



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

ROBERT MORRIS
CHAIR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMISSION
LANSING

Approved

**Minutes of the Meeting held October 31, 2008
4000 Collins Road, Lansing, Michigan**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Morris, Chair
Michael Prince
Capt. Robert Powers
Linda Scarpetta
Steven Puuri
Chief David Stamm
Kenneth Micklash
Anne Corgan
Sheriff Al Byam
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)
Department of State (MDOS)
Local Representative
Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)

STAFF

Deb Sonnenberg

MEMBERS EXCUSED

John Friend

Department of Transportation (MDOT)

GUESTS

Gary Bubar
Sandy Liddle
Dave Morena
Patrick Muinch
Betty Mercer
Carol Reagan
Eric Bombery
Kim Lariviere
James Culp
Bob Felt
Brian Zimmerman
Mark Bott
Matt Bolger
Greg Bliss
Frank Mitidieri
Mouhamad Naboulsi
Thelma Kuska
Anne Readett
Kathy Farnum
Steve Schreier
Ken Stecker
Lawrence Hummel

REPRESENTING

AAA Michigan
Financial & Insurance Regulation
FHWA
FMCSA-Michigan Division
Mercer Consultants LLC
MDOS
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MSP
National Save a Life Tour
National Save a Life Tour
Applied Computer Tech
NHTSA Region 5, Illinois
OHSP
OHSP
OHSP
Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan (PAAM)
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 8:37 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Morris opened the meeting by welcoming and introducing Commissioner Mr. Kenneth Micklash. Mr. Micklash was appointed by State Superintendent Michael Flanagan to represent the Michigan Department of Education, succeeding Mr. Sinila.

ROLL CALL

A roll call of the Commissioners was completed determining a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF GTSAC MINUTES

Chair Morris called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2008 meeting with one noted correction identified by Commissioner Corgan. A motion to accept the corrected minutes was made by Mr. Puuri and supported by Chief Stamm. ***Motion carried.***

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr. Morris commented that with the new Strategic Highway Safety Plan completed now begins our getting down to business to implement the plan. Beginning with the December 12 meeting, Mr. Morris requested the Action Team Updates be added back on the agenda. In 2009, Mr. Morris plans to attend various action team meetings to familiarize himself further into the workings of the Commission.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – F/Lt. Matt Bolger

Mr. Morris introduced F/Lieutenant Bolger and announced he has been promoted within the MSP Executive Division. Mr. Morris complimented F/Lieutenant Bolger for the legislative oversight he has provided to the Commission. His successor has yet to be named. F/Lieutenant Bolger proceeded with his summary of traffic safety-related legislation of interest.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

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

Absent

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

Courageous Persuaders - The Courageous Persuaders competition was recently kicked off. This program challenges high school students to create 30 second TV commercials that persuade middle school students to stay away from underage drinking.

Drive Safely to Wayne State - DOS again participated in the Drive Safely to Wayne State kick-off event where Secretary Land was presented an award acknowledging the Department of State's traffic safety efforts.

DOS Motorcycle Safety Program – Ms. Corgan announced that an FY09 grant from the OHSP will provide for additional motorcycle safety training classes for drivers/riders in FY09. Ms. Corgan reported that two public sponsors of the motorcycle program discontinued their participation for various reasons. DOS is actively seeking replacements.

Enhanced Drivers License – Ms. Corgan commented that the CMV Border Crossing Guide does not provide the latest proof of citizenship option available from DOS (published prior to option approval). Ms. Corgan announced that the DOS has taken action to offer an Enhanced Drivers License that provides instant citizenship and security clearance verification at border crossings. The license will be available for public purchase in the spring of 2009.

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

OSA hosts Webina – OSA hosted a Webinar on AARP's report of promising positive approaches to lifelong mobility. The purpose of the Webinar was to gather information to assist in the creation of a baseline to evaluate area agencies and communities on how they are supporting the transportation needs of seniors. Once developed, a facilitator is utilized to help the agencies and communities identify more transportation options for seniors.

