

Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 6, 2010 from 9:30 to 11:30 am
In the 3rd Floor Conference Room at HSRC in Chapel Hill, NC

Present: Brian Mayhew, Ethel Keen, Chad Lohmeier, Janet Greene, Ron Hughes, Sharon Schiro, Mitch Batuzich, Carol Martell, and Eric Rodgman.

9:45 am Eric Rodgman welcomed the attending members.

9:36 am Brian Mayhew gave a quick update on the status of the next round of 408 funding with the June 15, 2010 deadline. At this point, there is no more money appropriated for distribution to the states. Any monies for this 408 data development area will have to be approved by Congress. So far, even the FHWA and NHTSA budgets are being funded by continuing resolution budget awards. If you want to apply for any financial assistance, please contact Don Nail at GHSP.

The 402 money fund is available and this covers a broader area of traffic safety. This area includes education, enforcement, engineering, and general traffic improvement awards.

Ron Hughes asked about what FHWA funds might be available. Mitch Batuzich of FHWA agreed to do some background research on this and provide a short description to the TRCC.

Ethel Keen updated the committee on the crash report revision process. On Monday May 10th, there will be a pilot meeting which will include Greensboro LE, Charlotte LE, Wilmington LE, Asheville LE, and a few smaller PDs. Ethel noted the deadline for the pilot studies was December 2010.

Brian noted they had good feedback from the focus groups on the crash report revision. So far, Lawrence is still pulling together the comments and suggestions made for presentation to the steering committee. These would include any changes to add new variables or new variable values, remove variable or values, and other possible changes. Brian added that the goal was to keep the form as a two page crash report document.

Ethel noted that the steering committee would review all these suggestions, comments, and changes and put together a final recommendation to be submitted to the NC DMV Commissioner for his approval.

One suggestion was to recommend the training process for using the DMV 349 crash report be a certified class and required for any LE who will be using it. This would help be sure the LE officers understand how the 349 crash report should be completed and standardize the process across the entire state.

Even now, the NC SHP has personnel designated to train their troopers. Janet Green noted that the training material and class could be put on-line in the form of an online Robo-Help application. This technique is widely used now for AOC and EMS training.

Brian Mayhew and Chad Lohmeier noted this could be used for the TraCS training too.

Sharon Schiro added that the training session could use the voice and image of one of the NC SHP trainers.

On the 408 project updates, Chad Lohmeier said they were moving forward on their linkage of the NC crash data with the EMS medical data. One of areas of interest is the pediatric trauma involving fatalities.

Ethel added that there was a need to get better information on the toxicology information from the ME office for crash related fatalities. Ethel noted that the 2009 crash data was frozen for the moment because of the missing crashes from Charlotte (estimated 19,000 reports).

This also affects the FARS and CMV reports to the Federal Agencies requiring these data.

Carol noted that HSRC has a copy of the Charlotte crash data -- looks like the crash data, but there is no way of validating the completeness and accuracy.

Ethel said she would provide the 2009 crash data available now, but there would have to be a caveat that the data were not complete.

The problems with the City of Wilson data have been corrected.

These problems have been vendor related.

In general (it was noted), that NC LE officers do the 349 crash report coding correctly.

Janet Greene updated the committee on the distribution of printers for ecitation – half of the printers have been sent out. The Batmobile has been closed down for the moment – it was a great help to the NC magistrates who process the DWI arrests.

The NC SHP project area of new communication for the mobile laptops is unknown. Eric will contact Bryan Chadwick of the NC SHP and get an update. One solution is using Aircards. The problem is the ongoing expense of the Aircard service for each card. It was agreed that the SHP had to have the Aircards to be able to communicate – an essential part of their LE equipment. Another funding strategy would be to make it communication part of the overall position cost.

Those present agreed that the NC TRCC would formerly endorse the use of the Aircards for the SHP. It was suggested that the Executive Committee for Highway Safety also be brought on board to help.

The Colonel of the NC SHP is a member of this committee.

The NC SHP needs a long term plan for funding the communication equipment and service as an essential part of their LE equipment.

The next TR Forum is around July 25, 2010. Brain will check to see if anyone can go – state funding for this travel could be a problem.

The committee discussed the next TRCC meeting. It was agreed that the committee would break for the summer and re-convene in late August.

Eric will send out the draft minutes and poll the NC TRCC for the next meeting date in late August 2010..

11:25 am Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by NC TRCC Co-chair Eric Rodgman.

P. S. Bryan Chadwick and I spoke briefly about the CGEN and Aircard replacement issue. Bryan says they are still looking for a way to get the Aircards and the service covered. Bryan will discuss it with his SHP – he will get back to us on whether we need to provide a formal letter of recommendation and support for funding the new communication system for the NC SHP from the current NC TRCC. Bryan will ask the Colonel to be sure the Executive Committee for Highway Safety is also aware of this important need. Perhaps that committee will also provide a letter of support.