

Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2014

Location:

Chief Engineer's Conference Room, Beryl Drive @ 9:00 a.m.

In Attendance: LaNica Allison, Isaac Avery, William Beatty, Andrew Bell, Paul Black, Kimberly Eccles, Reginald Flythe, William Grey, David Harkey, Mike Holder, Terry Hopkins, Heather Jeffreys, Ed Johnson, Freddy Johnson, Kevin Lacy, Suzanne LaFollette-Black, Don Nail, Chris Oliver, Edward Parker, Timothy Peedin, Kelly Ransdell, Mark Scaringelli, LaRonda Scott, Kathy Shortt, Jennifer Smith, John Sullivan, Anthony Tata, Nicholas Tennyson, Kelly Thomas

Task I/II – Call To Order/Introductions

Secretary Tata thanked everyone for coming and self introductions were made.

Task III – Charge to the Committee

Secretary Tata expressed his appreciation for chairing the ECHS and in light of the recent tragedies involving teenage drivers it is now time to energize our efforts in order to prevent similar incidents across the state. Highway safety remains one of our top priorities and Secretary Tata thanked the ECHS for its ongoing commitment and support of our efforts.

Task IV – NC's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Compliance with MAP 21 "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" Requirements

Mr. John Sullivan expressed his appreciation for the reconvening of the ECHS. Mr. Sullivan then gave a presentation on "MAP-21 Strategic Highway Safety Plans" (*pdf attachment FHWA-MAP-21 SHSP Presentation*). He reviewed the requirements and process used to update a state's SHSP. Mr. Sullivan also encouraged the ECHS to get involved with the setting of safety targets as they relate to the State Transportation Plan and the State Transportation Improvement Program target setting.

Task V – Updating NC's SHSP (Process/Vision/Mission/Goals)

Ms. Kimberly Eccles gave a presentation on the overall process used to update NC's SHSP (*pdf attachment VHB-NC SHSP Presentation*). Ms. Eccles provided a summary of the fatality and serious injury trends in NC from 2004 to 2014 (extrapolated) and she went over the vision, mission and goals as determined by over 40 safety partners assembled at the March workshop.

Task VI – Introduction of Vision Zero

Mr. Don Nail provided background context on the decision for adopting a Vision Zero goal. While as a state we may never see a year of zero deaths on our highways, the loss of just one life is too many. In order to reach the goal, there must be an overall change in the safety culture and high level support from the ECHS and other safety partners. A brief Vision Zero video was shown to the ECHS (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYY_5KCabns&list=PLQ2tBMRKXROYUe2yQZ-i-msJwSrd0WCNF&index=2).

Task VII – Updating NC's SHSP (Overview of Emphasis Area Work Groups)

Ms. Kimberly Eccles continued her presentation by going over the strategies and supporting actions needed to reach the goals within the nine emphasis areas of NC's SHSP.

Chief Deputy Secretary Tennyson commented on the possibility of using percentages instead of numbers when displaying the goals of the SHSP.

Ms. Kathy Shortt would like to see the addition of an insurance representative to serve on the Older Driving working group.

Secretary Tata asked if the tightening of DWI laws in other states such as Virginia had been reviewed and if the changes had a positive effect. If the changes in other state's DWI laws have proven to be effective, then NC should also consider similar legislative changes.

Mr. Ike Avery was asked to further explain the reasoning for proposed changes in the way DWI cases are adjudicated and sanctions are levied. Mr. Avery emphasized the need to have a consistent approach across the state. He also noted the working group's recommendation to investigate the feasibility/potential benefits of placing the administration of driver licensure (issuance and revocation) and the ignition interlock program under the purview of the NCDMV.

A comment was made that perhaps a change in insurance point penalties may be needed to deter distracted driving.

Ms. LaRonda Scott stated that an additional strategy and supporting action item within the Pedestrians and Bicyclists emphasis area should be considered in light of the recent number of kids getting hit while attempting to board school buses.

Task VIII – Implementation of NC's SHSP

Secretary Tata stated that the involvement of more people is needed in order to make this a living plan. For the ECHS January 9, 2015 meeting and in light of the upcoming legislative session, Secretary Tata expressed the importance of gathering the necessary data and framing the appropriate objectives so that the ECHS can begin the work of supporting necessary legislative changes/additions needed in order to meet the goals outlined in NC's SHSP.

Task IX – Wrap Up & Assignments

Secretary Tata reminded the ECHS to review the final draft of NC's SHSP and to provide comments by Friday, October 24, 2015 to Chris Oliver at coliver@ncdot.gov.

If you have someone in your agency that is interested in serving on a particular emphasis area working group, please forward their contact information to Chris Oliver at coliver@ncdot.gov. Secretary Tata emphasized the need for a strong execution of this plan and a diverse alliance of safety partners with a passion to make changes working on these groups will help move our fatality and serious injury numbers in the right direction.

Task X – Confirmed Meeting Dates

The dates for the next year's meetings have been set as followed:

- *January 9, 2015 @ 9:00 am*
 - *May 8, 2015 @ 9:00 am*
 - *September 4, 2015 @ 9:00 am*
- Chief Engineer's Conference Room
4809 Beryl Road
Raleigh, NC 27606*

If there is a need to reschedule any of the meetings listed above, we will let you know well in advance of the scheduled dates.