



**Legislative BPAC Subcommittee Meeting
March 21, 12:30pm to 1:30pm
Rutgers University
33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ**

Attendees: Janna Chernetz (Chair), Dana Dobson, Jim Hunt, Lisa Cintron, Cyndi Steiner, Leigh Ann von Hagen, John Boyle, Olivia Glenn, Cyndi Steiner

Meeting began with a round of introductions before acting Subcommittee Chair Sonia Szczesna brought the group to order.

First Order:

Sonia starts by discussing the highlights of pre-2019 State Coordinator Webinar – National Bike Summit and requests everyone to address bike-ped issues at the forefront which can be highlighted and be sent in as recommendations to the Federal Reauthorization Bill

Long Notes:

After the meeting was brought to order, Sonia started by providing an overview of the pre-2019 State Coordinator Webinar – National Bike Summit. She discusses her conversation with the League of American Bicyclists in Washington, DC. It was addressed that the senate environment and public works are moving fast to set the tone for reauthorization.

A breakdown of funding of each and every transportation funding program within Federal Reauthorization Program was shared with the group. Leigh Ann talks about the barriers faced in New Jersey and how it is different from the states such as Wyoming. She also discusses how such programs are discussed at an engineering level and not policy/safety level and addresses that the decision making process doesn't consider vulnerable population.

Sonia discusses the ideas sent in so far related to the bill, some of the recommendations discussed were:

- Give MPOs more authority to obligate funds after awarding/ranking them
- Give states more flexibility on how to spend funds
- Leigh Ann: ranking- public health & benchmarks, tie rankings into land use; move First two points under this
- Tying to environmental justice and looking at demographics on a census block level
- Technical assistance to help with the planning and allocating of funds; that is another thing that the group can recommend
- Discussion about increase and change to 10% of Surface Transportation Block Grant
- Leigh Ann: talks about how in NJ all things are given to big cities and smaller towns and cities just stay behind; talks about the growth of Jersey City and Newark



- Some way to talk about city sizes and comparisons; if we can look at a measure. If the MPOs come up with it
- More technical assistance to help locals spend federal money & prepare project
- Use a general “needs statement”, instead of individual applications. Eg. Of MA, how they do it
- Get the most money spent
- Guidance on better working with communities to help understand the federal process

Sonia inquires if there would be another grant cycle before September. Everyone in the group address that as a question mark. Sonia further inquires if CMAQ funding would be open as she heard about some states applying for it. The group talks about different kinds of funding and the formula used to disseminate funds in New Jersey.

Sonia talks about pilot project in which federal data is shared with 5 MPOs to improve with planning projects. Talk about DOT “commitment to committee” program/slogan and how it would sell to senators

- Design assistance
- Need to implement
- Technical assistance/hand holding from application to close-out – local aid resource center?

Talk about Commute Act and its goal: to improve transportation planning by giving states and MPOs access data.

Deadline is April 4th to send recommendations

Meeting adjourned.