

Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)

Virtual Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2024

Location:

Microsoft Team Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

In Attendance: Isaac Avery, Lauren Blackburn, Lori Brown, Ryan Brumfield, Jennifer Delcourt, Alan Dellapenna, Anne Dickerson, Kimberly Eccles, Greg Ferrara, Wayne Goodwin, Ian Hamilton, Tony Hayes, Heather Hildebrandt, Joey Hopkins, Yolonda Jordan, Elyse Keefe, Suzanne LaFollette-Black, Terry Lansdell, Cheryl Leonard, Brian Mayhew, Jon McCormick, Nicole McGarity, Lydia McIntyre, Dale McKeel, Michael Messer, Aleem Mohammed, Brian Murphy, Tanner Nelson, Chris Oliver, Kara Peach, Heidi Perry, Dale Privette, Laura Sandt, Allison Simpson, Jennifer Smith, Warren Smith, Raghavan Srinivasan, Yuni Tang, Shawn Troy, Anna Waller, 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](#)). While it should be considered as preliminary, the 2023 statewide fatality numbers are currently down 7% when compared to our 2022 numbers. With the exception of the younger drivers and bicyclists' categories, our 2023 Year to Date (January-December) overall fatality numbers are currently lower than the 2022 comparisons in all of our 2019 North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan (NC SHSP) emphasis areas. However, our current 2023 Year to Date (January-December) overall serious injury numbers are higher than the 2022 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.

Available State Safety Data Resources

Ms. Laura Sandt presented information on some of our state's safety data resources ([Available State Safety Data Resources pdf](#)). Four of our state's big motor vehicle crash data sources are DMV crash data, EMS data, emergency department data and trauma registry data. For each fatality reported, there are approximately 85 medically attended injuries (emergency department visits, EMS transports, crash reports). Ms. Sandt also referred to the update of the 2023 NC Traffic Safety Information Systems Strategic Plan, which continues to document the progress toward the overall goal of providing high-quality data to users with timely and efficient processes. Additional information on safety data resources can be found in the presentation materials.

North Carolina 2023 Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment (VRUSA)

Mr. Brian Mayhew and Ms. Lauren Blackburn provided an overview of our state's 2023 Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment ([NCDOT Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment pdf](#)). Per the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), all states were required to conduct a quantitative data analysis of vulnerable road user fatal and serious injury crashes to determine "high-risk areas." Adopted in November 2023, our state's VRUSA will be included in the appendices of our 2024 NC SHSP and will be updated with the 5-year SHSP. Based on an analysis of crash data and consultations with stakeholders throughout the state, strategies have been developed to improve vulnerable road

user safety across the state. Additional information on the statewide assessment can be found in the presentation materials.

2024 North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan Update

Ms. Kara Peach provided an overview on the current progress of our 2024 NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan update ([2024 NC SHSP Update pdf](#)). Three Safety Series virtual meetings were held to start the kickoff of the 2024 update. Based on the discussions held by safety partners during the first in-person workshop and emphasis area working group sessions, the 2024 Plan threads a safe system approach as a guiding them and has been streamlined to nine emphasis areas. As part of the review of the Plan, emphasis areas that are still in need of champions to support the implementation of the identified strategies were discussed. Additional information on the update process can be found in the presentation materials.

Adoption of the Goal for the 2024 North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan

The 2024 Plan update presented an opportunity to revise our statewide goal. Mr. Brian Mayhew led the discussion on whether to keep the current goal to “Reduce fatalities and serious injuries by half by 2035, moving towards zero by 2050” or to revise the goal to “Reduce fatalities and serious injuries by half by 2040, moving towards zero by 2055.” The ECHS members were asked to verbally vote and there was a unanimous decision to keep the current goal.

Agency Updates

Ms. Jennifer Delcourt stated that the GHSP grant application period has closed and they are currently going through the review process. In addition, Mr. Isaac Avery announced that regional training is currently being held for the NC Conference of District Attorneys.

Future Meeting Dates

- *May 3, 2024 @ 10:00 am* *Highway Building Room 150 (Board Room)*
- *September 6, 2024 @ 10:00 am* *1 South Wilmington Street*
- *January 10, 2025 @ 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](#).