



**Safety BPAC Subcommittee Meeting  
March 9, 2021 10:55am to 11:55am  
Online Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:**

**State**

Yvonne Mikalopas, NJDOH  
Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT  
William Riviere, NJDOT  
Aimee Jefferson, NJTPA  
Keith Hamas, NJTPA  
Catherine Bull, VTC  
James Sinclair, VTC

**Private**

Andrew Lappitt, Sam Schwartz

**Non-Profit**

Linda Rapacki, RideWise  
Lisa, EZ Ride  
Will Yarzab, Street Smart NJ

**Long Notes**

Subcommittee chair Jennifer Buison began the meeting with a discussion about the SHSP tasks, specifically the two actions items that need the group's support. She informed everyone that they would also have time in a second meeting to discuss any outstanding topics and invited Elise Bremer-Nei and Aimee Jefferson to talk about the two SHSP actions.

Aimee Jefferson, NJTPA gave a brief background about the transit inventory and equity action and informed that they are close to wrapping up the action's preliminary scope of work. The team is looking to build upon NJDOT's study methodology that ranks bus stops according to specific factors such as number of crashes, crash severity, road speed limit, proximity to schools, and equity, to prioritize few hundred locations. They will also coordinate with other action teams, including the Equity Emphasis Area for guidance on defining and incorporating equity in the methodology.

The team would then study the selected bus stops by creating a data inventory and develop findings and recommendations forwarding a systemic approach to advance safety at those locations. Aimee further highlighted that the team plans to reach out to municipalities to find ways to implement recommendations and want the data inventory to be in an expandable format for the future.

- Will Yarzab, Street Smart NJ suggested narrowing down the priority locations by county.
- Linda Rapacki, RideWise also supposed that given the factors used in the scoring methodology, most priority locations might fall in big urban centers and feared that counties such as Warren, Hunterdon, and Somerset might not get represented.
- Aimee responded that they have been noting approaches addressing these issues in the literature review, for instance, the VTC study included a minimum of five locations from each county. The team is also looking into factoring high ridership routes into the model for this purpose in addition to incorporating a qualitative review of the information.
- Keith Hamas, NJTPA suggested that part of this action could be to take a pro-active approach and look at best practices for systemic improvisations increasing safety at risk locations but not necessarily high crash locations in rural as well as urban areas.



- Aimee agreed and conveyed that the inventory of selected bus stops could help with that, similar to NJDOT's methodology that found specific factors such as presence of sidewalk to be associated with higher risk. She was interested in examples of models and kind of funding sources available for systemic efforts. For instance, the NJTPA worked on a systemic curb analysis project in Passaic County that looked at road curvatures to apply high friction surface treatments.
- Elise Bremer-Nei mentioned about NJDOT's systemic projects including one that required back plates as a part of all DOT projects but was not sure about their current status or those in the pipeline.
- The group added that the back plates project is in the works and waiting on the structural unit to go to the CPSC. Another example of such a project would be highways building/maintaining crosswalks.

The group transitioned to discuss about transit funding to which Jennifer advised that she is handling the SHSP-BPAC coordination aspect of the task and Mike Viscardi is the go-to person for NJ Transit specific questions and Aimee could make a note of related questions for Mike so that he is in the loop.

She then asked if Aimee would like to get more input from the subcommittee on the scope of work. The group discussed about sharing the scope of work and Aimee and Elise invited everyone in the subcommittee who is interested in working on it to reach out to them through the subcommittee.

- Andrew Lappitt, Sam Schwartz mentioned about a bus stop study that selected 30 locations and evaluated pedestrian safety at those locations to which Aimee responded that they have referred to the said research.
- Yvonne Mikalopas, NJDOH wondered if the team had access to ridership data to add to the analysis.
- Jennifer said that they have ridership data at route level but not bus stop level and suggested that the team could expand on this data using the consultant support to verify it at the granular level needed.
- James Sinclair, VTC informed that his colleagues have been working with NJ Transit to conduct bus surveys over the past few years, which includes information about riders' trips as well as their area of residence through an extensive effort covering almost every single route in the system. However, he is unsure if that data is entered into GIS.
- Jennifer shared that she would reach out to a contact person at NJ Transit for this information and connect the concerned person with Aimee.
- Aimee stated that they would see what data is available and then talk with consultants to parse out ways for inclusion in the scoring methodology.

Elise mentioned that there is a core working meeting next week to review, revise, and streamline each of the SHSP tasks and actions. The team, however, does not anticipate massive changes and some of the deadlines would likely be pushed accordingly. After the meeting, Elise would reach back to the group with specific information.

Meeting closed as everyone was directed to the online general meeting room.