

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2007
Log Cabin, NJSP HQ

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Captain Warren Shakespeare, Bureau Chief, Operations Safety Bureau, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees and guests. Everyone was given an opportunity to introduce themselves. Lieutenant Robert Parlow, Assistant Bureau Chief, OSB, presented the agenda.

II. TOPICS DISCUSSED:

A. Bill Beans, NJDOT - reported that the testing of Electronic Data Transfer will be conducted and evaluated next week here at Division Headquarters. There s a pilot program underway with Hanover and Roseland Police Departments. He expressed optimism that the State Police should be on-board as early as September. He informed that there are at least 130 Departments involved in the process and that about 50% of the agencies in New Jersey would be using Electronic Data Transfer. Richard Maxwell, NJPTOA, expressed concern that the cost of the project is going to be an issue with most local police departments. Regarding Co-Location; the building location at NJDOT will prepped starting Monday, and the new office should be ready for all parties to move into by the first of September.

B. John Podeszwa, Administrative Office of the Courts, advised that he will provide a report regarding E-Ticket by next meeting. He advised that the majority of local police departments have received training on the processing of criminal reports electronically. Fatalities in the month of June were up 43% from last year. The Alcohol Beverage Control Bureau has a new DWI form that will be completed for all DWI arrests. This report will collect data directly related to establishments that continually serve alcohol to customers who have consumed too much alcohol to drive.

C. Trooper II Steven Slimowicz discussed a new program called Racing is Safer on the Track Initiative and presented a poster he designed with the theme Race On The Track, Not On The Street. His presentation began with a request being made of the Task Force for approval to print the poster. This sparked engaging dialog regarding the approval process. Jamine Matton, OAG, expressed that the poster would need to go through the AG s approval process but she had several questions regarding the poster and the initiative.

Bob Lang, NHRA, explained that it s an educational process and he spoke about the great need for increased education in this area. Ms. Matton asked if there was any evidence that the initiative reduces street racing. Trooper Slimowicz stated that there was currently no documented evidence available at this time. He presented a description of the educational initiative which would focus on high school students. Statistics and information would be tailored to incorporate the schools geographical location. Additionally, the program would include an overview of the physics of a crash, DWI, Title 39 and the NJ Criminal Code. The lecture would conclude with a message that There s a Time and a Place to Drag Race in New Jersey. The use of the Beat The Heat Car was mentioned and that it would be offered as a prop to encourage interested students to participate in the program and come out to the race tracks. Tpr. Slimowicz emphasized that this is a great opportunity to utilize this as a way to communicate with the public. He reiterated the need for this program by stating the numerous recent street racing recent events that resulted in fatalities and serious injuries to young drivers in New Jersey. Engaging dialog followed and several positive opinions were expressed. Captain Shakespeare advised that a memorandum detailing the particulars of the program would be forwarded to the Attorney General s Office for review and approval.

D. Safe Passage Website update- SFC Scott Wishart informed that the website has been updated and postings of Task Force meeting minutes are available. The following website address was provided: www.nj.gov/safepassage/

E. SAFARI program update - Lieutenant Dean Rinaldi, Troop E Traffic Officer informed that on Wednesday, July 25th , a kickoff press conference was held in Atlantic City. Currently, the program s poster is now on display within the rest areas on the Garden State Parkway.

F. Sergeant Greg Williams, OSB reported that the June 21st meeting with the eleven school principals of the Trenton Catholic Diocese with SFC Neil Brosnan was a success. All eleven schools requested to have the State Police Community Services Unit present the "Alive At 25" program within their schools during the upcoming school year. Sgt. Williams reported on the proposal presented to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Regional Safety Task Force. The Safety Task Force agreed to partner with the Safe Passage Task Force. Mr. Kevin Murphy of the DVRPC was introduced. Sgt. Williams presented a proposal to add a 4th E for emergency services to the Three E s of Traffic Enforcement. All were in agreement and Emergency Services was added to Enforcement, Education, Engineering.

G. Don Borowski, NJMVC - Expressed that the municipal prosecutor s are very excited about moving forward with having access to driver abstracts. Don spoke about the Safety Advisory Council and the 35 stakeholders looking into the point system.

III. OPEN FORUM

Richard Maxwell spoke about some towns allowing a GDL driver to drive an ambulance and how it s a problem that needs to be addressed. Rich spoke about the supervisors at the First Aid Squads misunderstanding the GDL process. Rich advised that he would explore ways to educate the squads on the safety issues involved with young drivers being allowed to operate emergency vehicles.

Gerald Plante, Subaru representative, spoke about Subaru s Alcohol detection device being installed in new Subaru vehicles. Mr. Plante solicited comments on this new initiative. Conversation ensued with questions being asked as to why the automotive industry does not govern the speed of all vehicles. Mr. Plante was invited to give a presentation at our next Safe Passage Task Force meeting.

IV. Closing Remarks

Lt. Parlow informed that a representative from the Emergency Services Community will be invited to the next Task Force meeting. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Safety Task Force was advised that they could give a presentation at our next meeting.

The next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 7, 2007 @ 10:00 AM and will be held at the Log Cabin, NJSP Division Headquarters.