

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2009, 10:00 am

Log Cabin, New Jersey State Police, Division Headquarters

I. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant 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 informed everyone that the presentations originally scheduled for this meeting will be rescheduled due to a scheduling conflict.
- Lt. McVey briefly explained the objectives of the Senior Walkability - Planning for Mobility and Health for our Senior Population presentation. Ranjit Walia, AICP, Senior Research Specialist of the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center. Pedestrian fatality numbers are up plus 20 percent.
- The MAAD presentation will also be rescheduled.

III. ITEMS

- Lt. McVey introduced an idea brought back from the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Peer Exchange Conference regarding reflective clothing for pedestrians of our state. SFC Mike Brunson suggested that everyone review Senate Bill S-1122 that addresses pedestrian safety issues.
- Lt. McVey suggested that the task force encourage letters be written to state senators regarding closing the loophole in the seat belt law that would ensure that back seat passengers 18 years of age and older buckle up. AAA's website has a link to a draft letter to your state senator.
- SFC Mike Brunson, (Branchburg P.D.), suggested that the task force address enforcement of motorcycle helmet wearing violations. The unlawful use of skull helmets and "Ape Hangers" (above the shoulder handle bars) seen often with no enforcement action being taken. The numbers of motorcycle fatalities nationwide is on the rise. Lt. Arcaro, (NJSP) informed that there is an educational power point being developed to address the enforcement of motorcycle laws and will be made available on the Traffic Officers website. There will be an online training component proposed for NJ Learn. A Motorcycle Check Point will be a part of the first phase of implementation.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Lt. McVey recapped the following April 24, 2009 Safe Passage pending items along with the May 21, 2009 Statewide Driver Education Symposium:
 - **Enforcement:** Shari Leichter,(NJDOT) , referenced the Teen Drivers in Work Zones Map presented at the Driver's Education Forum; asking that feedback be solicited.
 - **Education:** Claudia Knezek, (Rutgers University CAIT-LTAP), reported that the feedback on the overall Drivers Education Forum was very positive. The Drivers Education Forum actually out scored the very popular Safe Passage Conference by one point; The Safe Passage Conference scored 97 and the Drivers Education Forum scored 98. Claudia informed that the highlight publication of the Drivers Education Forum will be distributed in the near future
 - **Engineering:** Sarah Weissman, (Rutgers University CAIT-LTAP), invited anyone with ideas to get involved with the updating of the website; as Lt. McVey advised, full permission has be given to Rutgers to manage the website.
 - **Legislative:** SFC Mike Brunson (Branchburg P.D.) informed everyone that there is a copy of the Bill Index attached to the meeting agenda. S-1122 (Authorizing construction of curb extensions for pedestrian safety) passed both houses and was sent to the Governor on May 21, 2009.

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:** Lt. Brian Crain, (NJSP) suggested putting together an educational presentation to remind law enforcement officers of the CDL laws to promote better enforcement. Lt. McVey advised that there is another cell phone enforcement day planned for next month (June 2009). A calendar of enforcement of various violations such as, cell phones, seat belts, lights out, motorcycle violations etc.
 - **Education:** Carissa Sestito, (Rutgers University TSRC) suggesting using web tools to test the knowledge of teen drivers on face book.
 - **Engineering:** Patricia Ott, (NJDOT) spoke about the Pedestrian Action Plan. SFC Gyongyosi, (NJSP) suggested distributing traffic safety information to hotels and restaurants.
 - **Legislative:** Don Borowski, (NJ MVC) suggesting branding Safe Passage to assure the legislators know who we are and who we represent. There is an idea to do an informal educational meeting with the legislator's and identify 3 to 5 high priorities to open up the lines of communication. This meeting would possibly be in September or October.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- Lt. McVey thanked all members for attending and advised that we will not meet during the month of June; return in the month of July.