

**SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE**  
Meeting Minutes  
January 29, 2010  
New Jersey State Police, Division Headquarters

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant Neil Brosnan, Assistant Bureau Chief, Operations Safety Bureau.

**II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

- Lt. Brosnan welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He asked if anyone had any comments or concerns regarding the meeting minutes from the October 23, 2009 meeting, with negative replies. Lt. Brosnan reiterated the task force's goal - to reduce motor vehicle crashes, which will ultimately lead to the reduction of fatalities. Lt. Brosnan offered the condolences of the entire task force for the sudden passing of Mr. Jerry Plante of the Subaru Corporation. Lt. Brosnan stated today's objective is to focus on motorcycle safety and the reduction of crashes.

**III. ITEMS**

- As of January 28, 2010 there were 34 fatalities in 33 fatal crashes. This years number of fatalities are less compared to the 2009 numbers in which there were 50 fatalities in 48 crashes. Year to date, pedestrian fatals are also down compared to last year, from 20 in 2009 to 8 so far this year.
- Lt. Brosnan informed the task force that the fatal statistics could now be obtained in real time by logging onto the NJSP Fatal Accident web site: <http://www.njsp.org/info/fatalacc/>
- Lt. Brosnan discussed enacted and pending legislative matters. He stated that DHTS was preparing a bulletin to address the new back seat passenger legislation.
- Michael Brunson of the Branchburg Police Department spoke about the new changes in the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices), and that the usage of sign boards for what had become a routine in many towns to be used for everything other then for traffic, has now been outlined as not being allowed. He went on to say the use of High-visibility safety apparel is now in the new Standards as per the MUTCD, they must be worn by ALL workers on ALL roadways.
- Lt. Brosnan then reemphasized the focus of the meeting was motorcycle safety and the reduction of crashes. He distributed a number of handouts depicting different statistics involving motorcycle crashes. The statistic sheets denoted crashes by county, day of the week and weather conditions. He stated that the information available would enable the task force to focus its energy and resources correctly.
  - He discussed the difficulties law enforcement has with enforcement. Police need

to be properly educated on the rules and regulations. They need to be comfortable with the enforcement of laws specific to motorcycles.

- He noted some motorcycle shops sell novelty items that are not D. O. T. approved and he suggested that legislation could be enacted prohibiting these sales.
- He announced a three prong approach to address the issues. Proper education of law enforcement to effectively enforce motorcycle laws, enacting legislation (noting it takes a longer time to implement) and public awareness. He requested sub committees form to promote the above approaches.

**IV. SUB-COMMITTEE SESSIONS:** In lieu of sub committee sessions Lt Brosnan introduced Lt. Tina Arcaro, Troop “C” Traffic Officer. Lt. Arcaro presented a lesson and power point presentation, created by DSG Brunett of the Fatal accident Unit. The lesson included:

- Statistical information regarding injuries and death regarding motorcycles.
- Motorcycle types and the characteristics of each.
- Licensing procedures for motorcyclists.
- Registration and insurance requirements of motorcycles.
- Motorcycle equipment violations and enforcement strategies.
- Educating the officer in detecting impaired motorcyclists.
- Safe stopping procedures of motorcyclists.

#### **VI. OPEN FORUM**

- Lt. Brosnan advised the next task force meeting will focus on subcommittee strategies in reference to motorcycle safety and asked for members interested in a particular sub committee to contact him via e-mail at [lpp4768@gw.njsp.org](mailto:lpp4768@gw.njsp.org).
- Freeholder Polos suggested that public information resources be present at motorcycling events throughout the state.
- Mr. Brian DeAscentiis of the Subaru Corporation stated that Subaru could put a motorcycle safety section in their publication.
- Ms. Tracey Noble of AAA Mid-Atlantic, said she would look into putting motorcycle safety spots on TV and radio.
- Freeholder Polos presented the idea that motorcycle safety information should be present at restaurants and bars that cater to motorcyclists.
- Ms. Suzanne O’Hearn of DHTS, stated that the Motorcycle Training Foundation currently teaches eight to nine thousand riders per year. She felt through public awareness of the

program they might significantly increase those numbers.

- Freeholder Polos mentioned that there is a press conference on February 4, 2010 on Route 1 in Edison. The conference is for the receipt of a \$97,000.00 grant to address the pedestrian fatalities on the Route 1 and 9 corridors. He invited the task force members to attend.
- Mike Brunson suggested the *Move Over Law* is not very well known by the public and could be emphasized on the message boards to educate the public. He also mentioned the High Visibility Vest Bill and its impact on officer safety.
- LTC Mattos addressed the task force. He applauded the members for their efforts and vowed his continued support. He stated that the collective efforts by the task force have made a positive impact three years in a row. He emphasized that the safety of our citizens is a priority. He stated that 2009 was a great year and expressed his confidence that 2010 would be even better, due to the hard work of the task force.

## **VII. CLOSING REMARKS**

- Lt. Brosnan thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and expressed his confidence in the task force.
- Task force members were notified of the date and location of the next meeting, which will be March 26, 2010 at 10am in the Log Cabin, Division Headquarters.