

Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS)

Hybrid Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2025

Location:

Highway Building Room 150 (Board Room)
1 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

In Attendance:

Members

Joey Hopkins, NCDOT
Chuck Gould, NCSHP (proxy representative)
Michael Stewart, FMCSA
Billy Williams, NCSU
Laura Sandt, UNC
Mark Ezzell, GHSP

Friends

Carol Hoover, AARP
Suzanne Lafollette-Black, AARP
Brian Murphy, NCDOT
Shawn Troy, NCDOT
Dale McKeel, NC Conservation
Katie Arbogast, VHB
Kara Peach, VHB
Emily Tekelenburg, VHB
Kim Eccles, VHB
Cheryl Leonard, GHSP
Raghavan Srinivasan, UNC
Jennifer Delcourt, GHSP
Elyse Keefe, UNC

Call to Order and Introductions

Secretary Joey Hopkins opened the meeting with a welcome and led a round of introductions for those in attendance.

Visioning Update – Role and Formation of the Committee

Kara Peach (VHB) presented an update on the status of the visioning process for the ECHS. The objective is to strengthen the impact of the ECHS by refining its purpose, reviewing the membership, and defining ECHS outputs. The process will be conducted over a series of meetings throughout 2025.

Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation

Kara Peach presented an update on the implementation and monitoring of the 2024 Strategic Highway Safety Plan. She gave an overview of the Plan and its emphasis areas, and described the current process undertaken by NCDOT and VHB to interview agencies and other partners to ascertain the amount of progress that is being made toward the strategies and supporting actions of each emphasis area.

Graduated Drivers Licensing

Rob Foss (UNC HSRC, retired) provided the committee with a refresher overview of the purpose of the Graduated Drivers Licensing program in North Carolina and a reminder of how successful it has been in reducing fatalities and serious injuries, particularly among teen drivers.

Agency Updates

The meeting concluded with roundtable updates from the members on current and upcoming highway safety activities within their agencies.