

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2007
Log Cabin, NJSP HQ.

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Lieutenant Robert Parlow opened the meeting by advising the group that the fatal accident statistics are currently at 514 fatalities, down 9.5% from last years 568 fatalities. Pedestrian fatalities are down by 30%.

B. Lt. Parlow spoke about the #77 Report Aggressive Drivers details. Details were conducted on the Parkway, Turnpike, I-80 and I-295. Currently, the data from the details has been collected and is being evaluated. In addition, the Operational Dispatch Bureau is collecting the actual number of #77 calls which were received during the designated time periods.

C. Lieutenant Sisinio Torres, Troop "C" Traffic Officer, is coordinating a GDL Drivers License Detail at the Seneca High School. This pilot program will be conducted on **October 25, 2007**, after school when the students are departing from the high school parking lot from 2:45 pm until approximately 3:15 pm. A draft letter was sent to the parents advising them that a GDL checkpoint will be conducted for infractions of the GDL law. There will also be the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission booklet, "Safe Driving, A Parent's Guide to Teaching Teens sent home to the parents for review.

A selected school administrator(s) along with members of Troop "C" Tactical Patrol Unit will be coordinating the checkpoint which will be located at a designated spot on the driveway by the football field. In this particular school, the parking lots have video cameras and the detail will be videotaped. Individuals will be identified that are holders of the GDL by the administrators and if there are fragrant violations, such as no safety restraint, or 3 or more teens in the car, the vehicle will be stopped and the driver given a GDL brochure. If there are too many people in the vehicle, in violation of the GDL law, the occupant(s) must exit and the school administrator will walk the violators back to the school in order to arrange transportation from the school. The next detail will be a full traffic related detail, unannounced and outside the parking lot for infractions such as safety restraint violations.

William Margareta, New Jersey Safety Council, spoke about the Alive at 25 Program. He stated that he has a corporate sponsor that is interested in delivering the Alive at 25 program in Southern New Jersey. Bill also received a call from Chief Nally, Lacey Township Police Department and Chief Mastronardy, Toms River Police Department, reference coordinating two training dates for October 23rd & 24th in Ocean County. The training spots are open for all the high schools in Ocean County.

John Coyle, from the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA), advised that they are looking to conduct a Summit in the Spring of 2008 on issues of pedestrians, motorcycles and GDL. If this GDL program is successful it would be a great presentation for best practices.

II. TOPICS DISCUSSED:

A. Lt. Robert Parlow - "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day", October 10, 2007. Pam Fischer, Director of Highway Traffic Safety has her office collecting data for the program. Jim Hogan, NJDOT, was going to display signs on the VMS boards statewide; "Drive Carefully Your Life Depends on It". This message was displayed the entire week.

B. **Sgt. Greg Williams**, OSB - "Recognizing the Drowsy Driver". Sgt. Williams discussed the letter distributed by Adele Kristiansson, from the National Road Safety Foundation. The National Road Safety Foundation has a new program, "Recognizing the Drowsy Driver" which will be unveiled on November 1, 2007, during a press conference in Manhattan, New York. Greg spoke briefly about the program "Almost Home" and informed the attendees that Adele had sent packages containing many DVD's, which were distributed to everyone. Adele is tentatively scheduled to present the program at our November 16th meeting.

C.

Williams from NJDOT - Electronic Data Transfer: We will begin receiving our first electronic reports from the Hunterdon Police Department on Oct. 10th

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E. Lt. Robert Parlow - I-95 Corridor Coalition Quick Clearance Workshop. NJDOT will be having a workshop that is open to all police departments. There will be two sessions on November 1st, at 8:30a - 2:30p & 1:00p - 5:00p. Pre-registration is required.

F. **Sergeant First Class Stephen Choborda**, State Police, Transportation Safety Bureau (TSB) - US-Mexican Demonstration Project, known as NAFTA. There will be 100 Mexican Carriers allowed to operate in the United States. As of now there are 6 carriers operating. All Carriers will be Identified by an X preceding their DOT #. Stephen asked Bill Beans about how the X will fit on the NJTR-1. Bill advised that he will have to look into this. SFC Choborda explained that all carriers will have to display a CVSA decal that indicates that they have passed inspection. If there is no sticker they would be placed out of service. Another stipulation is that the operator's must be able to communicate in English or they will be put out of

service. Lieutenant Parlow, Bill Beans and Mike Brunson all agreed that an AG's Enforcement Bulletin needs be put out to address this issue. Lt. Parlow will place a call to coordinate the necessary information required for an Enforcement Bulletin.

G. Wendy Berk, BIANJ - Advised that on Saturday, October 6th, the Brain Injury Association will be hosting their annual Bicycle Safety outing, "Cycle For Safety Walk For Thought." The event will be held in two locations Tittusville (Washington Crossing State Park) and in Paramus.

H. Don Borowski, NIMVC - New Driver Education curriculum is moving ahead. The Municipal Prosecutor's should have access to driver abstracts as soon as next week.

I. William Margareta, NJSSC - Alive at 25 Parent Program (Power Point) Presentation. Dr. Carl Valenziano, NJ Trauma Council, expressed his support of the program and asked Bill if he could present the program to the Council. Bill agreed.

III. OPEN FORUM:

No issues discussed.

IV. Closing Remarks:

The next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 16, 2007 @ 10:00 AM and will be held at the Log Cabin, NJSP Division Headquarters.