



**Safety BPAC Subcommittee  
September 16, 2020 9:30am to 10:30am  
Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:**

**State**

Angela Quevedo, NJDOT  
Jennifer Buison, NJ Transit  
William A. Feeney, NJ Transit  
James A. Sincaglia, NJ Transit  
Keith Hamas, NJTPA  
Alan Huff, SJTPO  
William Yarzab, NJTPA  
Leigh Ann Von Hagen, VTC  
Aashna Jain, VTC

Sean Meheen, VTC  
James Sinclair, VTC  
Jiajia Jiayu Zhou, VTC

**Non-Profit**

Arnold Anderson, NJBWC  
Lisa Lee, EZRide

**Private**

Steven Wong, Sam Schwartz

**Summary**

The meeting was brought to order by the Safety Subcommittee Chair Jennifer Buison and began with a round of introduction and updates.

**First Order**

**Andy Anderson** stated that they should continue organizing online outreach workshops as the virtual environment has enabled people to participate in safety workshops and sessions without location and time constraints.

**Sean Meehan** talked about their organization's videos and online resources that could be utilized to conduct safety workshops and trainings.

**Alan Huff** noted that public outreach was particularly influenced by COVID-19 and suggested the group to consider its equity component in virtual public outreach.

**Second Order**

The group discussed about adapting to work remotely during COVID-19 and how it impacted their work plans.

**Third Order**

**Keith Hamas** informed the group about their approach on online road safety audits and asked for innovative suggestions on conducting field work during COVID-19.

**Angela Quevedo** talked about how NJDOT is moving forward with road safety audits along with an update on the NJ 2020 Strategic Highway Safety Plan.



**Long notes:**

**Safety Subcommittee Chair Jennifer Buison, NJ Transit** opened the meeting with introductions and asked for updates on safety-related topics. She also informed the group that she had invited the new Executive Council member Yvonne Mikalopas from the Department of Health to discuss integrating public health into the safety subcommittee; however, that conversation will have to wait since Yvonne Mikalopas was not able to join the meeting.

**Arnold Anderson, NJBWC** stated that they should continue conducting online safety education and outreach workshops, which have created new opportunities as people who could not participate in in-person events due to time and location constraints are now able to do so in a virtual environment.

**Sean Meehan, VTC** mentioned that they have been conducting educational workshops online and suggested that the group can use their online education videos and resources to continue with safety workshops virtually. Andy Anderson informed that the referred to materials are included in a tool box for NJ Driver Education Committee teachers and have been very helpful.

**Alan Huff, SJTPO** stated that they needed to set up a functioning plan to work remotely due to COVID-19. Public outreach and engagement was particularly influenced because of the work from home arrangement. He discussed about the equity component of this arrangement as some regions have a lag in access to good quality internet or personal devices. Jennifer Buison asked if there was any change in their work schedule to which Alan responded that the only delay is in public outreach and updated that the municipalities were pushing for more in-person outreach activities.

**Steve Wong** from Sam Schwartz added that the work change or delay due to COVID-19 varied from agency to agency. For instance, the second quarter of this year was the worst for the Port Authority, which is highly dependent on tolls for its revenue. As a result, some of their plans were delayed for two years. In regards to outreach, Steve Wong noted that zoom meetings and podcasts have worked out very well for them, with different levels of participation in different municipalities.

**Keith Hamas** from NJTPA updated that most of their work has been going smoothly. He shared about the NJTPA Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program that conducted safety audits using Google Street View and asked the group for innovative ideas to conduct field work during COVID-19.

**Angela Quevedo** from NJDOT stated that they were also moving forward with road safety audits (RSAs) using virtual methods. NJDOT has recently finalized the NJ 2020 Strategic Highway Safety Plan to address roadway fatalities and series injuries throughout the state. The document is for a five-year period and she was willing to share it with Jennifer Buison if anyone was interested.



**Alan Huff** commented that the concern with RSAs during the pandemic is that the findings do not reflect real-world scenarios as many schools and businesses are operating remotely or shut down. While conducting RSAs, they should highlight the special situation that the RSA is based on. Lisa Lee added that they could assume that white collar workers are likely working from home while many blue collar workers are still going to work.

**Jennifer Buison** adjourned the meeting.