

Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)

Hybrid Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2023

Location:

Microsoft Team Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.
Highway Building Room 150 (Board Room)
1 South Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

In Attendance: Isaac Avery, Angela Berry, Alan Dellapenna, Anne Dickerson, Mark Ezzell, Greg Ferrara, Wayne Goodwin, Robby Hassell, Tony Hayes, Brent Heath, Brad Hibbs, Heather Hildebrandt, Leigh Jackson, Jeff Jaeger, Freddy Johnson, Elyse Keefe, Kevin Lacy, Suzanne LaFollette-Black, Terry Lansdell, Cheryl Leonard, Wannetta Mallette, Jon McCormick, Lydia McIntyre, Dale McKeel, Michael Messer, Chris Oliver, Edward Parker, Lisa Riegel, Laura Sandt, Jennifer Smith, John Sullivan, Shawn Troy, Billy Williams

Call to Order and Introductions

Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update

Mr. Chris Oliver provided an update on our state's fatal and serious injury trends ([Fatal and Serious Injury Trend Update pdf](#)). Mr. Oliver noted that while it should be considered as preliminary, the 2022 statewide fatality numbers are currently down 2.5% when compared to our 2021 numbers. With the exception of the lane departure category, our 2022 Year to Date (January-December) overall fatality numbers are currently lower than the 2021 comparisons in all of our 2019 North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan (NC SHSP) emphasis areas. Our current 2022 Year to Date (January-December) overall serious injury numbers are also lower than the 2021 comparisons in most of our 2019 NC SHSP emphasis areas. Additional information on our statewide fatality and serious injury trends, including the NC SHSP emphasis area comparison percent changes, are available in the presentation materials.

Purpose and Role of the ECHS

Mr. Kevin Lacy presented information on the purpose and role of the ECHS. After giving a brief history review on the formation of the ECHS, Mr. Lacy noted that our current existence is federally required and we will be calling on agencies to assist with the implementation of the NC SHSP emphasis area strategies. Furthermore, the ECHS should be positioned to provide information to legislators when traffic safety topics come up and assisting to identify policies, practices and goals that will help change driver behaviors and result in providing a safer driving environment.

2024 NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Update

Mr. Shawn Troy provided an overview of the upcoming 2024 NC SHSP Update ([2024 NC SHSP Update pdf](#)). While our State's safety partners have carried out many of the strategies identified in the 2019 Plan, continued commitment is needed to implement the strategies for the next five years and beyond. The 2024 Update will be the second five-year update per the recent federal regulations and will provide another opportunity to revise our statewide goal. Participation is needed from our stakeholders to complete the update. Additional information on the update process can be found in the presentation materials.

NC SHSP Influence on Other Safety Plans

Ms. Angela Berry provided an overview on the inception of Charlotte Vision Zero ([Charlotte Vision Zero pdf](#)). One of the objectives stated in Charlotte's Transportation Action Plan, which was adopted in February 2017, was to implement a Vision Zero initiative. Additionally, four consecutive years (2014-2017) of increasing fatal crashes further confirmed the need for the Vision Zero initiative. The efforts of task force staff members were critical in the development of the plan. While focusing on the emphasis areas found in the NC SHSP, the city has dedicated funding to implement the strategies outlined in Charlotte Vision Zero.

Ms. Wannetta Mallette provided an overview on the development of the Burlington-Graham MPO Highway Safety Plan (HSP) ([Burlington-Graham MPO HSP pdf](#)). Transportation planning is a process that requires monitoring of the transportation system's performance in a continuous, comprehensive and cooperative manner referred to as the "3 C's". Failing to reach the safety targets for all five performance measures in 2020, the Burlington-Graham MPO has developed their very own Transportation Safety Plan. Adopted in October 2022 as the first regional safety plan in NC, strategies have been identified to help achieve their crash reduction efforts.

Judicial Outreach Liaison

Judge A. Robinson Hassell provided some history on the work of Judicial Outreach Liaisons. Formed in the late 1990's, judges are selected for each of NHTSA's ten regions to serve as American Bar Association (ABA) Regional Judicial Outreach Liaisons (RJOL). RJOLs function as teachers, writers, consultants, and liaisons, to share the latest research and best practices on addressing impaired driving offenders with the judges in their regions or States. North Carolina is in the process of interviewing for a State Judicial Outreach Liaison (SJOL) who will provide important insight to policy makers attempting to improve impaired driving traffic safety. Judge Hassell, who is currently serving as the Region 3 RJOL, is available to answer questions (334-574-0025 or judgehassell@gmail.com).

Potential Legislative Items

Ms. Leigh Jackson provided a brief update on the upcoming General Assembly Long Session. While there are currently no highway safety agenda items that will be shared with the Governor's office, the ECHS will continue to see if there is an opportunity to inform the General Assembly on traffic safety issues.

Agency Updates

Ms. Suzanne LaFollette-Black announced the call for presentations at the North Carolina Association on Aging (AOA) annual conference in Charlotte from March 13-15, 2023. On March 14th, the day is dedicated to education and workshops on livable communities and Age My Way NC. Transportation safety and the terrific work that is done throughout the state would be valuable resources to share.

Future Meeting Dates

- *May 5, 2023 @ 10:00 am* *Highway Building Room 150 (Board Room)*
- *September 1, 2023 @ 10:00 am* *1 South Wilmington Street*
- *January 12, 2024 @ 10:00 am (TENTATIVE)* *Raleigh, NC 27601*

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](#).