

## **Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

### **Meeting summary**

#### **Attendance:**

In-person: Howard Goebel, City of Albany; Robbie MacCue, Colonie EMS; Jennifer Viggiani, Town of Clifton Park, Mark Castiglione, CDRPC; and Andrew Tracy, Carrie Ward, Chaim Simon, Sandy Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council

Online: Alex Kone and Danena Gaines, Cambridge Systematics; Chris Bauer, Transportation Council, Jon Hartley, Stantec; Kelley Kircher, NYSDOT Region 1 Traffic Safety and Mobility; Michael Ahillen, FHI Studio; Mike Fenley, NYSDOT Region 1; Robert Zitowsky, NYSDOT Main Office; Teresa Haslauer and Tim Crothers, FHWA; Liz King, Highland Planning; Ethan Warren, CDTA

#### **Introductions/Meeting Attendance**

Carrie began the meeting with introductions and shared a link to the Complete Streets Best Practices Survey in the chat ([https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Complete Streets Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Complete_Streets_Survey)).

#### **Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, Alex Kone, Cambridge Systematics**

Alex Kone presented an update on the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan. Alex presented long-term crash trend data in the Capital Region, noting that since 1979 fatal and serious injury crashes have trended downward at an average rate of about 2% per year. Alex presented additional charts and statistics showing trends in each crash type. Federally-required performance measures and targets adopted by the Transportation Council were shown. Alex presented the emphasis areas from the New York State Strategic Highway Safety Plan, showing factors that contribute to crashes and the number of crashes in the Capital Region for each crash type.

Participant comments and questions: Robbie M. noted that a large proportion of crashes appear to be age-related, and he would like to see further breakdown of the contributing factors by all ages. Howard G. noted that he has observed an increase in speeding in recent years. Mark C. suggested that there are interventions that can target the crashes involving young drivers, including education and defensive driving programs. Sandy M. stated that the bike/ped slice of the chart is smaller than expected. Robbie M. added that pedestrian-involved crashes may be underreported as injuries may not present themselves until after the crash. Participants noted that new data sources, such as cameras and connected vehicles, may help safety planning; Howard G. added that the City of Albany is implementing camera-based speed enforcement. Teresa H. stated that NYSDOT worked on a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, will soon release the Roadway Departure Action Plan, and an Intersection Action Plan is their next initiative. Sandy added that unsafe speed may be underrepresented in the chart due to the difficulty of demonstrating that speed was a contributing factor to a crash. Robbie M. asked how the severity of an

injury is determined; Alex responded that if the injury requires hospitalization, it is categorized as a serious injury.

Alex Kone presented the network crash screening data. An online map was published and circulated among ROSAC participants. The map shows hotspots for intersection, corridor, and bike-ped crashes. The CLEAR Safety App was used for the analysis. Alex explained the 'sliding window' methodology used for corridor screening. Alex also explained the Level of Service of Safety (LOSS) performance measure, based on the difference between expected and observed crashes. Alex demonstrated the network screening map and how to add comments, and encouraged stakeholders to view the data and add comments. Alex offered one-on-one meetings with any community to review the map and discuss.

Participant comments and questions: Sandy M. stated that the Transportation Council will promote community meetings with the consultant team. Ethan W. asked if the LOSS is available in CLEAR; Alex replied that it is, along with other performance measures. Sandy asked if this data is for systemic screening; Alex replied that this is for hotspots only, and the systemic analysis is coming later. Jennifer V. asked if EMS will be included in the one-on-one meetings. Sandy replied that the Transportation Council will reach out to elected officials in all communities and encourage them to bring in local EMS and other stakeholders.

Alex Kone presented the Equity Priority Areas analysis. A list of nine factors was presented, with three of the factors being new additions to the list. Thresholds (regional rates) were shown for each factor. Census tracts are scored based on the number of thresholds they exceed, with some factors having greater weight. Justice40 and NYS Disadvantages Communities were additional layers.

Alex Kone presented the plan for investigation sites and site visits. The consultant team is scoped for 40 site investigations at locally-owned sites. The scope of the field visits was shown. Selection criteria for sites was presented. Sites with high LOSS percentiles will be prioritized, with a minimum of one site in each community that contributed funding to the grant.

Participant comments and questions: Robbie M. stated that site visits should include testing of pedestrian push buttons at crosswalks, and examining the quality/condition of pavement markings. Robbie added that night hazards such as poor lighting or malfunctioning lighting may not be apparent if the site is visited during daylight.

Alex continued that there will be 10 'tactical' demonstration sites, where safety concepts may be tested during trials up to two-weeks. Teresa H. asked if these sites would include any painting in the roadway; Alex responded that he understands the challenges relating to implementing colorful crosswalks, and they will emphasize other traffic calming measures.

The study website is [capitalregionvisionzero.org](https://capitalregionvisionzero.org). Liz King from Highland Planning stated that the website has applications live for Community Ambassadors (paid) and Community Advisory Committee membership as well. Sandy M. stated that this will be shared with the new Equity Advisory Committee. Alex stated that future focus groups would begin with K-12 schools and law enforcement and asked for

suggestions on additional group types for focus groups. Multiple colleges were identified as locations to reach under-20 drivers and to target outreach in the fall.

Teresa H. added that FHWA is trying to organize a 'shadow day' in Hoboken, NJ due to their advanced Vision Zero implementation. Hoboken has not had a fatal crash in 7 years. Will let the group know if one is organized.

### **In Motion Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update, Sandy Misiewicz, Transportation Council**

Sandy M. presented a status update on the In Motion Plan. We are in Phase 2: Inform, and are conducting outreach events. There is an online survey the public is encouraged to take that will help inform plan goals. The ROSAC will serve as the advisory committee for In Motion topics relating to safety and operations. The website is [inmotionplan.org](http://inmotionplan.org).

### **Wrap Up and Next Meetings**

- August 15<sup>th</sup>
- November 21<sup>st</sup>