

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2008 10:00am

Log Cabin, New Jersey State Police Division Headquarters

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Captain Warren Shakespeare.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

An attendance sheet was circulated.

III. ITEMS

a) Year to date crash and fatality update was provided by Captain Shakespeare. Year to date fatalities reflect a 21.0 % decrease (-128). Driver, Passenger and Pedestrian fatalities are down, Pedalcyclist fatalities are up by 8.

b) Captain discusses the foundation for the Safe Passage Task Force, to combat fatalities through a statewide crash awareness and reduction effort. The bottom line is to reduce serious crashes and fatalities.

c) MADD - Mindy Lazar, discussed the initiatives for creating awareness for Halloween, and the upcoming holiday programs, utilizing vehicle magnets and ribbons for the Red Ribbon Campaign. Mindy also mentions the press conference MADD is conducting with the State Police to announce the joint venture during DWI Roll Call sessions, prior to DWI enforcement patrols. The purpose demonstrates a two fold approach. First, it thanks the police for their dedication and second, it allows survivors and family members to interact with the police and puts a real life face to the program.

Mindy discussed the upcoming vote on the Ignition Interlock Law which is winding its way through the legislative process. She noted that the proposed law is being opposed by the liquor industry. Last year we lost 199 people to DD, and that there are 19,000 drivers in this state with 3 or more convictions. Judiciary hearing scheduled for 11/13/08...December 8th Senate vote.

d) Department of Transportation - Bill Beans, spoke about the Electronic Data Transfer project with six municipalities signing on to start the development process. Slowly we are beginning to see some progress in this difficult financial environment. He spoke of the STRCC trying to develop an incentive program for police departments to continue the EDT project. STRCC will be meeting again in about a month to select 408 funding projects for the next year.

- e) Branchburg Police - Sergeant First Class Michael Brunson, discussed the upcoming Federal Mandate which requires "High Visibility Garments" be worn in federal work zone areas. The effective date for this mandate is November 24, 2008. Mike would like to see legislation passed on the use of the garments within Title 39, to cover all roadways in NJ, to help reduce pedestrian deaths. Captain Shakespeare advised that he would have the State Police Planning Bureau reach out for Mike to discuss same.
- f) Department of Transportation - Pat Ott, reports that DOT has awarded three jurisdictions to participate in the Red Light Program. The three are Brick Township, Newark and East Brunswick. Additional locations will be announced at a later time.
- g) New Jersey State Police - Lieutenant Brian Crain, discusses the new Rutgers program to increase work zone safety awareness for kids. The program provides instructors the necessary information through school safety programs to inform students about problem areas.
- h) Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation - Claudia Knezek, spoke about signing up for the Fourth Annual Safety Forum to be held on December 3rd AT Brookdale Community College. Claudia also mentioned that the State Traffic Officers will be conducting their monthly meeting at the College, which would allow their members to attend the conference.

Safe Passage - Capt Shakespeare, Violet Marrera, and Claudia Kneszak spoke about the planning for the next safe Passage Symposium scheduled for February 10, 2009. The symposium will be hosted by Rutgers. Preliminarily the plans call for 300 attendees, lunch will be included, 2 speakers, 5 break out sessions, and 1 main speaker during the lunch program. Committee was set up to further plan the symposium. Members will be Wendy Burke, Rich Maxwell, Pat Ott, Bill Margareta, and Chief Parenti. Still to be decided are symposium themes. A second committee was set up to determine what awards would be given out at the conference. Members will be Shannon Purdy, Mindy Lazar and Maureen Sczpanski.

- i) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - Shannon Purdy, spoke about the upcoming 2008 Bi-Regional Motorcycle Safety Forum to be held November 5-6, 2008 in East Hartford, CT. She also mentioned the upcoming Traffic Records course in February and the TOPPS Training Program to be conducted at the Monmouth Academy. Shannon spoke about a program developed by Michael Geraci, NHTSA Director of the Office of Safety Programs. This program is a blend of COMSTAT, TrafficSTAT, and New York State's Operation Impact. The focus of the program is on real-time, data driven, traffic enforcement, with relentless follow-up.
- j) Subaru - Jerry Plante, spoke of how Florida has now set up a system where drivers can electronically enter emergency contact information attached to the drivers license number on the states database allowing police officers to access the information

when the need arises to notify next of kin. New Jersey is currently attempting to implement a program called HALO. This program was developed by SFC Dawn Dalrymple, Community Services Unit, and is going through an internal review by the State Police.

Jerry also discussed the 15th World Congress Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference, which will be held November 16 - 20th at the Jacob Javitz Center, NYC.

Jerry mentioned how New Jersey has lower teenage driver fatalities compared to other states and attributes this to the GDL driver restrictions.

Jerry thanked the New Jersey State Police Fatal Accident Unit for publishing the annual "Fatal Motor Vehicle Accident Comparative Data Report".

- k) Brain Injury Association - Wendy Berk, spoke about her organization working with schools's web-based programs in disseminating information to new drivers and parents about driver responsibility.
- l) Division of Highway Traffic Safety - Violet Marrera, spoke about GDL update...they are awaiting action by the legislature on the recommendations. Violet also discussed that the DHTS is putting together a Roll-Call video to provide information to the police and young drivers about everyday issues associated with the GDL laws.
- m) New Jersey State Safety Council - Bill Margaretta, announced that several new schools have signed onto the Alive @ 25 program, with a new sponsor and a new power point program which he hopes to demo at the next meeting.
- n) Division of Highway Traffic Safety - Maureen Sczpanski, discussed the NJ21 Coalition and the facts that make it clear that rolling back the drinking age would be a terrible mistake. Since 1983 there has been a 21 % reduction in teen fatalities.
- o) New Jersey State Police - Colonel Juan Mattos, spoke about the continued efforts of the Safe Passage Task Force, our reduction in fatalities, and the networking effect that the Task Force has had on developing traffic safety programs.
- p) NJTR-1 - Capt. Shakespeare advised all that the State Police ITB is working with existing RMS to achieve an electronic version of the NJTR-1. This project should have a pilot program in place by the end of the year.
- q) DOT Safety Programs - Bill Beans concluded the meeting by discussing the past, present and future goals and objectives of the Safe Passage Task Force. Bill expressed that we build a "**Vision For The Future**":

- * Bring in new partners
- * Marketing our successes

- * Flyers through auto industry
- * Utilize Insurance Companies
- * PSA's with kids
- * Concentrate on Pedestrian Safety
- * Discuss the DOT Highway Safety Plan

IV. **CLOSING REMARKS**

- a) The next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for 10:00am on Friday December 19th, at the Log Cabin, NJSP Division Headquarters.
- b) **Please be prepared to discuss the “Vision For The Future”**
- c) The December meeting will also discuss the development of the upcoming “Safe Passage Symposium”