

# Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)

## Virtual Meeting Minutes

### September 3, 2021

#### **Location:**

Microsoft Team Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

**In Attendance:** Tracy Anderson, Isaac Avery, Angela Berry, Sharath Bhat, Suzanne Black, Eric Boyette, Brad Bradford, Julia Casadonte, Alan Dellapenna, Anne Dickerson, Mark Ezzell, Greg Ferrara, Daniel Finley, Monica Fuller, Erick Green, Arthur Goodwin, Tony Hayes, Brent Heath, Brad Hibbs, Heather Hildebrandt, Torre Jessup, Freddy Johnson, Elyse Keefe, Matthew Kuliani, Kevin Lacy, Cheryl Leonard, Brian Mayhew, Lydia McIntyre, Michael Messer, Tyler Meyer, Teresa Murray, Wyn Nelson, Chris Oliver, Ben Popkin, David Phipps, Randa Radwan, Lisa Riegel, Shawn Troy, 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 2021 Year to Date (January-July) overall fatalities are higher than this time last year, which could mean our final 2021 fatalities would be the highest we have seen if the trend continues. Mr. Mayhew also provided additional information on our statewide speeding crash facts. Our total speeding crashes are up approximately 18% from 2019 to 2020. 59% of our speed related crashes occurred in rural locations and from 2015 to 2020 there was a 30% increase in speed related fatalities. Additional speed related crash facts and information on our statewide serious injury trends are available in the presentation materials.

#### **Lessons Learned from a Review of North Carolina's Repeat Offenders Data**

Mr. Arthur Goodwin presented information on Repeat Offenders in North Carolina ([\*Repeat Offenders in NC pdf\*](#)). The team that spearheaded the study called for the review of 2006 to 2016 records from three linked datasets, driver license numbers and other variables. For the purposes of the study, repeat offenders were defined as drivers who received 2 or more higher risk violations within one year. Findings from the study revealed that repeat speeding offenders with 3 violations within a year had more than a 40% chance of being involved in a crash within one year of their most recent charge. Some of the recommendations to deter speeding and reckless driving include high visibility enforcement, automated enforcement, focusing on high-risk locations and engineering tools. Additional repeat offenders information is also available in the presentation materials.

#### **Panel Discussion: How Do We Resolve Speeding Issues in North Carolina?**

Three distinguished panelists provided their personal insight on speeding issues in our state. Mr. Kevin Lacy discussed the idea of speed creep and over the years the acceptable tolerance of how much one can drive over the posted speed limit has increased. Due to tolerance creep, unfortunately we are seeing an increasing acceptance of speeding. Media messaging is always important and as such, Mr. Lacy feels speeding on our roadways should begin to be expressed as a public safety issue.

Colonel Freddy Johnson shared that throughout his time of serving on the North Carolina State Highway Patrol speeding accountability has changed. His officer's have issued over 45,000 speeding citations this year and if involved in a crash while traveling 65 mph you are five times more likely to be killed. Unfortunately, incidents like the recent shootings at two of our high schools takes time away from enforcements efforts. Colonel Johnson also stated that while our overall state population

has increased, the staffing levels within the department have not increased to keep up with the service demands associated with growth.

Mr. Mark Ezzell discussed the focused efforts of the Governor’s Highway Safety Program to provide funding to the appropriate counties with the highest percentage of speeding fatalities in our state. He also agreed with the ideas expressed by the other panelists. Mr. Ezzell emphasized that discussions should continue and perhaps the formation of a Speeding Task Force may be beneficial. After further discussion, the ECHS will continue to seek solutions to curtail this public safety issue.

### **Legislative Updates (Youth Licensing, Ignition Interlock, Hands Free)**

Ms. Monica Fuller provided an update on some of the activities that have occurred during the current General Assembly session. Governor Cooper signed into law House Bill 650 for which in part extended the expiration of level two limited provisional license requirements to December 31, 2022. While House Bill 359 which proposed to temporarily waive certain requirements related to driving eligibility has stalled, there is currently agreement in both chambers to find a more permanent solution to change some of the requirements. Ms. Fuller also stated that there is still interest in moving forward with Senate Bill 183 which begins the modernizing of our state’s ignition interlock laws, but both chambers are waiting to move forward with the state budget before proceeding.

### **Demonstration Project Promoting Highway Safety Guideline # 13 – EMS Training Video**

As the Demonstration Project nears completion, Ms. Anne Dickerson provided an update on some of the final task outcomes ([Demonstration Project EMS Training Video pdf](#)). Two of the outcomes of the project are a revision to the North Carolina State Highway Patrol HP 640 form and education to first responders on identifying and reporting medically-at-risk drivers. Ms. Dickerson shared a portion of the EMS Training Video and a link to the entire video is available in the presentation materials and additional project outcomes can be found in the [handout](#).

### **Learning Series: Safe Systems Concepts and the Broader Transportation Systems**

Ms. Randa Radwan provided information on the presentations and discussions that took place during the Safe Systems Summer Learning Series ([Safe Systems Summer Learning Series Overview pdf](#)). The six sessions that were held from July to August 2021 included various panelists and provided many thought-provoking questions as dialogue continues on what supports are still needed for Safe System approaches to be successful in meeting community safety, health, and equity needs. The entire summer learning series recordings are available at the [Safe Systems Summer Learning Series 2021 website](#).

### **Future Meeting Dates**

- **January 14, 2022 @ 10:00 am (TENTATIVE)**
- **May 6, 2022 @ 10:00 am (TENTATIVE)** **Location (TBA)**
- **September 2, 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](#).