

Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2016

Location:

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

In Attendance: Lauren Blackburn, Billy Clayton, Alan Dellapenna, Beth Evans, Greg Ferrara, Daniel Findley, Adam Fischer, William Grey, Tony Hayes, Brad Hibbs, Mike Holder, Terry Hopkins, Freddy Johnson, Kevin Lacy, Suzanne LaFollette-Black, Brian Mayhew, Suraiya Motsinger, Don Nail, Chris Oliver, Dedric Robinson, Kathy Shortt, Harriett Southerland, John Sullivan, Nick Tennyson, Kelly Thomas, Memory Washaya, Aaron Williams

Task I/II – Call To Order/Introductions

Secretary Tennyson reflected on the importance of highway safety in our everyday lives. From responding to citizens concerned about truck traffic on secondary routes, to providing adequate bicycle facilities in order to safely travel to Chavis Heights, Secretary Tennyson appreciates the efforts of the ECHS. But as evidenced with the recent beltline work zone crash that forever changed the lives of two NCDOT workers, we still have work to do. Secretary Tennyson thanked everyone for coming and self-introductions were made.

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. Ms. Hopkins noted that the 2016 year to date lane departure fatalities are currently higher than the 2015 year to date numbers. The NC SHP shared that during their quarterly fatal reviews they have noticed that lane departure crashes are attributed to a number of other factors and technology is moving forward to enable them to capture evidence when drivers are distracted by cell phones.

Task IV – NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation Survey Results

Mr. Chris Oliver gave a presentation on the NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation Survey Results (*pdf attachment NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation Survey Presentation*). After the survey, there are 61 supporting actions in which the current implementation status has been identified as “Needed”. Based on the survey results, an implementation priority ranking was established. The high priority supporting actions (15) were discussed and safety partners volunteered to help with the implementation of each action. A sign up form will be circulated to see if any other safety partners would like to assist with the implementation of the high and moderate priority supporting actions.

Task V – Safety Partners Upcoming Legislative Efforts

- **Occupant Protection: Primary Enforcement for Unrestrained Back Seat Passengers**

Mr. Don Nail shared that the Child Fatality Task Force intends to propose legislation during the 2017 General Assembly Long Session that will change the enforcement of the rear seat restraint usage from a secondary to a primary offense with a fine increase. The NC SHP expressed that they have no complaints with the change but hopes the total fines do not substantially increase.

- **Yellow Alert System**

Mr. Kevin Lacy reminded the ECHS of the [Yellow Alert presentation](#) given by Ms. June and Savannah Frye at the January 8, 2016 meeting. Mr. Lacy shared that the Maryland Yellow Alert Program is based on Colorado's Medina Alert which uses media outlets and dynamic message signs to apprehend hit & run drivers involved in fatal and serious injury crashes. Representative James L. Boles, Jr. may introduce this legislation during the current General Assembly Short Session. Based on current statistics, the NC SHP would expect about 50 calls per year. The ECHS members passed a motion to support this potential legislation.

Task VI – AARP Livable/Age Friendly Communities Initiatives

Ms. Suzanne LaFollette-Black gave a presentation on the AARP Livable Communities which are designed to make communities even better places to live for people of all ages (*pdf attachment AARP Livable Communities*). Currently the only Livable Community in NC is in Matthews, but Wilmington is in the planning phase for becoming one. To determine the Livability Score for your community or for more information on AARP Livable Communities, please refer to the [AARP website](#).

Task VII – “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act” (“FAST Act”)

Mr. John Sullivan briefed the ECHS on the “FAST Act” which was signed into law on December 4, 2015. The “FAST Act” builds on the program structure and reforms of the previous MAP-21 legislation. States are required to update their Strategic Highway Safety Plans on a five year cycle. The “FAST Act” also supports the recently adopted national performance measures. For more information on the “FAST Act”, please refer to the [FHWA website](#).

Task VIII – North Carolina Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

Mr. Brian Mayhew gave a presentation on the North Carolina Highway Safety Improvement Program (*pdf attachment NC Highway Safety Improvement Program*). Within the Spot Safety Project Cycle, evaluations of previous project countermeasures are done to maximize the safety improvement efforts of future projects. Examples of before and after evaluations were shared and are available at the [Safety Evaluation Completed Projects website](#).

Task IX – Current Media Topics

Secretary Tennyson shared information about the recent Governor's Highway Safety Program “Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine” speed enforcement campaign. Due to incorrect messaging from various news media outlets, many drivers were confused and afraid to go even one mile over the posted speed limit. While the NC SHP is concerned about speeding, resources would not allow them to stop every driver traveling one mile over the posted speed limit.

Task X – Committee Members’ Responsibilities

Committee members were reminded 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 appreciated.

Task XI – Confirmed Meeting Dates

The date for the fall meeting has been set:

- *September 9, 2016 @ 9:00 am*

*Chief Engineer's Conference Room
4809 Beryl Road
Raleigh, NC 27606*

If there is a need to reschedule this meeting, we will let you know well in advance of the scheduled date.