North Carolina Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Meeting

NC Judicial Center on Corporate Drive, Raleigh, Fishbowl Room

October 3, 2018

Attendees Present:

Jennifer Barbour (NC AOC)

Eric Bellamy (NC DMV TR)

Sharath Bhat (NCSU ITRE)

Dana Dandeneau (NC DPH)

Elizabeth Daniels (NCSU ITRE)

Greg Ferrara (NCSU ITRE)

Katie Harmon (UNC HSRC)

Marie Melendez (UNC HSRC)

Brian Murphy (NC DOT)

Jeff Robertson (EMSPIC)

Eric Rodgman (UNC HSRC)

Mark Scaringelli (NC GHSP)

Eric Schaberg (NC SHP)

Warren Smith (NC GHSP)

Roger Smock (NC DOT Rail Division)

Vish Tharuvesanchi (NC DOT IT)

Mike Thomas (NC DOT IT)

Derek Traughber (EMSPIC)

Shawn Troy (NC DOT)

Anna Waller (UNC CCHI)

9:35 a.m.   Welcome / Introductions / Plan for the Day – Eric Rodgman

New Members present today.

9:40 am   Presentation entitled "Crash Data Retrieval" by Sgt. Eric Schaberg from the NC SHP where he described the crash data captured by the internal electronic "black box" the vast majority of vehicles on the road today.

Eric described the special training and special hardware to allow LE to gain access to the key data stored in the "black box" which can be downloaded. The CDR Download Technology provides data on longitudinal delta-v and lateral delta-v (i.e., the Delta-V is the change of velocity in milliseconds). Important because it affects the timing of airbag release (airbag module found underneath the carpet of most vehicles). There is a similar power control module connected to your transmission which collects data. So far NC has only pulled this black box info for serious investigations involving felony charges, DWIs, and other serious chargeable crash cases. To date, NC has focused on about 70-73% of all fatal wrecks. The data summary is a downloadable PDF (small file) and can be printed out.

Bluetooth technology systems are being used too. He provided several examples where the crash information (typically speeds just before the crash) retrieved was compared to information calculated through other traditional crash analysis techniques. The data was very accurate.

Eric noted that the NC Justice Academy was already proving instruction on these black boxes. The biggest challenge is that the information is dependent on the vehicle in question. Each vehicle has a different way to record the data and needs a special interface to gain access to the black box. Bluetooth can make the connection easier, but you still must know how the data is formatted to understand and use it.

10:05 am.   NC 2018 Updates on the TR Projects Funded by 405 (c) Money through GHSP – Mark Scaringelli from GHSP and the individual project representatives.

Mark Scaringelli from GHPSP gave the TRCC a short overview of the current TR 405 (c) status. NC again received NHTSA money for their continued success on improving their data TR systems. Mark encouraged the members to consider identifying a key data development task need that might be eligible for a 405 (c) grant. NC needs more projects to consider for the data improvement money. Mark added that the funding is limited (restrictive) to data tasks affecting core databases, their timeliness, accuracy, etc. Mark suggested that any ideas should be provided to Warren Smith at GHSP to see if it fits for funding. If it does, then the requestor can develop a one-pager and run it by the director. Mark noted that there is money available now. The upcoming grant calendar notes that the next full funding cycle begins in January 2019.

Mark noted that the TRCC still needs a procedure / policy for the TRCC to rank / rate the projects for funding. That effort has been temporarily postponed till the new year. Nancy Lefler from HSRC will provide a proposal for the ranking of projects to the TRCC in 2019.

Mark added that the TRCC still does not have a local LE representative. It was suggested by Jennifer Barbour that we contact Chief Maultsby from the Raleigh PD.   Eric Rodgman will work on that issue.

10:24 am   Jennifer Barbour updated the TRCC on the progress of the eCitation connection to the NCAWARE. This eCitation interface with NCAWARE has been enhanced to generate a tracking number so

that it is not necessary to have a printed copy of the citation. It went statewide on August 11, 2018 and the actual pilot test with the Highway Patrol begins on October 3, 2018.

