

**Executive Committee for Highway Safety**  
**Meeting Minutes; Mtg. #19**  
**May 28, 2008**

**Location:**

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

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Susan Coward	Bob Andrews	Kevin Lacy	Darrell Jernigan
David Harkey	Terry Hopkins	Steve Varnedoe	John Sullivan
Doug Galyon	Mike Yaniero	Bill Rosser	

**Guests in Attendance:**

Victor Barbour	Chris Hartley	John Stokes	Jeff Babb	Rodger Smock
Rhonda Faust	Leigh Lequire	Brian Simpson	Dara Demi	Phyllis Bridgeman
Brian Purvis	Lillian Dawson	Brad Hibbs	Tom Norman	Cliff Braam

**Scribe:**

Cliff Braam

**Minutes:**

- The meeting began at approximately 9:35 a.m.

**Task I – Welcome**

Susan welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and introductions were made for the new attendees.

**Task II – Fatal Trends Update**

Terry distributed fatal trend sheets showing the most recent data projections for 2007. As of now, the total number of fatalities in the crash database for 2007 is 1,703. The final numbers may vary slightly once DMV has processed and reviewed all fatal data. Calculated utilizing the currently projected VMT for 2007, the fatal rate is now at 1.61. Final and “official” 2007 VMT data should be available sometime in July.

Current fatalities to date for 2008 are over 100 lower than at this same time last year. Projected fatalities for 2008 based upon data received so far this year, does show that the numbers are heading back down as was originally expected. Projected year end totals as of today are 1,607 and in conjunction with projected VMTs for 2008 this will yield a fatal rate of 1.49.

**Task III – Presentation: NCDOT Transformation Management Team Update**

Victor Barbour, from DOT, gave the Committee an overview presentation on DOT's current Transformation process. This transformation effort can be overly simplified as a means of making a very good DOT a great DOT in the eyes of our customers, stakeholders, and employees.

The presentation is available on the ECHS web site: "DOT Transformation Update"

## **Task IV – Working Group Updates**

### **Older Driver – Bridgeman Reporting**

The Older Driver working group continues to be active and has several initiatives underway.

- There have been several classes held recently on the *Highway Design Handbook for Older Drivers and Pedestrians* and there is one more block of classes already scheduled for this year.
- The group is working with Traffic Engineering to identify intersections where older drivers are over represented. These locations will then be investigated in a systematic method to identify potential countermeasures where applicable.
- There is another effort underway looking to Improve Signage at Non-Standard Interchange Approaches. DOT already has begun working on a new sign design and is getting approval and input on it from Division personnel.
- The group is working on developing a web site that will serve as a central clearing house for information for older drivers. Currently the logistics (such as who will host it, who will maintain it, etc)of the web site are being worked out.
- The group is exploring ways to provide law enforcement with training focusing on the issues of the older driver.
- The group has applied for a grant from the funded by the National Center on Senior Transportation and should know sometime in August if we are selected as one of the initial recipients.

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian – Norman Reporting**

There are three main initiatives currently underway.

#### 1. Training for Law Enforcement

- 2 hour module on laws concerning bicycles and pedestrians.
- Officers are not often exposed to these laws.
- Training is being conducted through the NC Justice Academy and will be part of the annual in service training for law enforcement officers.

#### 2. Reducing Speed in School Zones

- This program is being modeled after the Fayetteville program.
- It will not only focus on speeding violations but also on violations involving disregarding crossing guard directives.

#### 3. Pedestrian Action Plan Training Workshops

- Two courses to be held in Raleigh and Charlotte.
- Will involve decision makers in the training.

- Goal is to increase awareness of pedestrian safety, planning, etc and also to let participants ask questions.

### **Incident Management – Purvis Reporting**

The group has met five time to date.

- Adopted the Fender Bender Message policy with the Highway Patrol
- Had one meeting at a Regional joint meeting of the APCO/NENA 911 Conference
- Will be speaking at the May 29<sup>th</sup> APCO Annual Conference
- Revised Quick Clearance memo with the Highway Patrol
- Have developed a matrix of countermeasures
- Beginning discussions of towing heavy vehicles
- Continuing to work through matrix of countermeasures
- Created a Parking Guide Committee back on October 25, 2007
  - Requested \$1million grant from FEMA to help in meeting NFPA 991 requirement of 5 traffic cones per fire department. Was awarded \$525,000 in May 2008 with money having to be spent by May 2009.
  - Group has set timeline, identified strategies, content of training, target audience, method of delivering material and who will develop the material.

### **Task V – ECHS Future Direction**

At the conclusion of the meeting, Susan Coward left the Committee with some items to think about between now and the next meeting. Below is a summary of her presentation.

*Before we leave today, I would like to Challenge all Committee members on how to make our efforts more effective. I feel that we have come to a crossroads in our efforts in making a real difference in highway safety. Many of the easy things have been accomplished and the tasks before us now will undoubtedly require more effort. Many of our working groups have not met in a while because of the frustration of getting over this hump. As leaders in our various agencies, we need to make a decision on our future direction and the impact we will have on reducing highway crashes and the associated fatalities and injuries.*

*The Challenges and Questions I have for each of you are:*

1. *What can you and your agency do to make our Highway Safety Effort more effective?*
2. *Are there individuals or groups missing that should be represented, the Legislature, the Media, etc (mention the Administrative Office of the Courts if you like)*
3. *Are we debating some of the sensitive issues too much? Are we talking ourselves into inaction?*
4. *How do we create a more effective legislative effort? Do we need to?*
5. *How do we create a more effective media presence? Do we need to?*
6. *What are the roadblocks to moving forward and truly making a difference in highway safety?*

*Please think about these items between now and the next meeting. I am asking Cliff Braam to provide you these Questions and Challenges in an email. I am also asking him to follow up with each of you to get a response before our next meeting in September. During our September*

*meeting, we will present the comments, suggestions, and other responses to the committee as a whole. Then we will decide what direction we will go from here.*

*I know each of you and the agencies are committed to improving safety on our highways. As Victor demonstrated, we are putting our performance on the internet for the world to see. I am certain that we will receive questions and comments on our safety performance and how we plan to improve. I am equally certain that we will not be successful in achieving our goals without working with all the member agencies of this committee.*

**Task VI – Next Meeting Date**

**September 24, 2008 9:30 – 11:30; Chief Engineer’s Conference Room**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.