

Executive Committee for Highway Safety
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2011

Location:

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

Committee Members in Attendance:

Gene Conti	Bob Lisson
Bob Andrews	Don Nail
Terry Gibson	Jon Nance
David Harkey	Stan Polanis
Terry Hopkins	Colonel Scott
Sgt. Mark Ketchum (For Chief Yaniero)	John Sullivan
Kevin Lacy	Ted Vaden

Guests in Attendance:

Cliff Braam	Brad Hibbs	Shawn Troy	Stephen Lowry	Scott Proescholdbell
Charlie Grady	Mitch Batuzich	Amanda Perry	Alan Dellapenna	

Scribe:

Cliff Braam

Task I – Call To Order

Gene welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and self introductions were made.

Task II – Fatal Trend Update

Terry H. provided the group with an update on our fatal trends. For 2010, our overall fatalities dropped by 41 from the previous year (3.1% decrease) while the vehicle miles travelled increased by about 1% overall. This led to a decrease in our fatal rate of 2.5%.

Terry mentioned that our annual number of fatalities is the lowest we have had since 1992 and that our current fatality rate is the lowest ever on record (back to 1952).

Terry stated that the fatal slip e-mails that are sent out three times a week are still going out, but that due to some issues, currently the email only contains the fatal slip reports and not the overall comparison summary. She stated that the Traffic Safety Unit is working to resolve this issue and hopes to have a solution (possibly web based) in the near future.

Task III – SB 900 Discussion

Discussions on SB 900, Part XV were tabled due to Susan's absence. However, Kevin discussed current work that is being done in regards to a previous portion of SB 900 that involved the current Graduated Drivers License (GDL) program. This portion of the bill was removed last section due to some concerns with the contents, however, the bill is being revised to include additional restrictions on teen drivers. Kevin's office will work closely with Susan Doyle,

District Attorney in Johnston County, the Highway Safety Research Center at Chapel Hill and others in an effort to ensure that there are no problems with the proposed legislation this session.

Task IV – Lane Departure Systemic Approach

Stephen Lowry of the Traffic Safety unit gave an overview of the current program looking at addressing lane departure crashes. In summary:

- The Traffic Safety Unit with assistance from FHWA has developed a Roadway Departure Safety Plan that could potentially reduce NC's roadway departure deaths by 5 to 10%.
- The Roadway Departure Safety Plan would enhance NCDOT's existing programs and includes traditional engineering, systemic engineering and comprehensive approaches.
- The major portion of the program is the systemic approach. These low-cost countermeasures include over 6000 miles of signage, markings, rumble strips, delineation and tree safety enhancements.
- The estimated cost of the systemic countermeasures is \$60 million; however the expected annual benefit is over 50 lives saved each year and a reduction of over 2000 highway crashes.
- The Traffic Safety Unit has proposed to allocate \$6 million of Hazard Elimination Funds annually over the next five years towards systemic roadway departure improvements.
- During Phase I of the plan NCDOT will install enhanced signs and markings at over 2300 curves.
-

For any questions, please contact Stephen Lowry at slowry@ncdot.gov.

Task V – Safety Edge

Shawn Troy gave an overview of DOT's efforts to date in examining the Safety Edge in paving/resurfacing projects. NCDOT will be implementing the safety edge on eight (8) different resurfacing projects in Johnston County this spring and will be evaluating the entire process from construction to performance. Below are several links with additional information on the safety edge.

Midwest Research Institute - Safety Evaluation of the Safety Edge Treatment
http://www.pooledfund.org/documents/TPF-5_097/110495-01R-Year-3-Final-Report.pdf

FHWA Every Day Counts - Safety Edge
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts/technology/safetyedge/intro.cfm>

Ohio DOT LTAP - Safety Edge Information
(the bottom of the page has very good video and document links)
<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Quality/LTAP/Pages/SafetyEdge.aspx>

TRB-FHWA Research Release - Safety Evaluation of the Safety Edge Treatment
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/hsis/11025/11025.pdf>

For any questions, please contact Shawn Troy at stroy@ncdot.gov.

Task VI – Update on Assignments

Administrative Handling of Citations

Kevin Lacy reported that the Safety Act (for speeding related citations) was not picked up by DOT as a legislative agenda item for this session. However, the Administrative Office of the Courts has taken the lead on the Compliance Dismissals and will be taking the lead on this,

Driver Education

Lt. Colonel stated that the Patrol still has a strong interest in seeking additional ways in which teen safety can be increased. He stressed that the areas of focus from what the patrol sees are off road recovery, speeding and seat belt use.

Bob L. re-emphasized that NCDOT is still looking for an agency (such as NCDOT, Governor's Highway Safety Program, Etc.) to host and publicize the Wake Tech website, which is being established as a clearing house for teen driving , though keeping it updated will have to be a team effort.

Wake Tech has asked to ensure that there cannot be any unauthorized use of these websites. As such, please note that Bob is sharing them with the Committee for review purposes only.

Website designs can be viewed at <http://cet.waketech.edu/D4LSpring2010.html>. The "Gonzalez" site was designed by the same Wake Tech student who had previously created the artwork/logo that you see on all the sites. For the time being, the domain name "NCDrive4Life", has been registered, but it is available for discussion.

Highway Safety Manual

Kevin briefly discussed the Highway Safety manual and had a copy of it on hand for those interested to look at. He stated that efforts are being made to try and make a copy available to those that would have an interest or need to use one.

Feature Stories

Ted showed two PSA You Tube videos that the Department has done. One features N.C. State linebacker Nate Irving who urges motorists to avoid driving drowsy. Irving nearly lost his life in 2009 when he fell asleep behind the wheel and crashed his SUV.

The second video was one that featured trauma surgeon Dr. Osi Udekwu reminding motorists of the dangers of drinking and driving in this public service announcement sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Governor's Highway Safety Program and WakeMed Health & Hospitals.

Ted stated that one of the biggest challenges is getting these videos into the mainstream where they are actually picked up on and viewed by the public. The Communications branch is currently working on 2 new videos (one for bicycles and one for IMAP).

Older Drivers

Cliff reported that the Older Driver Working Group is still active and moving forward with various initiatives. The group has recently had a change in leadership and now the new co-chairs are Sharon Rhyne of DHHS and Bill Hall of HSRC.

Task VI – Schedule Next Meetings

The dates for the next meeting has been set as follows:

- *May 18, 2011 @ 9:30*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.