



BPAC Safety Subcommittee Meeting June 11, 2015, 9:30am

Attendees:

- Alan Huff – South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
- Sean Meehan – Voorhees Transportation Center
- Aimee Jefferson – Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation
- Doug Gilbert – New Jersey Travel Independence Program
- Joe Milanese – Michael Baker
- Barkha Patel – Voorhees Transportation Center

Proposed Changes to Meeting Structure

- Reoriented meeting structure to be more action-focused
- Issues with email check-in
- Adding mid-term meeting for Subcommittee to keep meetings moving

Follow-Up from Previous Safety Subcommittee Meeting

- Alan began with minutes and updates from the previous meeting
- NJDOT Safety Webpage

Emphasis Area Discussion

- Bike/Ped Counts
 - Alan introduced potential collaboration with Design and Infrastructure Committee
 - Establishing a standard for all bike/ped count data format
 - It was mentioned that national standards exist for bike/ped counting methods
 - Group agreed that this should be the basis for a state standard
 - Compiling all Bike/Ped counts from the state
 - The meeting could take place in the second half of July
 - May be beneficial to hold a meeting at NJDOT to maximize their involvement
- NJDOT Bike/Ped Safety Webpage
 - Alan provided an update to the group based on conversations with Debbie Kingsland, NJDOT
 - Part of an overall focus on centralizing safety information, which currently exists all over the NJDOT website
 - Debbie Kingsland is the point of contact for this effort
 - She has asked the subcommittee to review and offer suggestions on the webpage once complete, possibly by the September meeting



- Subcommittee Goals
 - Need to establish short and long term goals in order to guide future meetings and projects
 - No goals in mind currently, nor are there any immediate goals of the DOT
 - Group agreed that establishing a statewide standard for bike/ped count data and moving toward a centralized depository would be a goal
 - Group agreed during a later discussion item that focusing on HSM and how to make that process work better to implement rather than impede bike/ped projects for HSIP implementation would be a second goal
- Reviewing Projects at Each Meeting
 - A new idea was introduced to the group of identifying key locations within the state, such as dangerous intersections, and analyzing one at each meeting
 - Reviewing ADA compliance
 - Proposing projects based on these locations to NJDOT
 - Group is overall receptive to the idea of looking at a location at future meetings
 - Alan suggests talking with NJDOT before proceeding with this new task to establish how this could translate into actionable results – such as leading to further investigation by NJDOT or eventually into a project
 - Difficult to accomplish at the county level
- Highway Safety Manual (HSM) and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
 - The discussion of implementing projects prompted a discussion about and how to advance projects via HSIP, given the barriers presented by HSM
 - The group agreed that we need to seek opportunities to leverage HSIP to support pedestrian projects
 - Many issues were discussed
 - NJDOT is still learning HSM, many growing pains, process changes from month to month
 - HSIP funding is an option, but too complicated to understand
 - MPOs are finding it very difficult to get urban corridor projects past HSM
 - MPOs are finding that intersection ped. improvements typically trigger larger improvements that are almost impossible to get a positive benefit/cost for
 - Most crashes occur at intersections
 - Crosswalk improvements trigger ADA compliance
 - Ped-heads trigger full signal improvements to be complaint with MUTCD
 - This adds up to millions of dollars in total costs
 - In general, the HSM is mostly auto-oriented and doesn't consider pedestrians as thoroughly as cars



- Conclude that resources will be shared with members of the Subcommittee and everyone will review to better understand HSM and HSIP
- NJDOT Walking Manual
 - Alan introduced this concept as was proposed by Debbie Kingsland, NJDOT
 - Effort would be led by the Safety Subcommittee
 - NJDOT wants to put together a walking manual similar to the Bike Manual that BPAC previously helped develop
 - The work would be performed by an outside consultant (ex: RBA was hired for the Bike Manual)
 - Will tentatively plan for this to be the focus of the next general meeting in early September
 - The New York Street Crossing Manual could be a good example
 - Massachusetts, being so ped-oriented, may offer a good example
 - Question was asked, how this manual would be different from the Pedestrian Facilities document that already exists (There are also many federal resources that exist similar to this
 - Walking manual would be behavioral while the facilities manual is an inventory
 - Walking manual would be the main resource for New Jersey residents

Developing Action Items

- Members will review different biking/walking manuals for the next meeting
 - Alan will send the NJ biking manual out to the group to review
 - Will look for examples in Massachusetts
 - Will look at examples in New York
- Will explore connections with NJTIP and other relevant resources to assess an ability to bring problem locations to the Safety Subcommittee for review at future meetings
- Alan will discuss with Debbie Kingsland, NJDOT how subcommittee review of locations could actually translate into meaningful action in the process
- Alan will work with Debbie Kingsland, NJDOT and Greg Krykewycz, DVRPC from the Design Subcommittee to plan for a joint meeting on count data in late July or early August
 - Will likely distribute a Doodle poll with potential dates

Open Discussion

- No additional comments

Meeting Adjourns