

Equitable Traffic Safety Programs in the NYMTC Suburban Counties

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IN MEMORY OF
IGNATIUS ADANGA
CHARLES LESPERANCE
SEE WONG SHUM

Context

Goal: Identify ways to **coordinate, expand, enhance** equitable...

- Traffic safety programs
- Safety education programs

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Focus on **pedestrians** in **vulnerable populations** and those living in the **vicinity of schools** by...

- Reviewing existing research
- Performing benchmarking research (MPOs)
- Documenting NYMTC programs
- Identifying opportunities

Background

Equitable traffic safety and education programs

Pedestrian safety in disadvantaged communities and school zones:

- Vision Zero
- Safe System
- Complete Streets
- Safe Routes to School

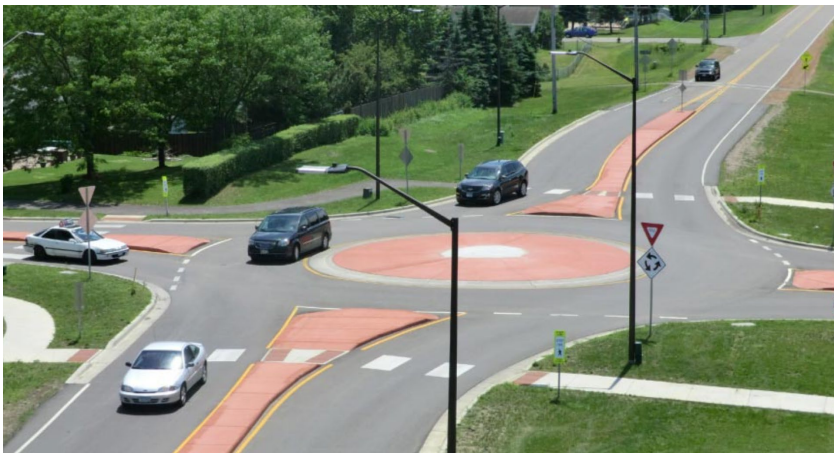
Six Es of Traffic Safety

- Engineering
- Education
- Encouragement
- Enforcement
- Evaluation
- Equity



Engineering

Roundabouts



Source: FHWA

Sidewalks



Source: pedbikeimages / Dan Burden

Crosswalks



Source: pedbikeimages / Dan Burden



Education

- In-class presentations
- Online and physical educational information
- Public awareness campaigns





Encouragement

- Walk to school day
- Bike rodeo
- Walking school bus
- Walking competitions





Enforcement

- Police officers
- State highway patrols
- Sheriff's offices
- Automated enforcement (speed and red-light cameras)





Evaluation

- Data reporting and collection
- Road safety audits
- Performance indicators



- Community engagement
- Increased enforcement
- Focused investment



Shortcomings

- Costly/lack of funding   
- No experts/volunteers   
- Prioritization  
- Outdated 
- Language 
- Low effectiveness 
- Sociocultural perspectives 
- Biased/discriminatory 
- Data  
- Generalized impacts 
- Participation  
- Insufficient weight 

MPO & NYMTC Benchmarking

- **Internet research:** 10 MPOs + NYMTC
- **Three main categories...**
 - **Groups:** committees, subcommittees, task forces, working groups
 - **Materials:** information, tools, data
 - **Initiatives:** programs, strategies
- **NYMTC interviews:** Nassau, Suffolk, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester



Best Practices: Groups

Safety Advisory Working Group

- Equity
- Community/citizens engagement
- Special needs (ADA, seniors)
- Vision Zero/Safe Systems/Complete Streets
- Information resources exchange



Best Practices: Information & Materials

Transportation Information Gateway (data, maps, guides, information)

- Equity resource guide/assessment
- Complete Streets toolkit
- Public engagement toolkit
- Pedestrian infrastructure assessment toolkit (identify, prioritize pedestrian infrastructure)
- Educational material (multiple languages)
- Safe Routes to School framework and safety campaign toolkit



Best Practices: Initiatives

- Regional safety campaign
- Equity & accessibility training sessions
- Technical assistance program
- Consultant assistance program (grant writing)
- Local capital project delivery assistance
- Local safety program planning
- Continue road safety audits
- Public engagement strategy
- Civic engagement grant program
- Federal funding opportunities exchange



Consider...

- Proactive (community-based groups, non-profit partnerships)
- Expanding communication channels
- Rising technologies
- Expand definition of equity (race, income, age, gender, language proficiency, disabilities, households without vehicle)
- Normalize crash counts (per capita, per VMT)
- Focus more responsibility on drivers
- Collaboration/coordination with other municipal departments (public works, police)

Final Remarks

- No one-size-fits-all solution
- Make solutions adaptable
- Trial-and-error
- Continuous learning and adaptation



THANK YOU!