



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT MORRIS  
CHAIR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
LANSING

**Approved**

**Minutes of the Meeting held February 27, 2009  
4000 Collins Road, Lansing, Michigan**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Morris, Chair  
Michael Prince  
Capt. Robert Powers  
Linda Scarpetta  
Steven Puuri  
Chief David Stamm  
Kenneth Micklash  
Pamela Hall

**REPRESENTING**

Office of the Governor  
Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)  
Department of State Police (MSP)  
Department of Community Health (MDCH)  
Local Representative  
Local Representative  
Department of Education (MDOE)  
Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)

**STAFF**

Deb Sonnenberg

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Sheriff Al Byam  
John Friend

Local Representative  
Department of Transportation (MDOT)

**GUESTS**

Gary Bubar  
Sandy Liddle  
Dave Morena  
David Ford  
Homer Smith  
Robin Shively  
Fred Bueter  
Carol Reagan  
Ron Wilson  
Jim Culp  
Eric Bombery  
Angie Kremer  
Brian Zimmerman  
Bob Felt  
Peter Broderick  
Lori Conarton  
Chris Hawkins  
Kathy Farnum  
Debbie Savage  
Piétro Semifero  
Jim Santilli  
Carla Kohoyda-Inglis  
Jerry Walker  
Lawrence Hummel

**REPRESENTING**

AAA Michigan  
Financial & Insurance Regulation  
FHWA-Michigan  
FMCSA-Michigan Division  
MADD Michigan  
MDCH-EMS  
MDOS  
MDOS  
MDOS  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MLBA  
Insurance Institute of Michigan I  
MSP  
OHSP  
OHSP  
OHSP  
Traffic Improvement Association  
UM-Program for Injury Research and Education  
Traffic Improvement Association  
Van Buren Co. Road Commission

Robert Morris, Governor's Office • Michael Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Linda Scarpetta, Department of Community Health  
Kenneth Micklash, Department of Education • Anne Corgan, Department of State • Capt. Robert Powers, Michigan State Police •  
John C. Friend, Department of Transportation • Pamela Hall, Office of Services to the Aging • Sheriff Allen Byam, Local Representative  
Steven Puuri, Local Representative • Chief David Stamm, Local Representative

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The GTSAC meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Morris at 8:38 a.m.

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested they introduce themselves.

## **ROLL CALL**

A Roll Call of the Commissioners was completed determining a quorum was present.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Jim Santilli introduced Mr. Jerry Walker the newly appointed president of the Traffic Improvement Association (TIA) succeeding Mr. Frank Cardimen. Mr. Walker provided his background and offered TIA's assistance wherever possible.

## **APPROVAL OF GTSAC MINUTES**

Chair Morris called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2008, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mr. Puuri and supported by Ms. Scarpetta. ***Motion carried.***

## **STANDING REPORTS**

- **Chairman's Report – Mr. Robert Morris**

Recently attended a meeting of Pennsylvania's GTSAC equivalent where they were in the process of updating their Strategic Highway Safety Plan. He remarked how interesting it was to learn and compare the differences in law from Michigan particularly in the enforcement area.

- **Department of State Police (MSP) – Capt. Robert Powers**

Combined Accident Reduction Effort (CARE) – This organization has been around since the early 1980s and is a consortium of states and Canadian Provinces to promote traffic safety (accident reduction) through coordinated saturation patrols primarily on holiday weekends. Captain Powers reported that Michigan will be hosting the annual CARE Conference in 2010. Although the actual location has not been finalized, it will be held in the Ann Arbor area.

MSP Traffic Safety Division Staff Changes – Sgt. Darrell Allen will be overseeing work on traffic control orders and participating in breathalyzer/drug testing training, and Sgt. Michelle Hernandez will be overseeing the Safe Communities grant program.

- **Local Representation – Chief David Stamm (MACP)**

Enforcement Projects – Chief Stamm advised Genesee County will be conducting High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) initiatives this summer with funding from OHSP.

With funding through Community Mental Health the county is developing training programs with the Licensed Beverage Association and others to ensure businesses conduct responsible sales, have proper licensing and training, etc., aimed to reduce pedestrian and motor vehicle incident rates on specific roadways.

Chief Stamm thanked Captain Powers and his motor carrier enforcement officers for providing information and training in commercial vehicle enforcement.

- **Local Representation – Sheriff Al Byam (MSA)**

Absent

- **Local Representation – Mr. Steven Puuri (CRAM)**

County Road Association of Michigan Activities – Mr. Puuri reported winter maintenance has been the primary focus. He commented that the new winter road maintenance guidelines have not been as significant of an item as was originally thought.

Frost Depth – This year has recorded the deepest frost ever under the current measuring system. How quickly the frost goes out will determine how severe the gravel road conditions will become.

Road Stimulus Package – Counties will receive approximately the same amount of funding from the federal aid program as before. The difference will be receiving two years of funding at once.

