

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2009

Media Room, Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC)

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. Lt. Brosnan spoke of multiple traffic groups throughout the State: New Jersey Safety Management Task Force, New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, and the Delaware River Regional Planning Commission, and their Strategic Safety Plans. He recognized the common goal of all groups is to reduce crashes and make roads safer. To that end, Lt. Brosnan reaffirmed the importance of the Safe Passage Task Force. He pledged to set small goals each meeting, that will transcend into our large goal of reducing crashes and making safer roadways.

III. ITEMS

- The August 28, 2009 meeting minutes were accepted by Task Force members.
- Wendy Burk, from the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey spoke about the New Jersey teen driving parent resource website. The website, www.NJteenDriving.com, is a guide for parents and relates to their roles in keeping new teen drivers safe. This informative site contains educational videos, links to the Plan4Safety crash map, news articles, and video clip interviews of people affected by teen crashes.
- Lt. Brosnan asked group members to introduce themselves and provide their objectives relating to the Safe Passage Task Force. The Operations Safety Bureau was represented by Lt. Neil Brosnan, Assistant Bureau Chief and SFC Dawn Dalrymple, Administrative Officer. Both pledged to assist with meeting facilitation and drafting of minutes. Lt. Michael Powers and Sgt. Gregory Williams, of the Community Services Unit spoke of their abilities to communicate and deliver programs to the communities and schools, as well as, the New Jersey School Resource Officers Association. SFC Timothy Whille's objective is to relate information throughout the Safe Passage Corridor. Trooper I Jay Wolf cited his position as the NJSP liaison to DHTS. Sgt. Allison Honrath, Victim Services Unit, spoke of networking with government victim advocacy groups and "grass root" agencies, and communicating the Safe Passage objectives. SFC Robert Sagan spoke of his liaison to the Delaware River Joint Toll Commission. Captain Tom Soucek represented the ROIC; he offered resources from the ROIC, which include analysis technology for proactive initiatives. NJSP traffic officers from Troops A, B, C, D and E were represented by Lt. William Freitas, SFC Ken Gyongyosi, SFC Ernest Oresko, Lt. Tom Bernhardson and Sgt. Colleen Lupo. Their objects are to develop partnerships, obtain traffic related information and disseminate it to their stations in their respective regions. Lt. Brian Crann from the Construction Unit spoke about working closely with New Jersey Work Zone Safety. Captain Frank McVey pledged his ongoing commitment to traffic safety. Trooper I Robert Tormo from the Alcohol Drug Test Unit

thanked the group for their support and spoke about upcoming classes for drug recognition experts. Lt. William Moore, Fatal Accident Investigation Unit, provided fatality statistics. As of September 23, 2009, there were 412 fatal crashes resulting in 437 fatalities. Fatalities increased from 2008 to 2009 by 13, or 3.1 percent. There were 119 pedestrian fatalities. William Margareta, New Jersey State Safety Council, spoke of his ability to advocate for the task force as a member of a non-profit organization, and his access to large groups in the private sector of business and industry. Don Borowski advised of his position with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, and their relations to fatal medical review, as well as, being a resource to New Jersey drivers. Maurice Arcangeli from Subaru talked about his ability to relay Safe Passage information to automobile manufacturers. John Coyle from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) related his availability of resources and programs. Tony Parenti, Richard Maxwell and Michael Brunson from the New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association (NJPTOA), discussed their ability to disseminate information to 400 plus law enforcement members, through their website and at meetings. Wendy Burke spoke about community outreach and education to the community through the New Jersey Brain Injury Association. Tracy Nobel is a representative and spokesperson for AAA. Her company partners with safety organizations and requests legislative support from its members when needed. Carissa Sestito, Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT), discussed the 5th Annual Safety Forum on October 21, 2009. Sarah Weissman from Rutgers discussed Plan4Safety training, education and outreach. Patricia Ott and William Beans, New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) discussed some of their responsibilities, which include the New Jersey Comprehensive Strategic Highway Safety Plan, roadway engineering and safety programs. Lastly, Rutgers Larry Cullari discussed implementing information on work-zone safety into the field.

IV. MEETING OBJECTIVE:

- Lt. Brosnan introduced the meeting objective: Put the Brake on Fatalities Day, October 10, 2009. He challenged the group to collectively develop a strategic plan for a statewide implementation of this initiative.

V. SUB-COMMITTEE SESSIONS:

- Lt. Brosnan asked the group to divide into two sub-committees: education/public awareness and enforcement. He instructed everyone to develop an action plan to make “Put the Brake on Fatalities Day” a day of zero fatalities in the State of New Jersey.
- Education/Public Awareness - the spokesperson was Violet Marrero, Division of Highway Traffic Safety (DHTS). She will develop art work to be placed on the Safe Passage Website for group members to access and disseminate throughout their respective fields. Patricia Ott, DOT will draft a unified message to be placed on Visual Message Signs (VMS) and message boards. SFC Sagan will request postings at the Delaware River Bridge Crossings and Lt. Bernardson will inquire with the Turnpike Authority bridges. Lt. Brosnan will advise NJSP Office of Public Information. Sub-Committee members pledged to spread the information via Twitter, Facebook and bulk e-mails. Sgt. Greg Williams will contact the School Resource Officers Association to funnel information through the school systems. Tony Parenti or Michael Brunson will disseminate information on the New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association (NJPTOA) website.
- Enforcement - SFC Ken Gyongyosi was the spokesperson. NJSP traffic offices will schedule Tactical Patrol Units, Drinking Driver Enforcement patrols and Aggressive Driver overtime details. Commercial Vehicle and Transportation Safety Bureau will be briefed and traffic

officers will request the use of speed trailers. Traffic officers will request maximum staffing from station commanders. The Operations Safety Bureau (OSB) will post a bulletin on the NJSP intranet and internet.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- Lt. Brosnan thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.
- Lt. Brosnan advised the next meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the log cabin, NJSP Division Headquarters.