

## SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 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 briefly reminded all attendees of the new format. The arrangement 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.
- Lt. McVey introduced Captain Thomas Soucek, as the newly appointed Task Force Commander of the Regional Operations & Intelligence Center.

### III. ITEMS

- **ROIC Presentation:** Captain Soucek explained how the ROIC could benefit Safe Passage and Highway Traffic Safety Initiatives. Further, the captain offered and pledged the ROIC's support while introducing Tpr. I John Sandner. Tpr. I Sandner will be chairing the Safe Passage position at the ROIC and will further the cause of highway safety programs and initiatives.
  - Mike Brunson (Branchburg P.D.): Suggested a formal presentation at the State Traffic Officer's Association meeting.
  - Wendy Berk (BIANJ): Proposed incorporating serious bodily injuries into the data base collection and following up by educating parents on the findings.
  - Shannon Purdy (NHTSA): Offered the support of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in this endeavor.
  - Lt. McVey delivered an analogy, which compared the inception of radio and how it has lead towards telecommunication advances, to original Highway Traffic Safety Programs in comparison to the Safe Passage Initiatives.

- Lt. McVey recognized Plan4Safety, while committing NJSP support and collaboration to the Rutgers based program. Plan4Safety has provided training to all members of the law enforcement community and has been instrumental in supporting and developing a crash data-base.
- ***Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Presentation:*** Lt. McVey opened the floor to Sgt. Michael Fromasky, Assistant Administrative Officer Troop “E”, NJSP. Sgt. Fromasky presented a powerpoint presentation on the task, functions, training, responsibilities and objectives of the DRE Program. Sgt. Fromasky advised the committee of two pending bills, Senate #1668 and Assembly #A-310. The bills, if passed, would make refusing to submit to a DRE examination the same as refusing to submit to a breath test. Sgt. Fromasky is asking all attendees to contact their legislative leaders and ask for their support in their respective houses on these two measures.
- Sgt. Shallop (NJSP) suggested a formal presentation of the DRE program be delivered to the State Traffic Officer’s Association and the Highway Traffic Safety Policy Advisory Council meetings.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Lt. McVey recapped the following March 6, 2009 Safe Passage pending items:
  - ***Legislative Initiatives:*** 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.
  - ***Enforcement:*** Reported beginning training of officers familiarizing them on Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspections. Also discussed, were programs involving Ticketing Aggressive Drivers (TACT) and Motor Cycle enforcement and awareness measures for all officers.
  - ***Engineering:*** Discussed a “road diet” concept, lane narrowing, rumble strips, standardizing pedestrian specifications and traffic colonies.
  - ***Education:*** Discussed 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.
  - ***New Initiatives:*** 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.

## V. SUB-COMMITTEE SESSIONS:

- Lt. McVey opened the task force to sub-committee break outs and 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.
  - **Engineering:** Lt. Paul Vereb, Long Beach Police Department - discussed a “road diet” concept, lane narrowing, rumble strips, standardizing pedestrian specifications and traffic colonies.
  - **Education:** Wendy Berk (BIANJ) covered incorporating Plan4Safety in the ROIC’s traffic Safety analysis initiative, updating the website with “blogs” for conversing with residents on safety awareness issues. Other issues included, web-based education, Variable Message Signs (VMS) and their utilization.
  - **Legislation:** Jerry Plante (Subaru) urged committee members to contact legislators on relevant and important issues to gain their support. He encouraged the Safe Passage Committee to take a stand on topics and present a united front to the State’s elected leaders.
  - **New Initiatives:** Caroline Trueman (FHWA) - Suggested overlaying crashes with pedestrian fatal sites for a more comprehensive data-collection. Organize key leaders and stakeholders to address pedestrian fatalities. Also discussed was enforcement training for motorcycles, hosted by IADLEST.

## VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- Lt. McVey thanked all members for attending and advised the next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 29, 2009 at a new time of 10:30 am.
- Lt. McVey announced NJSP plans to initiate a special enforcement day for cell-phone violations. The NJSP and their respective Troops are engaging in a monthly one-day aggressive driver enforcement detail specifically focusing on cell phone use. This event will be coordinated with interested municipal agencies in the future.
- Lastly, Lt. McVey is asking for suggestions and ideas on a logo that represents Safe passage and its’ mission.