Sign Reflectivity Requirement – County Road Commissions are facing another funding hurdle in order to comply with the sign reflective requirement. Mr. Puuri commended that his county is developing an action plan and hoping to get federal aid monies to replace approximately 30,000 signs over the five year period.

- **Department of Education (MDOE) – Mr. Kenneth Micklash**

Training Agency Association of Michigan (TAAM) - The MDOE works closely with TAM, a group of 14 intermediate school districts and Northern Michigan University to develop the school safety curriculum training programs for the 20,000 plus school bus drivers across the state. This group is now developing the next required continuing education program. Mr. Micklash requested anyone having ideas or thoughts that would be important to pass on to every school bus driver through this mandated training program to please contact him.

Final Rule for School Bus Safety – A federal rule change requires all new school buses to have higher seat backs, 24 inches, Michigan has 22 inch high seat backs. The rule also requires all smaller buses to come equipped with lap and shoulder belts. The rule also establishes standards for the installation of lap and shoulder belts on large buses.

Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) – This group meets quarterly to present and share safety ideas and concerns related to pupil transportation. Their next meeting is April 2 should anyone wish to attend.

- **Department of Community Health (MDCH) – Ms. Linda Scarpetta**

Child Passenger Safety (CPS) – A bill has been introduced to remove the nursing mother exemption from the Child Passenger Safety Law. If this bill is enacted and effective by July 1, Michigan would be eligible to apply for incentive funding related to booster seats.

Pedestrian Safety Workshops – The State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association received some funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support pedestrian safety workshops. The funding would be utilized to support travel for eight state teams to meet and collaborate and then return to their states and develop action plans around pedestrian safety. A proposal for Michigan to be one of the states included was submitted. We should be notified next month if Michigan was selected. The workshop is scheduled for June in Washington DC.

- **Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) – Ms. Pamela Hall**

Winter's Affect on Seniors – Ms. Hall reported the shutting off of utilities in homes of seniors by unregulated utility companies has resulted in deaths this winter. The OSA is concentrating its efforts to resolve this issue with the unregulated companies. In Michigan, regulated utility companies, under the umbrella of the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), have an established winter protection program stating from November 1 to April 30, a senior cannot be disconnected from their utilities.

Ms. Hall also staffs the Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm. She has been going around the state to renew interest in the Gatekeeper Program that was developed to engage everyone, particularly delivery/postal workers and law enforcement, etc., to be alert for signs a senior (or anyone) may need help. Signs to look for include newspapers and mail accumulating, driveways and sidewalks not shoveled, etc..

- **Department of State (DOS) – Ms. Anne Corgan**

Medical Advisory Board – Secretary Land has formed a Medical Advisory Board placing Michigan among the majority of states having one. The Board consists of nine members from various medical disciplines. Their first meeting was held recently and identified the many facets to be addressed.

National Driver Education Standards – In its process to develop national driver education standards, NHTSA requested states to comment on the proposed standards. Michigan presented its new driver education statute and found it meets the majority of the proposed national standards.

Lame Duck Legislation – Ms. Corgan reported that several significant bills were enacted during the Lame duck session. Bills included High BAC, Basic Driver Improvement Course, and changes to the Driver Responsibility Fee process. Many of the effective dates have been pushed into 2010 mostly due to the amount of effort needed to implement the initiatives and the DOS Technology Refresh Project in process.

Enhanced Drivers License – Implementation and issuance of the Enhanced Drivers License is on track for April. The license costs less than half of a passport. DOS will soon be briefing the law enforcement community about the license, i.e., what it looks like, what the security features are, etc.

- **Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Mr. John Friend**

Absent

- **Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) – Mr. Michael Prince**

Transportation Research Board - TR News Article – In 2006, Michigan was one of four states looked at as having exceptional traffic safety cultures. An article in the November 2008 issue of the TR News, *Creating a Culture of Traffic Safety*, written by Betty Mercer, is in follow-up to that study and summarizes the studies and the results.

OHSP Web Site – The OHSP Annual Evaluation Report is now available on the OHSP Web site at [www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp). Also available on the site is the OHSP bi-monthly news letter, and information on the Traffic Safety Summit. As a cost savings measure, many more items are being posted to the Web site in lieu of printing and mailing them. Because of this, Mr. Prince encouraged visiting the OHSP site often.

Holiday Drunk Driving Crackdown Enforcement Results

From December 19 through January 4, over 200 police agencies from 34 counties participated in the holiday crackdowns. Officers logged over 7,500 patrol hours, stopped over 7,300 vehicles, removed 365 drunk drivers from the roads, and issued 163 safety belt citations, 24 child restraint citations, over 700 speeding citations, 2,500 other traffic citations, and made 22 felony arrests. Mr. Prince commented this was great activity and congratulated the enforcement members that worked this detail.

