

SAFE PASSAGE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 7, 2008 10:00am

Log Cabin, New Jersey State Police Division Headquarters

I. CALL TO ORDER

Captain Shakespeare calls meeting to order and each attendee introduces themselves.

II. PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- a) Year to date crash and fatality update was provided. During 2007 there were 117 reported fatalities. There are 98 year to date fatalities reported for 2008. That represents a 16% reduction in fatalities year to year during the same time period.
- b) DOT conducted a meeting with the “Red light camera” sub-committee on 3-6-08. To date there are 24 states utilize this technology. This is a multi-agency effort in order to establish relationships for a direction of what course to follow. Additional partners suggested to include representatives from the AG’s Office, State Prosecutors Association and the Municipal Police Officers Association. The proposed manufacturer has agreed to back the technology and testify, free of charge.
- c) Discussed the “cell phone law” with additional clarification as to the definition of an “electronic device” to include CB radios and other forms of communication.
- d) The Title 39 comprehensive changes have been completed by the NJ Law Revision Commission. These can be accessed at www.njlrc.org Contact the following for additional information: 732.672.4798 or e-mailing: lct@njlrc.org

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Robert Pinizzotto, Municipal Prosecutors Association discussed the “road rage” ordinance proposed in Buena Vista which was drafted from the criminal “Harassment” statute. It is hoped that more municipalities pass this type of ordinance as monies collected remain in the municipality, whereby pressuring the state in drafting statewide legislation where it would also collect revenue.
- b) Sarah Weissman, Program Manager at the Transportation Safety Research Center/Rutgers, provided a presentation of “Plan4Safety”, a user password required program application, linked to the NJDOT reportable accident database, minus personal information. The program is as of yet not accessible but when it does become available it will have capabilities of ad hoc, searchable fields reflecting the entire NJTR-1. Rutgers will provide free training to approved users. The program can accommodate a maximum of 35 users at any single time.

All 2007 reportable cases have been processed into the database. Time lag has been reduced from 6 months to 2 months. A substantial improvement from this time last year. The goal is to have these processed the same week they are received.

- c) Subaru announced: The most important industry event of 2008 – the 15th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), to be held November 16-20, 2008 in New York City.
- d) Sara announced: the “Ninth Annual Work Zone Safety Awareness Conference”, ‘Stripes for Safety’ on April 10, 2008 presented at Rider University, Bart Ludeke Student Center, Lawrenceville, NJ. Schedule was given to attendees.
- e) The 2008 Safe Passage Symposium is tentatively scheduled for June 3, 2008 with a venue yet to be determined. Breakout sessions to include: red light cameras, Prosecutor’s Office, Title 39, Teen Driving Commission, Alcotest, The event is going to reach out to the Governor and/or the Attorney General for the primary speaker. We are attempting to have online registration available.
- f) Wendy Burke (NJ Brain Injury Association) presented a new website called www.UGOTBRAINS.com designed for teens who practice risky behavior. 15-24 year olds have the highest incidence of brain injuries from MV accidents. Teens provided input as to how this information is to be presented in order to keep their attention. This spring will kick off the “Helmet Safety Program” in an effort to remind teens to wear their helmets when participating in bike riding, skateboarding....etc.
- g) Mike Brunson discussed the new national strategy, provided by the U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, which stresses different strategies to improve safety on rural roadways and that there are grants available for enforcement. In addition, he suggested his involvement with NJMVC in conducting training pertaining current towing regulations and future proposed laws.
- h) Shannon Purdy, National Highway Traffic Safety Association, mentioned that NHTSA is developing a new program that blends a combination of COMSTAT, Traffic STAT and New York’s Operation IMPACT. This program should be ready to present by June.

IV. **OPEN FORUM**

- a) Tony Parenti, New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association discuss the pros and cons of Bill A358 in increasing the “reportable” accident threshold from \$55 to \$1,000. How this would affect mapping high crash sites.

- b) New forms are now required when dismissing MV summonses.

V. **CLOSING REMARKS**

- a) The next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for 10:00am on Friday, April 4, 2008 at the Log Cabin, New Jersey State Police Division Headquarters.