

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2009, 10:30 am

Log Cabin, New Jersey State Police, Division Headquarters

I. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant McVey, Deputy Troop Commander, Troop “C”, New Jersey State Police (NJSP).

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Lt. McVey thanked all participants for attending the meeting and informed committee members of his recent transfer to Troop “C” as the Deputy Troop Commander. Lt. McVey pledged his continued support for the Safe Passage Task Force and advised our future initiatives should focus on promoting pedestrian and motorcycle safety and truck enforcement. Further, in fulfilling his obligations as the new Deputy Troop Commander in Troop “C” he will incorporate Highway Traffic Safety Initiatives along with other Safe Passage primary objectives throughout the Troops Highway Safety Plan.
- Lt. McVey introduced Ranjit Walia, AICP, Senior Research Specialist of the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center and briefly explained the objectives of his presentation on Senior Walkability - Planning for Mobility and Health for our Senior Population.
- Ranjit Walia presented the program while explaining the transportation issues involving seniors and the “Best Practices” utilized bringing key community stakeholders together.
- Lt. McVey allotted Wendy Berk from the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey (BIANJ) floor time to briefly discuss a presentation for the next Safe Passage Meeting. The presentation will include a partnership between Plan4Safety collaborating with parents of teen drivers.

III. ITEMS

- Trooper I John Sanders, Regional Operation Center (ROIC) discussed pedestrian safety initiatives being formulated by the Operations Center.
- SFC Robert Foulks, Fatal Accident Investigation Unit (FAIU) disclosed fatality numbers for the State and specifically addressed pedestrian numbers. Currently the 2009 fatality count is plus seven (7) from the same time period in 2008.
- Carissa Sestito from the Rutgers Center of Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation announced the 5th Annual Safety Forum on October 21, 2009. Full agenda, vendor applications, registration and award nomination applications are available at: www.cait.rutgers.edu/cait/annual-safety-forum-2009

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Lt. McVey opened the floor to new business.
- Ranjit Walia requested the Task Force consider a proposed senate bill that creates a three foot buffer zone around a bicyclist. The majority of the Task Force agreed not to support the bill under its present form and that alterations would have to be made.
- Sgt. Julian Castellanos from the NJSP Public Information Unit discussed doing educational awareness addresses on Spanish speaking television stations. These talks will address pedestrian safety related issues.
- Patricia Ott, NJ DOT discussed forming a collaboration with Safe Passage members regarding Pedestrian Safety initiatives

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:
 - **Education:** SFC Steven Choborda advised the group about a “Workzone Safety Training” being offered by the NJSP Truck Enforcement Unit.
 - **Legislative:** Rich Maxwell Colts Neck Police Department (CNPD) discussed Senate bill number S-2479, which increases the penalties for failing to yield to a pedestrian when a pedestrian is seriously injured.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- Lt. McVey thanked all members for attending. The next scheduled meeting is August 28, 2009 at 10:30am in the Log Cabin.