NC Traffic Records Coordinating Committee "Voting Members" Meeting Minutes
Thursday December 13, 2007
Board Room at the NC Judicial Center in Raleigh NC

Present: Sgt. Scott Parrish, Don Nail, Brian Mayhew, John Stokes, Janet Greene, Hardee Cox, John Farley, Ethel Keen, Bill Hunter, and Eric Rodgman.

9:10 am Co-chair Brian Mayhew began the meeting – he welcomed everyone to the meeting. The agenda addressed items from the previous meeting. Brian passed out an updated handout showing the current 2007 trend in fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. Brian noted that NC is still headed toward a record high surpassing previous years back to the mid-70s.

9:20 am Brian turned the agenda over to NC Data Coordinator John Stokes who helped provide the TRCC with information of the status of the current NC Data Improvement Projects funded last year.   John Farley noted that the GIS 100 county mapping project had encountered several delays and was still a work in progress. The efforts had been delayed by a number of data and system set-backs. John Stokes noted that the completion of this effort will be done using the left over funds from last years monies allocated to NC.

John Farley noted that the project currently has 96 of the 100 counties providing up-to-date local street GIS information. The other 4 counties were being updated using TIGR files because those 4 had limited resources. All the counties were dealing with multiple requests for their data. Each county has been asked to post their data one time for all the requests they deal with. The counties have made progress on this. The next step is to get all 100 counties using the same basic format. Janet Greene noted that AOC works with the SHP on locations for citations, but it has to be re-verified once it gets t DMV.   John Farley noted that once location file could handle many aliases so that should help. He added that their group has a presentation – that could be presented at a future NC TRCC meeting.

9:30 am Sgt. Scott Parrish then provided the committee with an update on the status of the SHP. Scott noted that the SHP had passed 1 million eCitations issued that are going to AOC. Scott added that the SHP had 6 pilot users from Durham, Johnston, and Wake Counties using the TraCs crash report mobile laptops. The patrol planned on getting the next 205 MDTs installed, troopers trained, and running in early 2008. Ethel Keen noted that her staff has been working hard on resolving sending & receiving crash data issues. The initial design was too slow so it has since been re-designed to improve the processing. Ethel thought that the implementing and user testing could be done by June 2008.

9:43 am   John Stokes addressed the topic of great importance to NHTSA. John asked everyone to review and complete the questionnaire on baselines, benchmarks, and performance measures which should accompany all old and new project efforts. John asked that everyone complete the NHTSA questionnaire by January 15, 2008.   John Stokes thought that it might be helpful to take the 408 funding thinking out of the equation when addressing this. Brian reminded the TRCC that each group has to show progress on their effort.

Ethel noted that her DMV group is responsible for 3 major components of traffic safety data including crash, driver, and vehicle. Her concern is that her unit does not have a documented set of performance measures. The difficulty is that it is hard to get everyone from these 3 important areas together to help create these measures. Her plea is that she needs help with coordinating and completing this effort. John Farley noted that NC DOT has recently established a TMT (Transformation Management Team) for the Secretary of NC DOT. This might be one important way that this task could be solved. The NC TMT has a charge to produce a report by the end of February 2008 (?).

John Stokes noted that he will be part of conference call on Tuesday Dec 18th where this issue will be discussed.

10:12 am This led to the discussion of an NC TRCC retreat in early 2008. Brian suggested that the purpose and focus of the retreat be defined ahead of time. Bill Hunter added that this was an opportunity to make the retreat a "strategic planning" meeting looking into what the NC TRCC should agree on as future goals to be accomplished. John Farley asked about background information since he is one of the newer members of our committee. Brian Mayhew offered to email out some basic NHTSA documentation (limited number of pages) to help get everyone on the same page for this retreat. That led to the discussion of the NC Executive Committee and it's relationship to the

NC TRCC. Brian noted hat NHTSA likes the way NC has this set up. NHTSA uses NC as an example of how it should be done. The two committees work in parallel and together to endorse and support efforts to improve safety in NC. Though neither has direct control over money, both can make recommendations to the NC Legislature for either money or legislation.

10:26 am John Stokes brought up this issue with the NC SHP project to get the MDTs in to SHP vehicles. John suggested that that no more money be spent until the 205 MDTS already paid for are up and running in the field.

Ethel Keen brought up an issue involving the problems associated with have 3 different datasets all using NC crash information, but which are in conflict with one another.   These datasets are the NC crash data maintained by DMV, the NC FARS data maintained by the FARS representatives stationed in NC in DMV, and the Federally run SafetyNet Commercial Motor Vehicle data system that NC provides data for. Unfortunately, each data system is maintained and run by 3 different groups. Ethel has asked / proposed a 408 funding project to address the Gap Analysis problems to better coordinate these three data systems. Her initial estimate shows that the task may take 650 hours or about $52,000.00. Review all three systems, procedures,, definitions, and consolidate into a single automated process. One source for funding / money may be FMCSA the agency overseeing the SafetyNet data system.

10:48 am   Brian noted that one of the older projects to review the NC Traffic Records System was much out of date (about 8 years). This effort needs to be done, but the procedure needs to be completely reviewed and updated.

 The new eCitation project to provide local LE with the necessary printers (this is estimated to be about 500). In general, it requires about $800 to properly equip each LE vehicle with a high quality printer for use in the field.

11:00 am Another possible project to support is the Traffic Records Workshops Project (estimated to be about $60,000.00) to host several workshops to work with LE statewide to help with crash data quality control, field questions, emphasize the importance of capturing accurate crash data for following NC traffic safety trends. John Stokes added that this project would need some tweaking to be more specific on what each workshop would entail.

11:10 – 11:24 am   Brian suggest that the committee take a short break.

The group discussed the "Feasibility Study for Centralized Storage for Linked Traffic Safety Data" project which proposed bringing together as much data as possible from each area for exploring how these data can be used to enhance traffic safety in NC.   Brian noted that such an effort might enable NC to become a CODES state using the HSIS system which already exists. Eric noted that the HSIS crash database includes only the mileposted crashes (about 60% statewide). Bill Hunter will contact David Harkey on the HSIS connection.

Brian Mayhew & John Stokes added another possibility for a "NC Data Resource Guide" like Wisconsin has. An NCSU grad student could be hired to do this effort.

The GPS Data Collection by the NC SHP project was supported by John Farley. Again this effort needs to review all the improvements and technology now available to get the most bang for the buck.

Brian's top recommendations for funding include:

1) eCitation Project to provide printers to local LE (500 printers).

2) TR LE Workshops Project for spring 2008

3) NC DMV Gap Analysis Project.

The centralized data storage project would be revisited after input re CODES and HSIS.

12:05 am The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted – NC TRCC Co-chair Eric Rodgman. See next page.

Important action items / upcoming dates :

Co-chair Eric Rodgman will email the full NC TRCC to determine a retreat date in February 2008.

Co-chair Brian Mayhew will email background information to NC TRCC on guidelines for TRCC from NHTSA.

NC Traffic Records Coordinator John Stokes will email an electronic version of the questionnaire to the voting members.

Next NC TRCC meeting in February – date to be determined – this could be an NC TRCC retreat.

For information on the NC TRCC, see the web site: http://www.hsrc.unc.edu/nctrcc/