

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2009, 10:00am

Log Cabin, New Jersey State Police Division Headquarters

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant Frank McVey, Assistant Bureau Chief, Operations Safety Bureau.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Lt. McVey thanked Captain W. Shakespeare for his past dedication and efforts as Committee chairman. Sergeant S. Shallop, Assistant Administration Officer, Operations Safety Bureau, was introduced as the Committee's Sergeant at Arms. Attendance and e-mail address sheets were circulated.

III. ITEMS

- a) Safe Passage Symposium, February 10, 2009, at the Ocean Place Resort, One Ocean Boulevard, Long Branch, NJ.
 - Registration from 7:30AM to 8:00AM
 - Colonel R. Fuentes to administer opening remarks
 - Lieutenant Colonel J. Mattos Jr. to act as master of ceremonies
 - Additional exhibitors are welcomed and encouraged (exhibitor list provided on meeting agenda)
 - Workshops to start at 11:00AM
 - Operations Safety Bureau personnel shall be assisting
 - Recording of Symposium events are permitted and shall be conducted by the Brain Injury Association.

- a) Safe Passage Task Force Committee Awards will be expanded in the future. Recipients Patricia Ott, NJ DOT, and LTC Juan Mattos Jr. were present and recognized. Additional recipient names were announced and listed on the agenda.

- b) Pedestrian Fatalities: Lt. McVey attended the Highway Traffic Safety Policy Advisory Board (HTSPAC) meeting and advised that pedestrian fatalities are occurring at an alarming rate in 2009. Eleven (11) of fifteen (15) fatalities involved pedestrians. Attendance of the Symposium "Pedestrian Decoy Program" workshop was encouraged.
 - Dr. C. Valenziano advised that a large volume of hospital patients are pedestrians injured as a result of crashes
 - W. Margareta, Alive at 25, suggested a subcommittee to address necessary changes to pedestrian laws
 - Lt. McVey emphasized the importance of the educational aspect of reducing pedestrian crashes

Claudia Knezek, CAIT, Rutgers, advised that a pedestrian education program is in the process of being implemented and will provide further information to the Committee

Fatal Accident Investigation Unit conducting a cause analysis to determine if any trends have developed in pedestrian cases. Lt. Parlow added that thirteen (13) of the twenty (20) fatalities this year involved pedestrians and a preliminary review revealed no consistencies in circumstances.

Dr. C. Valenziano suggested to expand the scope of the pedestrian analysis to include serious bodily injury cases

W. Beans, NJ DOT, advised that approximately 5,000 pedestrian crashes occur a year with the majority in the northeast portion of the state. Areas posted with higher speed limits may be experiencing a higher pedestrian crash rate

Contingent agreed that education of younger pedestrians and pedalcyclists would be the most effective approach and provide long term benefits

Legislation to improve pedestrian laws shall also be researched

- a) Year to date crash and fatality update was provided by Lietenant R. Parlow. Year to date fatalities reflect a 28.7 % decrease (-11). See attached statistical sheet.
- b) LTC Mattos addressed the committee and stated that the Governor and current administration support our traffic safety cause. The theme of “Yes we can” was adopted in the effort to reduce fatal crashes and be accomplished through a group effort of law enforcement, government, NJ DOT, and all involved.
- c) Changes for 2009 Committee meeting: Lt. McVey advised that the structure of future meetings would focus on the essentials of the Task Force and solicit more involvement from members through participation in sub-committees.
 - The following preliminary sub-committees were named:
 1. Enforcement
 2. Engineering
 3. Education
 4. Legislation
 5. Initiatives
- a) Members were encouraged to e-mail their sub-committee selection to Sgt. Shallop prior to next meeting.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- a) Lt. McVey thanked all for attending and he is looking forward 2009.
- b) The next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2009, 10:00AM, at the Log Cabin, NJSP Division Headquarters.



FATAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT

WEEKLY FATAL ACCIDENT REPORT

FATAL ACCIDENTS

	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
January 01 - January 17, 2009	1	3	0	2	1	7
January 01 - January 19, 2008	2	0	0	1	0	3
	-1	3	0	1	1	4

FATALITIES

	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
January 01 - January 17, 2009	1	4	0	2	1	8
January 01 - January 19, 2008	2	0	0	1	0	3
	-1	4	0	1	1	5

FATALITIES FOR WEEK

	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
January 11 - January 17, 2009	1	3	0	0	1	5
January 13 - January 19, 2008	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	3	0	0	1	5

STATE FATALITIES

2009	-	27
2008	-	38

STATE POLICE

2009	-	8
2008	-	3

MUNICIPAL POLICE

2009	-	19
2008	-	35

-11
-28.9% Decrease

5

-16