Saved by the Belt Program – OHSP and Jack Peet with AAA Michigan, have partnered to offer the new Saved by the Belt program. The new pocket-sized application form can be easily carried by enforcement officers so if they police a crash where they believe a safety belt has saved someone from serious injury or death, it is readily available to be filled out and sent in. Mr. Prince reported that several applications have already been received, reviewed by the committee, and awards presented.

OHSP 2009 Funding Priorities

High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) - There are 55 counties covering 90 percent of the state's population that will receive supplemental federal funds to support aggressive overtime traffic patrols. This includes two statewide drunk driving crackdowns over the July 4 and Labor Day holidays when crash data shows the problem is most evident.

Underage Drinking Prevention and Enforcement - OHSP will invest over \$1.8 million in strategies to prevent and enforce violations of Michigan's underage drinking laws.

Paid and Earned Media Campaigns – OHSP is funding the production of new television and radio advertisements. Working in close partnership with experts in the marketing field, the aim is to strategically target those that are most likely to violate the law with attention grabbing advertisements to drive the message home.

Sobriety Courts – OHSP will invest \$300,000 in federal safety funds to establish seven new sobriety courts in Michigan. Michigan is one of the leading states in the nation in the use of sobriety courts, a strategy that is proven to be effective in reducing drunken driving recidivism.

Forensic Laboratory Support – With the passage of the .08 BAC law in 2003, and the inclusion of a provision for Schedule 1 Drugs, the demand for Toxicology services from the State Police Forensic Science Laboratories has skyrocketed. OHSP will continue to provide funding support to expedite the testing of blood samples from suspected drunk drivers to assist law enforcement and prosecutors to quickly and efficiently prosecute offenders.

FY-2010 Funding Awards – The biggest emphasis for FY-2010 funding will be on performance and accountability. OHSP will be receiving approximately \$1 million less funding for programs in FY-2010. As a result of this, OHSP will be giving funding priority to projects that are performing well and hitting their benchmarks and moving the numbers. Some projects will undoubtedly not be continued.

With Congress pressuring states to improve their liquidation rates and get the money spent on programs, OHSP will be taking into consideration an agency's liquidation rate in determining future funding awards. In FY08, Michigan reported the best liquidation rate in the region at 93 percent.

Funding emphasis will be given to proven strategies that move the numbers, not on pilot programs or theoretical programs. More focus than ever will be placed on projects having solid problem identification and data.

FY2010 Planning Process – OHSP has begun its FY-2010 planning and, as in the past, information provided by the action teams and the SHSP will be critical components in the planning process.

## **LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**

Chair Morris welcomed and introduced Trooper Chris Hawkins of the Michigan State Police Executive Division, who will be providing the legislative reports from now on due to the promotion of Lt. Matt Bolger.

## **ACTION TEAM UPDATES**

Ms. Kathy Farnum announced that Action Team meeting schedules, meeting notes, and Action Plans are accessible from the GTSAC Web site located under Action Teams. The following Action Teams reported on their action plan activities and accomplishments to date.

- Young Driver – Mr. Gary Bubar
- EMS – Ms. Robin Shivley
- Motorcycle Safety - Mr. Ron Wilson
- Traffic Records – Mr. Fred Bueter

## **ACTION ITEMS**

None

## **PRESENTATION**

Michigan Deer Crash Coalition (MDCC) – Ms. Lori Conarton, Chair  
The MDCC is actively working to build up their membership. Information has been sent to previous partners and to other groups identified that could be of help to the coalition.

Although deer crashes primarily occur in the fall, they do occur all year around, for this reason the MDCC will be issuing a spring news release this year. Other 2009 activities include planning two news conferences in the fall, one held in Lansing and one held in Southeast Michigan.

In addition to information being provided to county sheriff offices and Secretary of State Branch offices, the MDCC intends to develop a packet of information for various associations, chamber of commerce offices, etc., to help spread the word through their activities and publications. MDCC is also preparing to have their video placed on YouTube and using other social networking sites to get their information out. MDCC is observing strategies that some local municipalities have implemented, and if proven successful, will be providing that information to other agencies.

### **MISCELLNEOUS REPORTS**

- **Michigan Truck Safety Commission (MTSC) – Capt. Robert Powers**

In October 2008, the Michigan Truck Safety Commission celebrated its 20th anniversary with two media events. The media events drew the attention of representatives from the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) who became very interested in the uniqueness of MTSC and its successes in promoting commercial vehicle safety here in Michigan. The result was CVSA sponsoring a 30 minute Podcast available on their Web site at [www.cvsa.org](http://www.cvsa.org) under “In the Safety Zone.”

- **2009 Traffic Safety Summit Update – Mr. Michael Prince**

Michigan Traffic Safety Summit is March 24 to 26, 2009. Many diverse speakers and workshops are scheduled to be of interest to a wide spectrum of traffic safety advocates. A record number of registrations have been received so far and it is anticipated to be sold out soon. Anyone not registered should do so soon.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:53 a.m.**