



# STRCC

Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee



*A newsletter for all who generate, analyze, use or distribute traffic records data*

July 3, 2003

page 1

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Introduction

The Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee is a group of representatives from Federal, State and local agencies working in the traffic education, enforcement or engineering fields and who deal directly with motor vehicle crashes and the resulting issues.

As you can determine from the list of participants on the second page, traffic records data involves the driver, vehicle, roadway, other occupants and pedestrians, courts, emergency medical services, school transportation, hospital care, police officer training, driver education, laws and legislation, and many other areas.

Each discipline captures data vital to programs which impact on reducing these motor vehicle crashes and the suffering, injury and property damage that result.

This committee will strive to collect accurate, timely and complete information and integrate it within a single system available to all, and for the benefit all roadway users.

## First Meeting of the New Jersey STRCC

On June 30, the Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee held its first meeting.

The agenda covered:

- 1) the charge of the committee,
- 2) review of the recommendations contained in the 2002 State Traffic Records Assessment,
- 3) The impact State and Federal regulations such as HIPPA and the State and Federal driver protection acts may have on sharing crash data,

- 4) the need for a unique standard identifier for linking files,
- 5) a suggestion was made that one contact person be identified to receive all calls for TR info.
- 6) We heard a presentation on how to determine hardware and software requirements for the system, the need for planning for future data and system needs, identifying data elements by name with similar definitions, and the different web technologies available.

## Second STRCC Meeting took place August 27<sup>th</sup>

The meeting consisted of electing STRCC members to subcommittee positions for 1) Writing a Strategic Plan, 2) Crash Report and Manual Review, 3) Electronic Data Transfer, 4) Data Integration, 5) GPS/GIS crash location, and 6) developing a member directory.

Each subcommittee is encouraged to meet as least twice before the next STRCC meeting to report progress.

## Data Upload Committee planning programming to receive electronic crash report data from agencies.

State Police, NJDOT and Office of Information Technology members have been meeting in an effort to complete a program to allow crash data to be uploaded through the State Police network and directly into the NJDOT Crash Records Section data base. Estimates are that approximately 200 local police departments save motor vehicle crash data to some degree to a database. Many enter the complete NJTR-1. They then print out a copy which they

mail to the NJDOT to be data entered again to the State file.

This is a major duplication of effort and a costly process considering the time and effort that each agency must expend to collect the data. These 200 police departments account for over 1/3 of the 530 total departments in New Jersey. It is unknown what percentage of the crash reports are generated by those that use a crash software program.

## Selected STRCC Responsibilities include:

1. Provide coordination and oversight for the development of the State's Crash Records System and ultimately for the Traffic Records System;
2. Provide administrative and technical guidance to its member agencies;
3. Facilitate communication and cooperation between and among the member organizations and agencies represented on the committee;
4. Establish goals for improving the crash records/Traffic Records program;
5. Develop recommended procedures to assist localities and state agencies that are users and/or providers of traffic records data in understanding and accepting their mutual responsibilities and interdependence;
6. Recommend updates to report forms and procedures to gather, maintain and disseminate traffic records. Recommend curriculum to the Police Training Commission and police academies. Produce a clear, concise police crash reporting manual;
7. Foster the development of new technologies for reporting, processing, storing, and communicating crash data at all levels;
8. Provide for continuing evaluation of the crash and traffic records systems.

**Agencies/Associations  
represented on STRCC**

**AOC**  
Administration Office of the Counts

**CAMTEA**  
County and Municipal Traffic Engineers  
Association

**DOE**  
Department of Education

**DOH**  
Department of Health  
Emergency Medical Services

**DHS**  
Department of Human Services

**DHTS**  
Division of Highway Traffic Safety

**DVRPC**  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning  
Commission

**NJ FARS**  
NJ Fatality Analysis Reporting System

**FHWA**  
Federal Highway Administration

**FMCSA**  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety  
Administration

**L&PS**  
Department of Law and Public Safety

**MVC**  
Motor Vehicle Commission

**NJDOT**  
NJ Department of Transportation

**NJPTOA**  
NJ Police Traffic Officer Association

**NJSACOP**  
NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police

**NJSFAC**  
NJ State First Aid Council

**NJSP**  
New Jersey State Police

**NJTPA**  
New Jersey Transportation Planning  
Authority

(cont)

**OIT**  
Office of Information Technology

**Rutgers University**  
CAIT-LTAP Center

**SJTPO**  
South Jersey Transportation Planning  
Organization

**Tips For Accurate CRASH  
INVESTIGATION and  
REPORTING**

Data entry persons can only  
enter what they see on the form

1. write clearly
2. complete all fields
3. don't abbreviate
4. road on which crash occurred - use the highest authority possible if it is known with several names,
5. be careful not to confuse deer with motor vehicle in transport.
6. use two digits to complete entries around the parameter
7. send a copy or all fatal investigations to 1) State Police - Fatal Crash Investigation unit, 2) NJDOT - crash records bureau, and 3) DHTS-FARS Unit.

**AND**

8. **Please** -use NJTR-1 Crash Reporting forms which were revised 6/01. Throw all other reports in recycling.

**Comments and Articles Needed**

If you have comments or articles concerning the State's Traffic Records program, or successes your department has experienced, please forward them to Al Tindall. [Al.Tindall@lps.state.nj.us](mailto:Al.Tindall@lps.state.nj.us).

**FOR POLICE  
DEPARTMENTS ONLY**

**SURVEY TO DETERMINE  
THE SCOPE OF COMPUTER  
SOFTWARE TO COLLECT  
CRASH DATA**

If your department is using a computer software program to capture crash data either at the scene or in headquarters, please let

Bill Beans know by E-mail at [William.Beans@dot.state.nj.us](mailto:William.Beans@dot.state.nj.us)  
or notify Al Tindall at [Al.Tindall@lps.state.nj.us](mailto:Al.Tindall@lps.state.nj.us)

We would be interested in  
knowing the following:

- the name of the crash reporting software program,
- the developer,
- number of licenses purchased by your department,
- cost per license,
- how much of the NJTR-1 do you enter to a computer
- how many crash reports entered a year,
- method of locating crashes (may include GIS or GPS),
- would your department be interested in electronically sending completed crash forms to the state instead of paper copies?

You may also fax your responses to Al Tindall (609)633-9028.

**Newsletter Distribution**

The STRCC Newsletter will also be distributed via E-mail. If you wish to receive the electronic version, please notify Bill or Al as listed in the paragraph above.

**Visit the STRCC Webpage at**

<http://njdot.nj.gov/refdata/strcc>