

# Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)

## Virtual Meeting Minutes

### May 7, 2021

#### **Location:**

Microsoft Team Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

**In Attendance:** Oliver Abreu, Tracy Anderson, Isaac Avery, Angela Berry, Stacy Deans, Alan Dellapenna, Anne Dickerson, Mark Ezzell, Greg Ferrara, Daniel Finley, Arthur Goodwin, Tony Hayes, Brent Heath, Brad Hibbs, Heather Hildebrandt, Jeff Jaeger, Torre Jessup, Freddy Johnson, Elyse Keefe, Kevin Lacy, Chris Lukasina, Anna Martin, Brian Mayhew, Jon McCormick, Lydia McIntyre, Beau Memory, Michael Messer, Chris Oliver, Edward Parker, Heidi Perry, David Phipps, Randa Radwan, Jennifer Smith, Raghavan Srinivasan, Shawn Troy, Aaron Williams, Jackie Wilson

#### **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 ([Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update pdf](#)). Mr. Mayhew noted that our 2020 fatalities are higher than the 2019 fatalities and our 2021 Year to Date (January-March) overall fatalities and lane departure fatalities are slightly higher than the 2020 comparisons. Mr. Mayhew also provided additional information on the pandemic's effect on our statewide crash trends. While our travel trends are returning close to normal, our overall 2020 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) numbers were down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although our VMT and Total Crash numbers were down due to the pandemic, our statewide Fatal Crash numbers were up approximately 10%. Information on our statewide serious injury trends is also available in the presentation materials.

#### **CY 2022 Preliminary Safety Performance Measures**

Mr. Brian Mayhew presented information on the preliminary targets for our state's Safety Performance Measures ([CY 2022 Preliminary Safety Performance Measures pdf](#)). The targets for our state's five performance measures are based on the 2019 North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) goal of reducing all fatalities and serious injuries by half by 2035, moving towards zero by 2050. Our state's Draft Calendar Year 2022 targets were presented, with the final targets to be set once the 2020 Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and crash data have been stabilized. More information on the emphasis area strategies and supporting actions for reducing our statewide fatalities and serious injuries can be found in our [2019 North Carolina SHSP](#).

#### **Vision Zero Efforts**

Mr. Mark Ezzell presented information on the Robeson County Vision Zero Coalition ([Robeson County Vision Zero Coalition pdf](#)). Robeson County has a diverse population, is predominately rural and by some measures is the largest geographic county in North Carolina. Although twenty fourth in terms of county population, Robeson County is always among the top five counties in motor vehicle crashes. Through the efforts of a diverse group of stakeholders led by Board Member Grady Hunt, Robeson County has developed the state's first county wide Vision Zero Task Force aimed at reducing crash fatalities. Some of the Task Force successful activities include the creation of the "Don't Rob Robeson County" campaign, restarting the seatbelt diversion program, significant infrastructure investments throughout the county and development of the Rural Route Safety Initiative.

Ms. Elyse Keefe also presented information on North Carolina Vision Zero ([NC Vision Zero pdf](#)). Using a Safe Systems approach to prevent traffic crashes, our state currently has ten Vision Zero Communities. The NC Vision Zero (VZ) team continues to develop resource materials for VZ communities, provide technical assistance and host statewide meetings, and evaluate VZ progress in our state. The team is also planning to host the first ever VZ Leadership Institute in June 2021. As for next steps, the VZ team is working to scale up the Leadership Institute model, making plans for the second annual VZ Leadership Institute and furthering the engagement of the Statewide VZ Task Force.

### **Resolutions for Support (Ignition Interlock, Hands Free)**

Mr. Mark Ezzell provided information on the review of six resolutions that have been adopted by the ECHS ([ECHS Resolutions pdf](#)). While we should consider updating the committee member names found on the resolutions, no language changes are needed at this time. By unanimous vote of the General Assembly, some significant changes have been made to our state's Ignition Interlock laws. Mr. Ezzell also noted that the Hands Free legislation will not be heard during the current session.

### **Youth Licensing**

Mr. Arthur Goodwin presented information on Graduated Driver Licensing in North Carolina ([Graduated Driver Licensing in NC pdf](#)). Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) originated in North Carolina and was signed into law in 1997. Due to the provisions outlined in GDL, our state has seen a 38% decline in 16 year old driver and a 20% decline in 17 year old driver crashes. Similarly, North Carolina has seen an average decline of 30% in teen driver crashes due to our current 12 months learner period duration. Mr. Goodwin also discussed the effects of COVID-19 on teen driver licensing, crashes, and adult supervised driving. Commissioner Torre Jessup provided support for our current GDL provisions with consideration for flexibility in the road testing requirements conducted by the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles. After further discussion on the proposed legislation to reduce our state's current GDL learner period duration to 9 months, the ECHS agreed to provide a Resolution for Support of upholding our current GDL standards. Mr. Goodwin will take the lead on drafting the resolution language and it will be circulated for the electronic approval by committee members in advance of our next scheduled meeting.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

- **September 3, 2021 @ 10:00 am**
- **January 14, 2022 @ 10:00 am (TENTATIVE)** **Location (TBA)**
- **May 6, 2022 @ 10:00 am (TENTATIVE)**

*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](#).