

BPAC Safety Subcommittee Meeting Summary

Thursday, September 17, 2015 | 9:30 am | Room 253 - Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

1. BPAC Safety Subcommittee Goals:

- A. Creation of a standard for bicycle and pedestrian count data and the creation of a centralized depository for statewide data.
- B. Working to make HSM a tool that advances good bicycle and pedestrian projects rather than impeding those projects.

2. Topics from June – Following Up

A. Bike/Ped Counts Meeting

- Idea is to work with NJDOT to devise a standard method for conducting bike/ped counts and getting data into a central repository.
- Working with Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee to try to advance this as a DOT priority.
- Have been unable to schedule a meeting with NJDOT.
- We will continue to keep this as a priority and will continue to reach out to NJDOT to schedule a meeting – preferably as our mid-term meeting in October.

B. NJDOT Safety Webpage Status Update

- Awaiting word from NJDOT regarding a draft webpage.
- We will continue to keep this a priority and will reach out to NJDOT for more information.

C. Walking Manual

- Mentioned as an upcoming project by NJDOT at a previous meeting.
- Need more guidance from NJDOT
 - Timeline?
 - Our role?
 - Is a consultant on board?
- We will reach out to NJDOT for more information.

3. New Topics

A. Focus

- We have primarily been focused on planning and engineering thus far, but our focus is fluid and is determined by the group.
- What other groups/backgrounds should be brought to the table to expand the group and expand our focus within the realm of safety?

B. Law Enforcement

- Expand our focus on counts and data to include law enforcement – come up with a better way of collecting data.
- Advocate for more training in crash investigation – this will lead to better crash reporting and better, more accurate data for analysis.
- Local law enforcement is not consulted enough in safety and planning projects. They offer unique local expertise having involvement earlier in the process could be of a great benefit.
- Local law enforcement adds a local context that provides additional insight into the data - context not included in crash reports. Can help planners/DOT confirm whether they are on the right track.

- Subcommittee recommendation to the BPAC Council – Recommend to NJDOT that, especially in the problem screening and process development phases, require a task in the delivery process requiring a meeting with local law enforcement early in the process. This would be a separate requirement from a more general meeting with local officials. The target of these discussions would be to help determine why these problems are problems and to discuss potential solutions. If there is an enforcement component to the solution, having early local law enforcement involvement will be much more effective.

4. Next Steps

- Bring up the local law enforcement recommendation in front of the BPAC Council at the full meeting directly following the subcommittee meeting.
- Alan Huff will continue to work with NJDOT to schedule a Bike/Ped counts meeting.
- Sean Meehan will follow-up with NJDOT regarding the safety webpage.
- Alan Huff will follow-up with NJDOT regarding plans for the NJ Walking Manual.
- The entire group will brainstorm different people/groups who should be invited to join the Safety Subcommittee.
- The entire group will brainstorm new ideas and directions for the Safety Subcommittee to be prioritized at a future meeting.