

Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)

Virtual Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2021

Location:

Microsoft Team Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance: Isaac Avery, Angela Berry, Sharath Bhat, Suzanne Black, Eric Boyette, Brad Bradford, Stacy Deans, Justin DeLancey, Alan Dellapenna, Anne Dickerson, Michelle Edelen, Mark Ezzell, Greg Ferrara, Arthur Goodwin, Brad Hibbs, Heather Hildebrandt, Jeff Jaeger, Torre Jessup, Miracle King, Matthew Kuliani, Wesley Kumfer, Seth LaJeunesse, Bo Lan, Cheryl Leonard, Colleen Lippert, Chris Lukasina, Brian Mayhew, Lydia McIntyre, Glenn McNeill, Michael Messer, Teresa Murray, Natalie O'Brien, Chris Oliver, Edward Parker, David Phipps, Randa Radwan, Tammy Richards, Lisa Riegel, Jennifer Smith, Raghavan Srinivasan, John Sullivan, 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 (*pdf attachment Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update*). Mr. Mayhew noted that even with the COVID-19 pandemic our preliminary 2020 fatalities are higher than the 2019 fatalities and are currently the second highest figures our state has seen since 2002. Mr. Mayhew provided additional statewide younger driver (15-19) crash facts. From 2015 to 2020, there was a 27% increase in our state's younger driver crash fatalities with 35% of these fatalities occurring in the Top 10 Counties (Wake, Mecklenburg, Guilford, Harnett, Davidson, Cumberland, Robeson, Randolph, Johnston and Nash County). An update on our statewide serious injury trends was also provided.

NC COVID-19 Mobility and Health Impacts Study

Dr. Randa Radwan presented information on our state's preliminary crash data trends during the COVID-19 pandemic (*pdf attachment Preliminary Trends in NC Crash Data During the COVID-19 Pandemic*). One of the NC COVID-19 Mobility and Health Impacts Study motivations is to investigate the interrelationships amongst public health policies, mobility changes, traffic safety, and the transmission and impacts of COVID-19. A preliminary analysis of 2020 speeding-related crash data has shown an increase in the weekly total crash trends compared to the same period in 2019. Similarly, the 2020 speeding-related weekly mean total crash averages have also increased when compared to the same period in 2019. More information and results from the NC COVID-19 Mobility and Health Impacts Study can be found on the [website portal](#).

The Pandemics Impact on Teen Driving

Ms. Natalie O'Brien presented information on the pandemics impact on teen driving (*pdf attachment Effect of COVID-19 on Young Drivers in NC*). The purpose of the study was to review how COVID-19 has affected teen licensing, teen driver crashes and parent-teen supervised driving and provide recommendations to the General Assembly. A review of the supervised driving survey results has shown a decrease in how many days per week teens are driving before the pandemic shutdown (3.5 days/week) versus after the shutdown (1 day/week). Ms. O'Brien noted that this study will continue to examine the long-term effects of COVID-19 on young drivers and track the crash rates for teens affected by the temporary waiver of the driver license road tests that was passed by the General Assembly.

Changes to the Highway Safety Improvement Program Project Funding Model

Mr. Brian Mayhew presented information on the recent changes to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project funding model (*pdf attachment NC HSIP Adjustments*). The North Carolina HSIP focuses on three of the eleven emphasis areas found in the 2019 North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) as a means to helping achieve the SHSP goal of reducing fatalities and serious injuries by half by 2035 while moving towards zero by 2050. The HSIP emphasis area goals (50% - Roadway Departure, 35% - Intersection, 15% - Pedestrian & Bike) are soft targets with project funding flexibility between the focus areas. While projects are either responsive or systemic, Mr. Mayhew noted that the systemic application of lower cost solutions can be implemented relatively quickly at multiple locations and provide a high rate of return.

Upcoming Legislative Session Timelines

Mr. Justin DeLancey provided information on the upcoming legislative session timelines. The upcoming General Assembly session begins on January 13th and it will be a long session because it is a redistricting year. There will be changes in the transportation legislative leadership and the majority of the agenda will focus of finances and the streamlining of North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles' systems and office functions to make operations more efficient. Mr. DeLancey also noted that the teen driver license road tests may be a topic of discussion.

Potential Legislative Items/Major Safety Topic Strategies to Support (Ignition Interlock, Hands Free)

Mr. Mark Ezzell provided an update on the Ignition Interlock and Hands Free discussions that will likely take place during the upcoming legislative session. Based on initial conversations, it appears language changes from previously proposed Ignition Interlock legislation may be introduced by the distilled distributors. Mr. Ezzell also noted that the Hands Free legislation might be discussed. The ECHS will continue to monitor forthcoming versions of the legislation and make any needed changes to the previous resolutions for the electronic approval by committee members in advance of our next scheduled meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

- *May 7, 2021 @ 10:00 am*
- *September 3, 2021 @ 10:00 am* *Location (TBA)*
- *January 14, 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](#).