

**Executive Committee for Highway Safety  
Meeting Minutes; Mtg. #4  
April 21, 2004**

**Location:**

Chief Engineer's Conference Room, Beryl Drive @ 9:30 a.m.

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

David King	Susan Coward	Bob Andrews	Debbie Barbour
Richard Holden	Ashley Memory	John Crone	Kimberly Overton
Doug Galyon	Darrell Jernigan	Kevin Lacy	Doug Robertson
Jim Long	George Tatum	Steve Varnedoe	Jim Westmoreland
John Sullivan			

**Guests in Attendance:**

Joe Geigle	Brad Hibbs	Karen Croysdale	Don Nail	Cliff Braam
Jackie Johnson				

**Scribe:**

Cliff Braam

**Minutes:**

- The meeting began at approximately 9:40 a.m.
- Susan opened the meeting and everyone introduced themselves for the benefit of new members.

**Task I – Action Items from Last Meeting**

**Resolution in Support of NC's Helmet Law**

- The ECHS's resolution was submitted to the legislative sub-committee in writing. This sub-committee is active until May 15 and they may or may not have another meeting.
- Supporting ECHS members are listed on the back of the resolution of support. Some names were removed because of individual agencies' policies.

**Update on Motorcycle Sub-Committee Activities**

- If the proposed legislation moves forward, then the ECHS will again make our position as a group on these issues known.
- The sponsors of this bill understand the ECHS's position on these issues. However, this issue is being approached from an economic standpoint this time.

## **Task II – Establishment of Working Groups**

- All six Working Groups as initially identified by the committee have been established and Chairs have been assigned. These groups are as follows:

<b><u>Work Group</u></b>	<b><u>Chair</u></b>
<i>Lane Departures</i>	<i>Steve Varnedoe</i>
<i>Speed</i>	<i>Colonel Holden</i>
<i>Keeping Drivers Alert &amp; Increasing Driver Safety Awareness</i>	<i>Doug Robertson</i>
<i>Increasing Seat Belt Usage</i>	<i>Darrell Jernigan</i>
<i>Ensuring Drivers are Licensed &amp; Fully Competent</i>	<i>Commissioner Tatum</i>
<i>Curbing Aggressive Driving</i>	<i>Kevin Lacy</i>

- The first three groups on the list have already met, and the last three have initial meetings scheduled within the next month or so.
- Kimberly Overton from Peg Doer’s office has asked to participate on all six groups and has been very active so far.
- FHWA has also had representation on all of the groups so far.
- The chairs of each group that have already met provided the committee with an overview of their meetings.

### **Lane Departure Working Group Overview – Varnedoe**

- 2.5 hour meeting with excellent discussion
- Overview to members on ECHS and the role of the working groups
- Will be dispersing fatal slips to the members of the working group. These serve as a reminder of why-what we do is important and allow you to see how random fatalities are in the state, but also how predictable they can be as well as the age groups that are involved.
- Had a presentation on data from the DMV-349 report that involved lane departure crashes. Use of the data was discussed.
- Discussed DOT initiatives such as NC Moving Ahead and how this mirrors the efforts of the ECHS.
- Group will continue to brainstorm ideas for ways of reducing fatalities and overall crashes.
- Traffic Engineering will be providing additional data to the group
- Discussion of DOH’s Business Plan and the 7 strategic emphasis areas with Safety being the top priority. Noted how DOH is beginning to look at these issues collectively.
- Next meeting is June 16.

Robertson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading fatal slips is a motivating factor; helps keep you stimulated.</li> </ul>
Coward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been a request/inquiry from the legislature about rumble strips. Are these being implemented?</li> </ul>
Kevin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a few projects in place. Our rumble strip policy/guidelines are being updated. Rumble strips are being advocated on 4 lane highways and other areas of need.</li> </ul>
Varnedoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operations are incorporating data from Traffic Engineering into their procedures.</li> </ul>
Holden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rumble strips are of concern and importance to the SHP too from an officer safety perspective. The SHP would like to see them close to the edge line to provide as early of a warning as possible to drivers who drift/run off the road.</li> </ul>
Lacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing policy now calls for them to be placed 6 inches off of the edge line.</li> </ul>
Westmoreland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greensboro is utilizing them to identify high pedestrian areas. Would like to know what information is coming out of the Working Groups.</li> </ul>
Lacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic Engineering will be developing a web page for the ECHS and Working Group activities.</li> </ul>
Robertson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication is important. Need to pull all of the pieces together.</li> </ul>

### **Speed Working Group Overview – Holden**

- There is a big challenge associated with the issue of speed. Speed is connected to many other issues.
- Need wide spread expertise on the working group to see the connectivity between the different agencies.
- Had two presentations; an overview of the ECHS and the working groups and one on data elements as related to speed.
- Need to educate people and seek voluntary compliance from the public.
- There are concerns with posted speed limits in Work Zones; especially where the speed is lowered and signed as a work zone, but there is no evidence at all of any work going on.
- Examine the issue of behavior; how do we change behavior? Through enforcement, education, roadway design?
- Review other states and countries and benchmark their successful programs.
- Is speed a political issue? Do our legislatures want to address this? May need to have a meeting with them and educate them on the seriousness of the issue.
- Is shock therapy a viable partial solution? Maybe the effects of this are short lived, but if it is repeated often enough, could it be beneficial?
- Need to seek a total, comprehensive, integrated plan to present to the ECHS.
- Charlotte police department underway with a pilot photo radar program. We will be talking to them and monitoring this program.
- Identify corridors where speed is a contributing factor in crashes and increase enforcement.
- Get prosecutors involved. Establish “No Plea” zones. Seems like few people are ever found guilty of the actual charge.

