

Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2019

Location:

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

In Attendance: Tracy Anderson, Daniel Carter, Johanna Cockburn, Mary Beth Cox, Stacy Deans, Alan Dellapenna, Anne Dickerson, Mark Ezzell, Greg Ferrara, Adam Fischer, Brad Hibbs, David Howard, Jeff Jaeger, Torre Jessup, Miracle King, Kevin Lacy, Suzanne LaFollette-Black, Cheryl Leonard, Brian Mayhew, Glenn McNeill, Todd Messer, Teresa Murray, Chris Oliver, Andy Pottkotter, Randa Radwan, Terry Robinson, Laura Sandt, Harriett Southerland, Joe Stewart, Shawn Troy

Call to Order and Introductions

Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update

Mr. Brian Mayhew provided an update on our state's fatal and serious injury trends (*pdf attachment Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update*). Mr. Mayhew noted that our 2018 fatalities are higher than the 2017 fatalities and will further increase over the next few months as data is entered into the North Carolina Crash Database. Because of the current upward trend in our state's pedestrian fatality numbers, Mr. Mayhew provided additional statewide pedestrian crash facts. Information was also presented concerning the normalization 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)".

GHSP Annual Report & Grants Overview

Mr. Mark Ezzell presented information on the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) 2019 Grants and Initiatives (*pdf attachment GHSP 2019 Grants and Initiatives*). With the mission of promoting traffic safety awareness and working to reduce crashes in our state, Mr. Ezzell noted that this mission is accomplished through grant funding and annual highway safety initiatives. Grants for over \$17 million dollars for 93 communities were awarded for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. Other initiatives such as Vision Zero, Teen Driver Safety, SafeKids and BikeSafeNC will also be funded through the FY 2019 grants.

Impaired Driving and Ignition Interlocks

Ms. Mary Beth Cox presented information on Impaired Driving and Ignition Interlocks (*pdf attachment Impaired Driving and Ignition Interlocks*). Results from a 2017 telephone survey of North Carolina students indicated that approximately 20% of middle school and 15% of high school students have ridden in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol. Ms. Cox noted that our state is currently one of nineteen states that does not require mandatory ignition interlocks for all offenders. Information was also shared on the upcoming launch of the Division of Health and Human Services' Alcohol Dashboard, that is scheduled to go live by the end of January 2019. After some discussion, the ECHS agreed to prepare and electronically vote (via poll in Microsoft Outlook) on a resolution of support for ignition interlocks legislation.

Hands Free in NC

Mr. Joe Stewart presented information on our state's Independent Insurance Agents efforts to pass a hands-free law during the 2019 General Assembly Session (*pdf attachment Hands Free in NC*). The proposed bill which will be designed to save lives and help lower insurance costs, will prohibit drivers

from using a hand-held phone behind the wheel of a moving vehicle. Results from a statewide 2018 survey of approximately 750 registered voters that was conducted by the Meredith College Poll Program, indicated that approximately 51% of respondents agreed that distracted driving is the most serious road and highway safety problem in our state today. After further discussion, a resolution of support will be drafted and voted upon by members of the ECHS to determine if a hands-free law will be advocated by the committee.

Forthcoming Legislative Initiatives

Mr. Kevin Lacy presented information on some of the proposed items that will be apart of the Secretary’s Transportation agenda during the 2019 General Assembly 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 has been crafted for presentation to the general assembly. Mr. Adam Fischer, with the City of Greensboro, asked the ECHS to consider either providing a letter or resolution of support for their city’s proposed Red Light Camera Program. After some discussion, a Red Light Camera presentation and draft resolution of support will be among the items on the committee’s May10, 2019 meeting agenda.

UNC HSRC’s Involvement in the E-Scooters Discussion

Ms. Laura Sandt presented information on dockless electric kick scooters that our being introduced in several cities throughout our state (*pdf attachment Dockless Electric Kick Scooter Systems*). More specifically known as dockless electric kick scooter rental systems (DESS), impacts reported by various states include a probable decrease in vehicle trips taken in congested urban areas and that DESS may support first-last mile travel and access to transit. While our state currently allows DESS on sidewalks (must yield to pedestrians) and in roadways, it is difficult to identify injuries using existing injury surveillance systems. After some discussion, it was agreed that our state agencies (NCDMV, NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Division and NCDOT Transportation Mobility and Safety Division) need to work together to provide coding standards that will adequately capture DESS usage and injury data.

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

- *May 10, 2019 @ 10:00 am* *Chief Engineer’s Conference Room*
- *September 6, 2019 @ 10:00 am* *4809 Beryl Road*
- *January 10, 2020 @ 10:00 am (TENTATIVE)* *Raleigh, NC 27606*

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

Meeting agendas, minutes and presentations are also available on the [ECHS website](#).