

# **Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **January 9, 2015**

#### **Location:**

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

**In Attendance:** Tracy Anderson, Will Beatty, Gary Bell, Paul Black, Lauren Blackburn, Alan Dellapenna, Dari Demi, Daniel Findley, Reginald Flythe, William Grey, David Harkey, Tony Hayes, Brad Hibbs, Mike Holder, Terry Hopkins, Kristy Jackson, Heather Jeffreys, Freddy Johnson, Kevin Lacy, Suzanne LaFollette-Black, Ben Matthews, Brian Mayhew, Jon McCormick, Melinda Munden, Don Nail, Chris Oliver, Amanda Perry, Drexdal Pratt, Mark Scaringelli, LaRonda Scott, Kathy Shortt, Jennifer Smith, John Sullivan, Anthony Tata, Nicholas Tennyson, Kelly Thomas, Jim Westmoreland, Jeffrey Zimmerman

#### **Task I/II – Call To Order/Introductions**

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

#### **Task III – Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update**

Ms. Terry Hopkins gave a presentation on the Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update (*pdf attachment Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update Presentation*). The statewide 2014 fatalities are currently lower than the 2013 numbers and the 2014 serious injuries are slightly above the 2013 numbers. Some adjustment of the 2014 fatalities is expected but hopefully the final numbers will remain below the final 2013 numbers. Mr. Chris Oliver informed the ECHS of the Fatal Table found on the Statewide Fatal Slip Report and the crash statistics that are available on the NCDOT Organizational Performance Dashboard. Anyone that would like to receive the Statewide Fatal Slip Report was asked to contact Mr. Oliver. Secretary Tata reiterated that through the combined efforts of the ECHS, we can continue to reduce the number of lights found on the annual "Tree of Life".

#### **Task IV – Watch for Me NC Campaign**

Ms. Lauren Blackburn gave a presentation on the Watch for Me NC Campaign (*pdf attachment Watch for Me NC Campaign Presentation*). Originally started as a triangle area pilot program, other states are now contacting Ms. Blackburn to learn more about this bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign. Administrator David Strickland with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has also visited Durham to highlight the success of the Watch for Me NC campaign.

#### **Task V – 20/20 Hindsight Series by GHSP and MADD; Commemorating 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Booze It and Lose It"**

Mr. Don Nail gave a presentation on the Holiday 2014 "Booze It & Lose It" Campaign Results (*pdf attachment Commemorating 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Booze It and Lose It Presentation and Campaign Totals Handout*). Ms. Heather Jeffreys gave a presentation on the recently released 20/20 Hindsight Series (*pdf attachment 20-20 Hindsight Series by GHSP and MADD Presentation*).

#### **Task VI – Moving Forward with Vision Zero**

Mr. Daniel Finley gave a presentation on Vision Zero (*Presentation link: [http://prezi.com/hqj32wh8u14r/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy&rc=ex0share](http://prezi.com/hqj32wh8u14r/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share)*). 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 move us towards our goal, Vision Zero will help all safety partners unify on the

strategies and messaging for reducing the fatalities and serious injuries that continue to occur on our roadways. A unified approach can also help bring an overall change to our state's safety culture.

## **Task VII – Safety Partners Upcoming Legislative Efforts**

- **MADD – Offender Ignition Interlock Law**

Ms. LaRonda Scott gave a presentation on MADD's efforts to strengthen North Carolina's Offender Ignition Interlock Law (*pdf attachment MADD – Offender Ignition Interlock Law Handout*). Research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) indicates that first time offenders have driven drunk at least 80 times before they are arrested. MADD continues to desire the state of North Carolina to join the other states that have made the bold move of making ignition interlocks mandatory for all convicted drunk drivers, including all first offenders with an illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or greater.

- **DHHS – Collaboration to Preserve North Carolina's Universal Motorcycle Helmet Law**

Mr. Alan Dellapenna gave a presentation on North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services collaboration efforts to preserve North Carolina's Universal Motorcycle Helmet Law (*pdf attachment DHHS – Collaboration to Preserve NC Universal Helmet Law Presentation*). Attempts to pass partial repeals to the state's current helmet law have been introduced in previous legislative sessions and more are expected. In a 2011 CDC Report, North Carolina ranked #1 in the nation for lives saved and economic costs saved due to helmet use. The 28 states that have enacted partial helmet laws have seen immediate increases in motorcycle rider deaths and medical cost for treating head injuries. Partial helmet laws increase injuries and medical costs and North Carolina taxpayers will pick up the bill.

## **Task VIII – Committee Members' Responsibilities**

In preparation for the ECHS's May 8, 2015 meeting, Secretary Tata made the following assignments:

- Mr. Don Nail was asked to draft a resolution for the ECHS's support of Vision Zero that will be voted upon.
- Mr. Kelly Thomas was asked to draft a resolution for the ECHS's support of strengthening North Carolina's Offender Ignition Interlock Law that will be voted upon.
- Mr. Kevin Lacy was asked to draft a resolution for the ECHS's continued support for the preservation of North Carolina's Universal Motorcycle Helmet Law that will be voted upon.

Committee members are also requested to share ongoing safety initiatives from their agencies at future ECHS meetings. All of our safety partner's efforts towards reducing fatalities and serious injuries are much appreciated.

## **Task IX – Confirmed Meeting Dates**

The dates for upcoming meetings have been set as followed:

- *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.*