

Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2016

Location:

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

In Attendance: Isaac Avery, William Beatty, Lauren Blackburn, Phyllis Bridgeman, Alan Dellapenna, Billy Clayton, Daniel Findley, Adam Fisher, June Frye, Savannah Frye, William Grey, David Harkey, Tony Hayes, Brad Hibbs, Terry Hopkins, Heather Jeffreys, Freddy Johnson, Kevin Lacy, Brian Mayhew, Jon McCormick, Don Nail, Chris Oliver, Mark Payne, Timothy Peedin, Suraiya Rashid, Dedric Robinson, Kathy Shortt, Carrie Simpson, Jennifer Smith, John Sullivan

Task I/II – Call To Order/Introductions

Secretary Tennyson had a last minute conflict and he asked Mr. Kevin Lacy to lead the meeting. Secretary Tennyson regretted missing the meeting and Mr. Kevin Lacy reminded everyone of the Secretary's interest and concern for improving highway safety. Mr. Kevin Lacy thanked everyone for coming and welcomed Suraiya Rashid to the ECHS, Mark Payne who was sitting in for recent retiree Drexel Pratt and congratulated Jennifer Smith on her retirement and continued service on the ECHS. Self-introductions were made and Mr. Kevin Lacy quizzed the ECHS on the significance of several dates. The dates reflected zero fatality days within our state and the importance of continuing to work towards our state's Vision Zero.

Task III – Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update

Ms. Terry Hopkins gave an update on the Fatal and Serious Injury Trends (*pdf attachment Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update Presentation*). The currently reported calendar year statewide 2015 fatalities and serious injuries are higher than the 2014 numbers, and are likely to continue increasing before they are considered final. Mr. John Sullivan noted that while the 2015 numbers have increased, we should be encouraged that even though our state's vehicle miles traveled have increased from 2007 to 2015, our 2015 fatalities are still lower than the numbers reported during the nationwide fatality increases in 2007.

Task IV – NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation Survey

Mr. Chris Oliver gave a presentation on the upcoming NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation Survey (*pdf attachment NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation Survey Presentation*). The survey represents the 80 (or 54%) supporting actions within each emphasis area in which the current status has been identified as "Needed" and is not currently underway or being pursued. The completed surveys should be returned to Mr. Chris Oliver by March 31, 2016. The survey results will be discussed during the next scheduled meeting, as well as the recruiting of safety partners to help implement the ranked supporting actions.

Task V – Safety Partners Upcoming Legislative Efforts

- **Yellow Alert**

Ms. June Frye and Ms. Savannah Frye gave a presentation on their efforts to put into operation a Yellow Alert system in our state. If the system is approved, it would work like the current Amber and Silver Alert Systems by using dynamic message signs and cell phones to assist law enforcement with detaining drivers involved in hit and run crashes. Ms. June Frye stressed the proposed system should only be used for fatal or serious injury hit and run crashes. A brief [Yellow Alert Law](#)

[Presentation](#) was shown and Mr. Kevin Lacy asked the ECHS members to forward all comments to Mr. Chris Oliver. Based on the comments received, the ECHS will decide on the next steps for possibly providing support for this upcoming legislative item.

Task VI – Dynamic Red

Ms. Carrie Simpson gave a presentation on the Dynamic All-Red Extension Preliminary Results for pilot projects installed throughout the state (*pdf attachment Dynamic All-Red Extension Preliminary Results*). The dynamic all-red extension system is not going to prevent all red light running crashes but it does provide extra protection against angle crashes caused by a specific group of mainline red light running vehicles. While the preliminary results are promising for target angle and severe injury crashes, more crash data is needed before trying to draw final conclusions.

Task VII – Highway Safety Improvement Program Projects

Mr. Kevin Lacy briefed the ECHS on the Highway Safety Improvement Program funding increases. With the increased funding the goal is to get the approved safety projects implemented within our transportation system as soon as possible. Mr. Kevin Lacy noted that a presentation overview of the North Carolina Highway Safety Improvement Program would be provided at a future ECHS meeting. Mr. Kevin Lacy also asked for similar presentation overviews for the NC Governor’s Highway Safety Program Highway Safety Plan and the NC State Highway Patrol Strategic Plan.

Task VIII – Current Safety Media Topics

- **Truck Safety**
- **Legislative Bicycle Safety Work Group**

While trucks parking on shoulders has recently been part of our local media stories, Mr. Kevin Lacy noted that this is not just a North Carolina issue but a federal issue as well. Mr. Kevin Lacy also updated the ECHS on the activities of the Legislative Bicycle Safety Work Group. The NC Department of Transportation released its [final report](#) containing recommendations to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee on January 8, 2016.

Task IX – Committee Members’ Responsibilities

Mr. Kevin Lacy reminded the committee members to please complete the NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation Survey by March 31, 2016 and to begin thinking about agency representatives to implement the ranked supporting actions obtained through the completed surveys.

Committee members were also requested to contact Mr. Chris Oliver if their agencies would like to share ongoing safety initiatives or any safety media topics at future ECHS meetings. All of our safety partner’s efforts towards reducing fatalities and serious injuries are much appreciated.

Task X – Confirmed Meeting Dates

The dates for upcoming meetings have been set as followed:

- *May 13, 2016 @ 9:00 am*
 - *September 9, 2016 @ 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.