

Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 1, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.



Virtual Meeting Summary

Attendance:

Andrew Tracy, CDTC
Becky Gibson-Schott, NYSDOT
Bill Trudeau, City of Albany
Brian Menyuk, NYSDOT Region 1
Greg Wichser, NYSDOT Region 1
Mark Castiglione, CDRPC
Jen Ceponis, CDTC
Mark Kennedy, VHB
Maureen Kozakiewicz, GTSC

Regina Doyle, NYSDOT
Rima Shamieh, CDTC
Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
Tim Crothers, FHWA
Tom Werner, Saratoga County (retired NYSDOT)
Tracy Mance, Albany County Sheriff
Valerie Deane, NYSDOT Region 1

1. Introductions

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

2. Transportation Incident Management (TIM) Committee

Andrew Tracey described the New Visions 2050 recommendation to explore the formation of a transportation incident management (TIM) committee. He introduced Rebecca Gibson-Schott who compiled a draft "New York State Regional Multiagency Traffic Incident Management Committee Guidelines" document that was shared with ROSAC. She presented the guidance document and answered questions about TIM committees.

The Capital Region is the only major metropolitan area in the state to not have a TIM committee. Rebecca provided a few names for ROSAC to reach out to that would be willing to participate on a TIM committee or could provide insight as to what the TIM committee could do. Bryan Menyuk stated that successful TIM committees need to have fresh and relevant topics for law enforcement to keep them interested. Rebecca shared sample agendas from other TIM committees and offered suggestions as to committee members. As a first step, she suggested reaching out to first responders.

Tom Werner suggested reaching out to the Commander of State Police Troop G and the Regional Director for NYSDOT Region 1 to identify staff members to assign to the committee. Andrew Tracy noted that CDTC could reach out to the individuals Rebecca identified as well as responding agencies to gauge interest in a TIM Committee could possibly organize a kick off meeting. Finding champions is critical as is finding effective committee chairs.

3. 2021 Safety Performance Measures and Regional Crash Data Update

Sandy reviewed the federally required Safety Performance Measures and NYSDOT's 2021 targets CDTC intends to adopt and incorporate into New Visions at its December Policy Board meeting. In comparison to the state, CDTC's region saw a reduction in fatal crashes and the fatal crash rate but serious injury and serious injury crash rates have gone up as have non-

motorized fatalities and serious injuries which is counter to the state targets. The 2021 targets do not consider changes to crashes or VMT due to COVID-19.

Sandy then reviewed a series of slides with preliminary 2020 crash data to highlight changes during the COVID crisis. Tickets issued by law enforcement significantly declined by 86% in CDTC's four county area in April but have nearly returned to normal levels. Crashes declined in the month of April in the region by 61% with personal injury and property damage crashes down by approximately 65%. CDTC will continue to monitor crash data.

4. Transportation Trends Update: COVID – 19

Andrew updated the COVID-19 transportation monitoring data from the June ROSAC meeting. StreetLight went back and revised their methodology and recalculated the VMT for the region. StreetLight is now suggesting that there was a large decline in regional travel but that by around June 18th it had recovered to its pre-COVID baseline and remains at or even above the baseline. The data also suggests that Albany County had a lot more vehicle miles traveled than Saratoga County pre-COVID but after COVID there was a decline in Albany and an increase in Saratoga. Most other data sources including Transit App, CDTA, NYSDOT are all suggesting a return or near return to pre-COVID levels. Bicycle and pedestrian travel has increased, one section of the Zim Smith trail saw travel increase by 400% based on CDTC counts.

Andrew then reviewed a staff work program proposal regarding data collection. Along with the purchase of Bicycle and Pedestrian counters, a portion of funding would be used for COVID impact traffic monitoring where staff would select key corridors with pre-COVID counts and then conduct a post-COVID count to see the changes. This concept was endorsed by ROSAC members with the note that traffic changes varied and continue to vary around the region. Bryan Menyuk mentioned that NYSDOT has a variety of counter technologies in house but some locations have not been well maintained resulting in questionable counts.

5. Status of Upcoming Planning Activities

- Regional Signal Timing Program Update – project remains on hold
- Community Planning Technical Assistance Program – solicitation remains open for projects on a rolling basis
- Bus Lane Feasibility Study – RFP in development
- NY 378 Bridge Study – Procurement was canceled. Process will be restarted this fall.
- NYSDOT Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan Update – Draft plan expected November/December 2020.

6. Wrap Up and Next Steps

Andrew reviewed the idea of a Corridor Spotlight as an agenda item. A corridor could be reviewed from both an operations and safety perspective and ROSAC could discuss the data and identify potential options to make improvements such as a Linkage study or technical analysis. ROSAC supported this concept.

View the meeting video on CDTC's Youtube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gF_kiPQopCU&t=8s

The next virtual meeting will be on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.