

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2009, 10:30 a.m.

Log Cabin, New Jersey State Police, Division Headquarters

I. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant Neil Brosnan, Assistant Bureau Chief, Operations Safety Bureau.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Lt. Brosnan welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He introduced himself and discussed staffing changes in the Operations Safety Bureau. He affirmed his commitment to the mission of the Safe Passage Task Force.
- Lt. Brosnan cited his goals, which are to further develop the Safe Passage web-site as a central repository of information. His intentions are to develop short term goals for each meeting in an effort to reach the long term goals of the Task Force.

III. ITEMS

- LTC Mattos, NJSP advised the Superintendent of the State Police is planning a Pedestrian Safety Summit in late September. Key stakeholders, including chiefs of police and roadway engineers will be invited to jointly address pedestrian fatal crashes.
- Tpr. John Sanders, NJSP advised he is compiling a report, which will identify trends in pedestrian fatalities. He welcomes any suggestions.
- Lt. Brosnan noted that pedestrian fatalities encompass entire state. As a state agency we can only make suggestions to municipal government. A stronger message may come from the Task Force as a whole.
- William Margaretta, NJSSC suggested the Task Force look into legislative initiatives and what other states are doing.
- William Beans, NJDOT discussed the historic progression of change with other traffic safety issues, such as, seat belt safety and driving while impaired. He suggested designating specific months with police doing education and enforcement programs. Over the next decade maybe public change will take place.
- LTC Mattos noted Lt. Brosnan's summation. The fatality problem is a statewide issue and needs to be addressed by the Safe Passage Task Force. He expressed the Superintendent's support and welcomed all thoughts and ideas to lower the fatality numbers.
- SFC R. Foulks provided fatality statistics. As of August 27, 2009, New Jersey has had 370 fatal crashes resulting in 388 fatalities. There were 110 pedestrian fatalities. As of August 25, 2009, there have been 39 motorcycle occupants killed in motor vehicle collisions. Of 27 cases where motorcycle equipment was available, nine persons (33%) had been identified as having utilized unapproved helmets.

- SFC. E. Heitmann, NJSP Turnpike, spoke on behalf of Commander Major M. Walker. The Turnpike's traffic office developed programs based on driving statistics. Troopers are selectively beginning shifts 3:00 a.m., to combat the high number of 4:00 a.m. drinking driving motor vehicle crashes. The Turnpike also has a new laser that monitors the distance between cars and identifies tail-gaiting violators.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Lt. Brosnan provided a brief recap of the July 31, 2009 Passage Meeting; fatal accident statistics, pedestrian safety initiatives and the Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation 5th Annual Safety Forum on October 21, 2009.

V. SUB-COMMITTEE SESSIONS:

- Lt. Brosnan opened the task force to subcommittee break outs and the following preliminary findings from the subcommittee were reported:
 - ***New Initiatives / Education:*** William Beans, NJDOT discussed assembling a committee with police chiefs and D.H.T.S., and developing a statewide contest for colleges to create Public Service Announcements, utilizing the media to judge and broadcasting the results. He advised he will type a program and submit same to Pat Ott (NJDOT).
 - ***Legislative:*** Scott McNear, NJ MVC suggested in momentum with legislation and the appointment of a new MVC Chief Administrator, the group revisited a suggestion for the MVC Matrix System to allow drivers to enter emergency contact information for first responder access, and an online insurance verification in anticipation of tag scanners and e-ticketing.
 - ***Commercial Motor Vehicle:*** Shari Leichter, NJ DOT spoke about the Work Zone Safety Training Grant. Lt. F. McVey and SFC Steve Choborda are working on the program, which will train more officers to complete commercial carrier level III inspections. The goal is to increase inspections and reduce crashes. Additionally, the National Institute for Safety and Research is providing training in November 2009 on crash data collection for the NJTR-1 forms. The contact person is Janet Hansen at Rutgers 732-445-3622 ext.146. NJ DOT Bureau of Trucking also received an \$800,000 grant to implement the Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks (T.A.C.T.) program.
 - ***Motorcycles/Bicycles:*** Lt. Tina Arcaro, NJSP spoke about creating a law enforcement motorcycle training to familiarize officers with equipment safety violations.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- LTC Mattos commended the group for their passion and continued participation in an effort to reduce the number of fatalities and crashes.
- Lt. N. Brosnan advised the next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2009, at 10:30 a.m.