- It is time to get people serious about the situation.
- Next meeting is May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Crone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of SHP officers can not be overstated. Seems that SHP troopers run from crash to crash and have little time for enforcement.</li> <li>• Sheriffs do not do traffic enforcement or crash investigations.</li> <li>• Work with Sheriff’s association to get their assistance.</li> <li>• ECHS should support efforts to get more troopers.</li> <li>• Enforcement is a <b>BIG</b> key in this.</li> </ul>
Holden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHP is cross training the motor carrier enforcement personnel to investigate crashes.</li> <li>• Their cars are painted the same as trooper’s cars and this is having a multiplier effect (appears to be more troopers on the road).</li> <li>• Need to work with local police departments to provide maximum enforcement in known “problem” corridors/areas.</li> </ul>
Galyon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to look at State employee education and expand to local officials too.</li> </ul>

**Keeping Drivers Alert & Increasing Driver Safety Awareness Working Group  
Overview – Robertson**

- The working group has combined two issues that are similar in some respects, but different in others. There will likely be commonalties and differences in the problems and solutions.
- Identified additional members for the working group from areas that were not represented.
- Overview of the ECHS and data elements as related to these issues.
- Jane Stutts provided a briefing on research that has been completed; what we know and what we don’t know.
- Need to be aware of how these issues mesh with all others; speed, road design, belt use, alcohol, etc.
- Draw not only from the data, but also from own experiences as drivers.
- How can we change behavior?
- Next meeting is on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Galyon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to examine the issue of cell phone use as a distraction.</li> </ul>
Jernigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at the use of video screens; seems to be an increasing fad.</li> </ul>
Holden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to look at ALL distractions and not just particular ones such as cell phones.</li> </ul>
Tatum/Jernigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to examine all after market modifications; big tires/wheels, lifted trucks, etc.</li> </ul>
Overton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not only do we need to look at who has these modifications, but at the installers too.</li> </ul>

## Electronic Reporting - Tatum

The commissioner gave an update on the electronic reporting project underway. A handout was provided containing information on the project with target dates for the various implementation phases.

## Task III – Briefing on the Inaugural DWI Task Force Meeting

- The task force met on April 19 at the RBC center.
- 32 out of the 34 members were present.
- Information was provided on topics such as current DWI laws, loopholes utilized by attorneys and inadequacies in the existing laws.
- Colonel Holden gave a presentation on the view of the DWI situation from the SHP's perspective, including their lack of manpower and how this effects enforcement efforts.
- Mecklenburg County is sitting on 4,500 DWI cases. They are now dismissing cases involving 0.08 and 0.09 BACs due to lack of resources to prosecute everything.
- In 2003, there were 92,000 DWI arrests for BAC of 0.08 or higher.
- Click It program has resulted in over 13,000 DWI's issued.
- There was a personal story related about the effect of a collision with a DWI driver and discussion of how this really drove the issue home.
- The chairs of the task force will be meeting to determine the focus for future meetings.
- Interim Report due August 14, 2004.
- Final Report due January 5, 2005.

## Task IV – Hispanic Representation

- Kevin reviewed a list of three potential names that he had received from HSRC.
- Darrell stated that GHSP funds several Latino interest groups including El Pueblo and that GHSP is in the process of pulling all of these together into one group with El Pueblo taking the lead.
- Commissioner Tatum recommended Axle Lluchll from the governor's office.
- The committee decided to contact Mr. Lluchll to seek his participation.

## Task V – Public Information

Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Need to think about developing a news release to discuss some of the actions and accomplishments of the ECHS. May even point out some of the recommendations from the work groups.</li><li>• Discussion about a potential safety summit to have Highway Safety Stakeholders and media together to present recommendations and findings.</li></ul>
Westmoreland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May need to look at some sort of initiative where we survey the public to gauge their views.</li><li>• What would the public support and do to help?</li></ul>
Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FHWA/USDOT has performed user surveys and the results show that the public believes/feels that we have very safe highways. This notion further reinforces the need for education.</li></ul>

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Action Items:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>
Braam	Will send out sample of the fatal slip e-mail notification to all committee members to see who would like to receive them on a regular basis.
Braam	Send out Working Group Minutes to ECHS members. These will be posted on a web site for ECHS activities in the future.
Braam	Contact Mr. Lluchll about serving on the ECHS.
WG Chairs	Determine timelines for components/deliverables from the working groups.
WG Chairs	Poll working groups to see what information they would like to know from the public.

**Possible Next Meeting Agenda Items:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>
Overton/Dorer	Provide overview of the court system and how cases are processed. Where are the “teeth”?
Robertson	Overview of study involving cameras in the cars; driver inattention.
Sullivan	Overview of public survey results from FHWA/USDOT surveys.

◆ **Next Meeting: July 21, 2004 9:30**