AOC has continued to provide law enforcement eCitation printers. For 2017-2018, 838 new printers are now in the field (provided to 78 LE agencies across NC).

10:35 a.m.   Anna Waller and Katie Harmon provided thorough updates on their two key 405 (c) projects. The NC database documentation project has been busy completing documentation on DMV crashes, Trauma Registry data, EMS data, Vital Statistics death certificate data, Hospital discharge and encounter data, Medical claims data, and FARS data. Still working on the ME office fatality data and the HSRC special PBCAT pedestrian and bicyclist data. The biggest help has come from a monetary incentive (e.g., $3,000) provided to the agency assisting with the documentation.

Anna Waller noted that the medical data and crash data matching project is beginning its third year. Katie Harmon is currently working on the 2017 NC crash data, which should make it easier to match to the enhanced medical data from 2017. The team has made several presentations at conferences over the last two years. Contact Anna for more details.

10:40 am   Greg Ferrara updated the TRCC on the Vision Zero website ITRE has developed for GHSP. As part of NC Vision Zero, ITRE has been working with SHP on program and technical support. Pushing data to the ncvisionzero.org website for Vision Zero analytics. Greg and his team have introduced new software (e.g., Tableau) and plans for new analytic tools to assist NC MPOs in reviewing the crash issues in their jurisdiction. Greg plans to use 5 FHWA measures to help them understand their data.

10:48 a.m. Greg Ferrara gave a presentation entitled "North Carolina Crash Data Visualization Tools Demo".

Greg highlighted the different tools his team has developed and demonstrated the many capabilities these tools provide. The team includes five full-time employees and a number of NCSU students. The tools can map crashes, isolate in on a hardcopy report, and show patterns for any selected area in NC.

Greg noted that he got some great ideas from Paul Durden (New Zealand) who was a two-time winner in the Data Visualization Tool development category at the last two National Traffic Record Forums.

Greg and his team applied some of these techniques in using GIS for treatments, enforcement, and engineering strategies in NC. The team has developed a crash query tool to help with more in-depth crash data analysis. Special topics such as distracted drivers, MC drivers, and commercial drivers can be selected. The Crash Query Tool answers specific questions, provides quick stats, and is available to the public this month.

ITRE has received funding to support the VZ program in the form of technical assistance and outreach. The effort has located/geo-coded fatal and serious injury crash data (2012-2016, 2017/2018 ongoing). This work was funded by NCDOT.

11:20 am   Reminders of upcoming needs for updating the 2019 NC TR Strategic Plan (due June 15, 2019):

1)   Need to share any new system development projects under way in your agency.

2)   Need for each agency to share / create performance measures that are acceptable by NHTSA so that they can be included in the next TR Strategic Plan.

3)   Continued emphasis on addressing the 2017 TR Assessment recommendations.

4)   Reminder / update on the MIRE FDE Data Certification Plan for NC (required). Brian Murphy and Nancy Lefler have already begun this process in NC.

Eric Bellamy from NC DMV said that they are not producing paper crash reports any longer. DMV is working on a process for receiving all electronic, fillable PDFs, and downloadable (1st phase of moving toward no paper). DMV tried to submit data through the NC FTS system, but DMV is still trying to work out a satisfactory process. It appears it will be up on the NCDOT website soon.

11:35 a.m. Meeting was Adjourned -- Eric Rodgman -- Thanks to everyone.

Upcoming TRCC deadlines, meetings and events for 2018:

NC TRCC Meeting Date: Wednesday February 6, 2019 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am (AOC Oak Conference Room).

The next National Traffic Records Forum (ATSIP) Conference will be in Austin, TX. The conference dates are August 4-7, 2019.

Deadline for the next NC TR Strategic Plan is June 15, 2019. The TRCC will use electronic signoffs to certify and approve the final copy.