

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2007 10:00am-12:00pm

Log Cabin, New Jersey State Police Division Headquarters

I. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Captain Warren Shakespeare welcomed the attendees.

II. **PREVIOUS BUSINESS**

- a) Year to date crash and fatality update.
Captain Warren Shakespeare updated the attendees regarding the year to date fatalities. Compared to last year at this time the number of State Police fatal crashes is down 30 which represents a 14.9 % reduction. Municipal Police is down 8 which represents a 1.8% reduction. The total number of state fatalities is down 38, representing a 5.9% reduction from 2006.
- b) Electronic Data Transfer - William Beans, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) reported that the NJSP, Lt. William Carrione made a request to the New Jersey Traffic Records Coordinating Committee for funding to update RMS in order to facilitate electronic reporting. The request is being considered. Hanover Twsp. is piloting the electronic crash reporting with only minor hurdles. They are considering incorporating DL scanning into their reporting process. Pilot will continue through Dec 2007 when other departments will come on board as they are CJIS certified for this application.
- c) #77 use update. Lt. Robert Parlow reported that approximately 200-250 #77 calls are received each day. Over five test days in September when signage and enforcement were coordinated along various roads such as NJTPK, GSP, I-80, and I-295 the number of #77 spiked by as much as 125%. There was no information available as to how the increased calls were directly related to particular MV stops.
- d) Driver Education Curriculum. Don Borowski stated that a web site for High School instructors will be established as a resource for relevant information.
- e) Robert Pinizzotto, New Jersey State Municipal Prosecutors Association stated that municipal prosecutors now have access to a real time driver history of violators and that it has positively impacted the plea system. A Press Release from MVC is due out 11/16/07.
- f) William Margaretta, New Jersey Safety Council, Alive at 25 update. Mr. Margaretta reports that \$25,000 was donated by Subaru to support the Alive at 25 activities in southern New Jersey. Another \$7,000 in support form the Independent Insurance Agents will fund up to seven projects in northern New Jersey. During the last week of October, 40 new instructors were certified in

Ocean County, representing every high school in the county.

- g) Seneca High School Graduated Driver's License (GDL) Detail, 10/25/07. Lt. Sisinio Torres and SFC Tina Arcaro report that 150 vehicles were stopped, with violators given information and parents notified. Program needs to move into an enforcement mode.
- h) "Cycle For Safety Walk For Thought" bicycle safety outing, 10/6/07. Wendy Berk reported that \$70,000 was raised. Helmet Safety Program will begin in Spring 2008. In January 2008 a web site for teens www.yougotbrains.com will become available.

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Thanksgiving holiday period 2006 stats regarding fatalities were; 19 fatalities, 6 pedestrians, 3 on Friday evening. An aggressive series of enforcement details are planned by all NJSP Troops during the holiday period this year.
- b) Donald Roberts, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS). Informed attendees that OEMS regulates EMTs, paramedics, companies providing those services, air medical services. An electronic patient care reporting system, VMS Charts, along with GPS dispatching has reduced overall response time as well as the number of EMS calls.
- c) Work Zone E-learn. Sgt. Steven Ciecwick, Commercial Carrier Safety Inspection North Unit advised attendees that the course is live on-line. A training order will be distributed shortly for all NJSP personnel.
- d) Sarah Weissman, Transportation Safety Resource Center (TSRC). Ms. Weissman reported that the Traffic Engineering Safety Forum is coming up on 11/28/07 and slots are available for Safe Passage Task Force attendees. Cost is \$25.00.
- e) Chief John Coyle reports that he expects an increase in departments participating in the 2007 Chiefs Challenge. The Division of Highway Traffic Safety is allocating points in it's grant awarding ratings to those departments that participate in the Chiefs Challenge.
- f) SFC Thomas Bernhardson reports that Judge King has released an Alcotest software report. One recommendation will call for 6 month rather than 1 year re-certifications of each Alcotest machine.
- g) Don Borowski and John Podeszwa, Administrative Office of the Courts, reports that there is an apparent problem with the penalty provision of the newly enacted cell phone law.
- h) LTC Juan Mattos, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, addressed the meeting.

He stressed a commitment to aggressive enforcement over the next six weeks, through the end of the year, then into 2008, in order to maintain the improvement in overall fatal crashes and fatalities experienced so far this year. He stressed that the goal of this task force and of himself personally is to see zero fatal crashes. Finally LTC Mattos asked that the Task Force identify priority objectives for 2008.

- i) Robert Pinizzotto requested that research be done to determine if it is possible to create a e-mail list of all state law enforcement for the purpose of notifying officers regarding matters of interest to the Task Force. He volunteered to head a committee on the matter.

IV. **OPEN FORUM**

- a) In a continuing effort to initiate information exchange, attendees are offered the opportunity to highlight new and existing safety activities of their organization.

V. **CLOSING REMARKS**

- a) The next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for 12/14 at the ROIC facility, State Police Headquarters, at 10am.