

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **September 7, 2018**

#### **Location:**

Chief Engineer's Conference Room, Beryl Drive @ 10:00 a.m.

**In Attendance:** Tracy Anderson, Daniel Carter, Dominic Ciaramitaro, Michael Clamann, Johanna Cockburn, Anne Dickerson, Mark Ezzell, Greg Ferrara, Daniel Findley, Adam Fischer, Arthur Goodwin, Brad Hibbs, Kevin Lacy, Cheryl Leonard, Chris Lukasina, Brian Mayhew, Glenn McNeill, Todd Messer, Chris Oliver, David Phipps, Kristel Robison, Mark Scaringelli, Harriett Southerland, John Sullivan, Shawn Troy, Anna Waller, Aaron Williams

#### **Call to Order and Introductions**

#### **Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update**

Mr. Brian Mayhew gave an update on the fatal and serious injury trends (*pdf attachment Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update*). Mr. Mayhew noted that our 2017 fatalities are lower than the 2016 fatalities. Because of the current upward trend in our state's motorcycle fatality numbers, Mr. Mayhew provided some additional fatal motorcycle crash facts. Information was also presented concerning our current efforts to normalize the effect of our state's increased serious injury numbers due to the change in the national definition for the injury status attributes for "Suspected Serious Injury (A)".

#### **Executive Committee for Highway Safety Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Kevin Lacy presented information on the strategic plan for the ECHS (*pdf attachment ECHS Strategic Plan Update*). After giving a brief history review on the formation and accomplishments of the ECHS, Mr. Lacy noted that our current existence is a federal requirement and in part to support our state's Vision Zero initiative. In order to increase the effectiveness of the ECHS, the strategic plan calls for the following four specific actions: 1) a stronger emphasis on the behaviors of vehicle operators and roadway users, 2) to seek and request the adding of members from the legislature to serve on the ECHS, 3) to seek and request the adding of members from the judicial branch to serve on the ECHS and 4) the updated 2019 Strategic Highway Safety Plan will formulate specific actionable items for selected emphasis areas. After some discussion, the ECHS approved the four actions.

#### **NHTSA Demonstration Project Promoting Highway Safety Program Guideline # 13 Update**

Ms. Anne Dickerson provided an update on the work associated with the NHTSA Demonstration Project Promoting Highway Safety Program Guideline # 13 (*pdf attachment Demonstration Project Promoting Highway Safety Guideline 13 Update*). The project focuses on the four following older driver safety areas: 1) Driver Licensing (Medical Review Unit), 2) Medical Providers, 3) Law Enforcement and 4) Social and Aging Service Providers. The Brogan and Partners marketing firm has been hired to develop videos focused on behavioral changes for older driver safety. Specifically in regards to older drivers, proposed changes in law enforcement training, occupational therapists current driver evaluation practices and the existing medical review forms were also discussed. Ms. Dickerson also pointed out areas (*in red font in the attached presentation*) in which she welcomes feedback/assistance from the ECHS.

## **UNC NC DETECT Study**

Ms. Anna Waller presented information on our state's crash and medical data integration efforts (*pdf attachment NC Data Integration*). The good news is it can be done if everyone works together to make it happen. However Ms. Waller noted that due to the large number of data owners, negotiations must take place. The Wake County pilot project to integrate crash and medical data was also discussed. Based on the findings of the pilot project, recommendations will be made to the NC Traffic Records Coordinating Committee which should help improve the overall percentage of data linkage.

## **NC Autonomous Vehicle Testing and Research**

Mr. Michael Clamann presented information on our state's autonomous vehicle testing and research (*pdf attachment Autonomous Vehicle Testing and Research in NC*). With the development of the NC Fully Autonomous Vehicle Committee, the Triangle Expressway Automated Vehicle Proving Ground and the Collaborative Sciences Center for Road Safety, our state is uniquely positioned to safely regulate the operation of fully autonomous vehicles on our highways. Mr. Clamann also noted the UNC Highway Safety Research Center's continued research through collaborations with other universities and the construction of an in-house driving simulator to represent and further study different levels of vehicle automation.

## **Forthcoming Legislative Initiatives**

Mr. Kevin Lacy presented information on some of the proposed items that will be presented during the upcoming legislative session. Safety corridors, statutory speed limit changes on rural roads and statutory speed limit changes on unpaved roads are among the initiatives that have been previously discussed by the ECHS and for which language is being crafted for presentation to the general assembly. Other agencies also reported that hands free cell phone usage, primary enforcement of rear seat belt usage and ignition interlocks for DUI offenders may also be discussed during the upcoming session.

## **Agency Upcoming Events**

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|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| • AARP National Livable Communities Conference   | November 12-14, 2018  | Charlotte, NC |
| • Safety Systems Summit                          | September 13-14, 2018 | Durham, NC    |
| • NC SADD Youth Empowerment Conference           | November 16-18, 2018  | Raleigh, NC   |
| • World Day Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims | November 18, 2018     | Raleigh, NC   |
| • Tree of Life Ceremony                          | December 7, 2018      | Raleigh, NC   |

## **Committee Members' Responsibilities and Adjourn**

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

## **Future Meeting Dates**

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| • <b>January 11, 2019 @ 10:00 am (TENTATIVE)</b>  | <b>Chief Engineer's Conference Room</b> |
| • <b>May 10, 2019 @ 10:00 am (TENTATIVE)</b>      | <b>4809 Beryl Road</b>                  |
| • <b>September 6, 2019 @ 10:00 am (TENTATIVE)</b> | <b>Raleigh, NC 27606</b>                |

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