



**Legislation & Policy Subcommittee**  
**March 9, 2021 10:55am – 11:55am**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Participants:** Sonia Szczesna (TSTC), Leigh Ann Von Hagen (VTC), Andy Swords (NJDOT), Trish Sanchez (VTC), John Strachan (NJDHTS), Susan Blickstein (SGB), Joe Rapp (NJDOT), Laura Cerutti (TransOptions), Debra Kagan (NJBWC), Janna Chernetz (TSTC), Sam Rosenthal (VTC)

- Street Smart campaign has been added to committee tasks
  - Trish and Laura are on the committee but it hasn't met yet
  - Will and Keith were not present at this breakout meeting
  - Street Smart is an ongoing program with dedicated funding—need to determine how to best integrate the program with this subcommittee
    - Action item from Bike-Ped EA is to expand Street Smart across NJ
    - SS looking to be more data-driven, equity-focused
    - Street Smart integration with this subcommittee should be clarified at next action team meeting
    - Should be under education, but we don't have an education subcommittee
- Previous meetings about automated speed enforcement and vulnerable road user task
  - Prior research has been done by VTC and will be reviewed to see if anything can be added
  - Greater focus will be on interviews with states and organizations that have implemented VRU and ASE laws
  - Google folder exists for sharing resources and accessing past work
    - List of potential interviewees
    - List of questions to ask
    - Committee members should add resources and articles related to ASE and VRU, and should add to the interviewee and questions lists
- Overview of upcoming tasks
  - Literature review of VRU and ASE laws
  - Inventory of implementation around the country
  - Interviews with implementers in other states
  - List of existing work in NJ
  - List of barriers to implementation
  - List of equity considerations
  - Memos with best practices and examples for NJ to consider—by December 2021
- Potential for this subcommittee to create model legislation for NJ (outside of purview of SHSP)
  - BPAC cannot itself lobby for anything



- Safe Passing Bill, VRU is a component of that—it would be good to bring Jim Hunt into the conversation about the Safe Passing Bill
  - Safe Passage Bill closer to getting into committee than it has been in the past
  - This work, best practices, lit review could be used by advocates in their legislative proposal
- Doesn't need to have specific language of bill, but could include how similar bills in other states actually passed—add to interview questions
- Part of the research will address barriers to implementation—what worked and what didn't
- Research should look at where states use funding for ASE—safety projects? Is it competitively awarded from a single fund?
- Implementation is important—what to do with this research/memo after December
  - Doesn't need to be specific legislation
  - How best practices could best be utilized at different levels in different agencies
  - How does this info get incorporated as policy and not just legislation
- Need to bridge the gap between complete streets design guidance and safe passing legislation/on-street behavior of drivers and cyclists
- Research into why ASE is banned in NJ
  - Could be addressed through interviews
  - Political history—banned because politicians said it didn't work or was a money grab by police depts, despite objections from some cities that it was working
    - That is why it is important to bring evidence from other states that it does work
    - Look at how these states allocate revenues to address accusations that ASE is a money grab
  - Focus on ASE in school and work zones, but don't limit scope to just those areas
  - The effectiveness of ASE can be easily studied and quantified, which helps in making the case for this type of intervention
- Research should include a focus on equity in both VRU and ASE
  - How are these laws enforced? Who is being pulled over for violating VRU?
- Recommended NJ legislation from 2016-2017 to protect bicyclists and pedestrians
  - Add any topics to list of research?
  - Might be a good idea to check in on these to see what's been introduced—often difficult to know what becomes of bills (introduced, defeated, lingering, etc.)
  - Sonia can pull list of NJ bills to check
  - Debra and Laura can put together list of federal bills
- Background information on how other states use safety advisory councils
  - BPAC has done this research previously in 2020
  - Susan will try to share what has been done—there may be opportunities to add



- Overlap in task leaders—work plans should identify areas where coordination can happen
  - Sequencing challenges with EA action teams
  - Two of six BPAC meetings each year should focus specifically on SHSP
  - Look at all work plans together and identify areas of overlap
- Future subcommittee meetings
  - Meet between each BPAC meeting, 30-minute check-ins
  - Next meeting for week of March 22
- **Action items:**
  - Sonia will pull list of prior NJ bills related to bicycle and pedestrian safety to check what's been introduced
    - Debra and Laura will put together list of federal bills
  - Susan will try to share prior research into other state BPACs
  - Reach out to Will and Keith to determine how best to integrate Street Smart program into subcommittee work
  - Committee members should add to lists of potential interviewees and interview questions
  - Sonia will follow up with an email scheduling the next meeting

**Relevant links:**

Info on Senate Bill S631, which establishes Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Council:  
<https://www.njsendems.org/gill-measure-to-create-pedestrian-and-bicycle-safety-advisory-council-advances/>

Text of Senate Bill S631:  
[https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2016/Bills/S1000/631\\_11.HTM](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2016/Bills/S1000/631_11.HTM)