

## **Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee**

Thursday, June 24, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.



### **Virtual Meeting Summary**

#### **Attendance:**

Andrew Tracy, CDTC  
Bill Trudeau, City of Albany  
Brian Menyuk, NYSDOT Region 1  
Chris O'Neill, CDTC  
Jim Maerkle, Albany County  
Jordan Solano-Reed, CDTC  
Maureen Kozakiewicz, GTSC

Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC  
Tim Crothers, FHWA  
Tom Werner, Saratoga County (retired NYSDOT)  
Tracy Balogh, NYSDOT Region 1  
Tracy Mance, Albany County Sheriff

#### **1. Introductions**

This meeting was the first ROSAC meeting held via Zoom. Sandy Misiewicz gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

#### **2. Transportation Trends: COVID – 19**

Andrew Tracey presented a series of slides reviewing the impact of COVID-19 on regional VMT, transit ridership, freight volumes and traffic volumes on major regional roadways. StreetLight Data suggests that VMT significantly dropped to one-quarter of its baseline level in mid-March, stayed low in April but began to show signs of recovery in May. NPMRDS data indicates travel time significantly declined in mid-March. Transit App, a provider of smartphone apps for transit trip planning, suggests CDTA's transit app use declined 77% but began to show some signs of recovery in May. CDTA's ridership data suggested a reduction in weekday daily ridership from approximately 50,000 to under 20,000 in mid-March, recovering to about 30,000 in May. INRIX released commercial vehicle travel data indicating long-haul trucks were impacted the least by the COVID crisis. NYSDOT's three permanent count stations which monitor traffic on the Northway north of Saratoga Springs, Wolf Road and Route 9 in Latham showed similar declines in travel. CDTC will continue to monitor regional travel to learn when and if the region returns to normal or reaches a new normal.

Sandy shared preliminary crash data provided by ITSMR for 2019 and 2020. The data suggests a drop in police reported crashes beginning in March 2020 and corresponding declines in fatal, injury and property damage crashes when compared to 2019. The data available at the time of this ROSAC meeting was limited and staff will continue to monitor crash data. Anecdotally, speeding has increased in the state as traffic stops and overall traffic declined in mid-March and April. GTSC has been focusing on pedestrian safety and speed safety campaigns.

#### **3. New Visions 2050 Update**

Sandy reviewed the status New Visions 2050, the regional transportation plan, and the timeline for public participation and adoption. Public participation has shifted to 100% virtual to accommodate social distancing guidelines. CDTC's Policy Board released the draft plan for

public review in June 2020. The Operations white paper will serve as CDTC's Congestion Management Process and new VMT data provided by the state was incorporated into the plan. Security and resiliency was found to overlap and neither considered a pandemic as a security risk which will be addressed. The transit white paper will be revisited in 2021. Several virtual public participation opportunities are available including surveys and webinars.

The Air Quality Conformity Determination for New Visions is also out for public review. CDTC's ozone concentrations under the 8-hour standard have been in steady decline since 2010. Post-pandemic long range planning considerations will also be incorporated such as what aspects of transportation have changed forever, telework and commute pattern changes and changes in traveler expectations.

#### **4. Regulating E-Bikes and E-Scooters**

Sandy reviewed the details of state legislation approved in April 2020 authorizing the use of e-bikes and e-scooters in New York State. A resource guide compiled by Cornell Law School, "Regulating E-Bicycles and E-Scooters: A Guide for New York Communities", summarizing the new legislation and was shared with ROSAC members. The legislation includes provisions on where these devices can be used, at what speeds, at what ages and with what safety features. The new law also gives local governments discretion in how they regulate these devices in shared systems. NYSAMPO developed a resource webpage for shared mobility options at [www.nysmpo.org/sharedmobility](http://www.nysmpo.org/sharedmobility) which summarizes some of the key provisions of the law. The Cornell document provides model ordinance language in regulating shared system e-bikes and e-scooters.

#### **5. Status of Upcoming Planning Activities**

- Local Road Safety Action Plan Engineering Task Wrap Up - 11 tech memos for each site have been completed and provided to each responsible agency.
- Signal Retiming Project – project is on hold due to the reduction of traffic in the region.
- Community Planning Technical Assistance Program – shifted to a rolling call for projects.
- Bus Lane Feasibility Study – Scope of work in development, operational assessment likely to be included.
- NY 378 Bridge Study – Major planning study to evaluate potential environmental issues associated with reconstructing and/or relocating the NY 378 Bridge.

#### **6. Wrap Up and Next Steps**

ROSAC meeting frequency was discussed. Quarterly meetings will be held with additional meetings as needed. The next meeting will be in September/October.

The development of a transportation incident management committee will be a key topic for future meetings. Brian Menyuk suggested that event-focused planning would be suitable for the TIM committee, and that the past "Zone 1/Zone 2" committee had success with event planning. Bill Trudeau stated that law enforcement agencies need to remain engaged and involved, as officers have competing priorities.

Meeting video available on CDTC's YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSJm7KSbgss&t=170s>