

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2009, 10:00am
Log Cabin, New Jersey State Police Division Headquarters

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant Frank McVey, Assistant Bureau Chief, Operations Safety Bureau, New Jersey State Police (NJSP).

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Lt. McVey thanked all participants for attending the meeting and discussed the new format. The new format consists of discussing pending issues and setting the framework for the future of Safe Passage by forming sub-committees tasked with addressing Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Legislation and New Initiatives. Lastly, attendance and email address sheets were circulated.

III. ITEMS

- **Recap Safe Passage Symposium, February 10, 2009, at the Ocean Place Resort:** Lt. McVey asked for suggestions on improving the conference.
 - Sgt. Rich Maxwell, Colts Neck Police Department - suggested offering workshops for both a morning and an afternoon session.
 - Lt. McVey concurred and will bring the proposal forward to the Safe Passage Symposium Committee.
- **Pedestrian Fatalities:** Lt. McVey advised that fatalities are 10 percent above the 2008 averages, while specifically addressing pedestrian fatalities which have reached forty-four.
 - Lt. McVey emphasized the importance of the educational aspect of reducing pedestrian crashes, and the significant role the Safe Passage sub-committee could generate by introducing new and innovative ideas to combat pedestrian fatalities.
 - SFC Gyongyosi, Safe Passage Corridor Unit Head, NJSP - mentioned while in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) a data collection for crashes involving pedestrians is underway to discover any notable trends.
 - Lt. McVey disclosed further of the Operations Safety Bureau's plan to place a "Fatality Count" on the NJSP.org website.

- **Legislative Initiatives:** Lt. McVey advised of Highway Traffic Safety Policy Advisory Council (HTSPAC) support for pending legislation currently in the Assembly.
 - Violet Marrero, Special Projects Manager, Division of Highway Traffic Safety (DHTS) - advised of four pending bills up for vote in the Assembly.
 - Legislation A3068, requires young drivers to complete at least 50 hours of practice driving.
 - Legislation A3070, limits young drivers to only one passenger in car unless they are accompanied by an adult, while forbidding the use of wireless communication and starts the ban on late-night driving at 11:00PM.
 - Legislation A3069, requires cars, driven by young drivers, to have decals so police can identify novice drivers who are breaking the law by having too many passengers or driving after-hours.
 - Legislation A3067, bans young drivers convicted of motor vehicle violations from plea bargains that would reduce penalties.
- **Crash Data Retrieval:** Lt. Mcvey opened the floor to Claudia Knezek to discuss an update on the training for crash data analysis.
 - Claudia Knezek, Program Director, Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT), Rutgers - advised of technician training in the spring of 2009, specifically designed to assist officers and engineers in the retrieval of crash data. Registrations were handed out to all participants. Further, Claudia advised of the New Jersey Work Zone Safety Partnership 10th Annual Conference. Featured workshops include: Enforcement, NJDOT, Construction Industry and Turnpike/Parkway South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA).
- **Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROIC) Analyst Position:** Lt. McVey displayed a functioning “work-in-progress plan” to place an enlisted member at the ROIC in order to assist the Operations Safety Bureau, police departments and outside agencies with traffic data and information.
- **Drug Recognition Expert:** Lt. McVey opened the floor to Sgt. Michael Fromasky, Assistant Administrative Officer Troop “E”, NJSP. Sgt. Fromasky advised of show-casing at a future task force meeting a program on Drug Recognition Experts.
- **Sub-Committee Sessions:** Lt. McVey opened the task force to sub-committee break outs.

The following preliminary findings from the sub-committees were reported:

- **Enforcement:** Shari Leichter, Administrative Analyst, NJDOT - reported beginning training of officers familiarization on Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspections. Also discussed, were programs involving Ticketing Aggressive Drivers (TACT) and motor cycle enforcement and awareness measures for all officers. SFC Massimino, Assistant Traffic Officer, Troop "E" Traffic Office, NJSP - advised of initiating education programs, for the motoring public traveling on the Parkway, for the recent rise in pedestrian fatalities. SFC Stephen Choborda, Motor Coach Compliance Review Unit Head, NJSP- believed increasing level III inspections would assist in crash reduction.
- **Engineering:** Lt. Paul Vereb, Long Beach Police Department - discussed a "road diet" concept, lane narrowing, rumble strips, standardizing pedestrian specs and traffic colonies.
- **Education:** Violet Marrero covered updating the website with "blogs" for conversing with residents on safety awareness issues. Other issues included, DHTS's roll call video, the new "Move Over Law", conducting a Driver's Education Symposium, creating Public Service Announcements (PSA's) and AAA awareness month in October.
 - A discussion was held on Variable Message Signs (VMS) and their utilization. Consensus was to collect more supporting data on the over-use of the signs, as to not create too much "clutter."
- **Legislation:** Sgt. Michael Fromosky, Assistant Troop Administrative Officer, Troop "E", NJSP - reviewed new legislation A4437, which extends penalties for driving under the influence to include any substance that impairs driving ability; deems driver's consent to non-invasive drug tests. Additional issues discussed were Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) enforcement, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) testing, mandating Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) training for all law enforcement, clarifying pedestrian cross-walk verbiage from yielding to stopping. SFC Mike Brunson, Branchburg Police Department - offered to update and forward all new and pending legislation to task force members.
- **New Initiatives:** SFC Eric Heitmann, Assistant Traffic Officer, Troop "D" Traffic Office, NJSP - offered subjects on pedestrian crashes and data collection, motorcycle awareness, photo radar enforcement efforts. A discussion followed and it was determined that there are statues prohibiting camera enforcement efforts.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

Lt. McVey thanked all for attending and advised of the next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2009, 10:00AM, at Division Headquarters, Log Cabin, West Trenton, New Jersey.