areas include: continuing to support the regional TMC and incident management, and variable speed limits along the Northway, among others. Over the next few months CDTC staff will be working on this task and there will be more to review on this topic at the next ROSAC meeting.

5. Other Topics

There were no comments for other topics.

Chris O'Neill thanked the committee members for their time and adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:35 pm.