OSA Office Moved - Ms. Hall advised that the OSA office has moved to a building in downtown Lansing across from the Lansing Centre. Her telephone number remains the same.

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

Angela Glew Taken ill - Ms. Scarpetta announced that Angela Glew, their department's child passenger safety specialist and also Chair of the GTSAC Occupant Protection Action Team, fell very ill suddenly in September and was in the hospital for seven weeks. She is better now and recovering at home.

2009 CPS Training - MDCH has several training sessions scheduled for 2009. Courses offered include the four-day certification course, a new technician refresher course, continuing education course, EMS class in CPS, and outreach events in communities void of technicians.

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

Pupil Transportation - Mr. Micklash advised that pupil transportation is the safest form of transportation in America. Data from the 06-07 school year identifies Michigan as having 1.6 million students with 1,035,986 of them utilizing pupil transportation twice daily for 180 school days. The miles traveled during that school year totaled over 187 million for regular routes alone. Add to that total the miles of extracurricular trips and the total equals over 200 million miles traveled annually. Statistically, on the national level, an average of five student in-bus fatalities occurs each year compared to 800 fatalities of students that did not participate in pupil transportation.

New School Bus Requirements - Mr. Micklash reported that new federal regulations were passed this year upgrading school passenger crash protection requirements. Effective in 2011, new school buses with a GVW of 10,000 pounds or less are required to have lap/shoulder belts in lieu of just lap belts. This rule also created performance standards for buses over 10,000 pounds GVW for use on a volunteer basis. A rule change affecting new school buses in 2009 is the higher seatback requirement.

Bus Driver Medical Requirements - MDOE is proposing a legislative amendment to adopt the USDOT Driver Medical Examination Standards for school bus drivers. This action would align the requirements for school bus drivers with commercial vehicle drivers and others. MDOE plans to maintain their Diabetes Exemption program and to revise it to provide more specific qualification guidelines to assist doctors and others in the evaluation process.

Appreciation for Crossing Guard Curriculum Revision - Mr. Micklash, on behalf of the MDOE, acknowledged the assistance of AAA and the State Police in revising the statewide curriculum training for crossing guards in Michigan.

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

Nominations for MACP Traffic Safety Awards - The deadline to submit nominations for the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety awards is approaching. Chief Stamm acknowledged OHSP and MSP Director Colonel Munoz for obtaining funding to allow the program to continue.

Quick Clearance Pilot Update - Chief Stamm spoke with the chief of Auburn Hills on how the Quick Clearance program on I-75 has been working. Although the supporting data isn't available yet, it is reported to be very successful. Chief Stamm acknowledged MDOT for the facilitating a workshop in the Saginaw area on Quick Clearance and other traffic safety concerns.

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

New Sheriff's School - Sheriff Byam reported that after the November 4 election it is anticipated there will be at least 25 new sheriffs. In December, the Michigan Sheriff's Association will be running a two-week school for all of the new Sheriffs.

STOPPED Program - The STOPPED program partnership with AAA and the Department of State continues. There are now over 7,000 drivers registered. Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land personally recognized several counties for their work on this program.

- **Local Representation – Mr. Steven Puuri**

Funding Alternatives - The County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) is actively involved in legislation being introduced to address alternative funding sources to off-set road maintenance deficits.

Winter Road Maintenance - Mr. Puuri reported that county road commissions have modified their winter road maintenance practices to maximize supplies and services as best as possible. Due to the significant higher cost of salt, a sand/salt mix will be used primarily by road commissions. Mr. Puuri stated that MDOT contracts with several county road commissions to provide winter road maintenance on state roads. These agencies have been notified of MDOT's modified winter road maintenance policy in which to follow.

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

School Bus Inspections - Captain Powers provided a summary of the school bus inspection results for the year. He stated the initial data released on the number of buses passing inspection was incorrect due to a formula error in the data capturing software. The accurate numbers depict an increase in the number of school buses passing inspection. A significant increase was reported in the number of school districts and transportation providers receiving MSP recognition for attaining a 100 percent pass rate upon first inspection.

Border Crossing Guide - Captain Powers presented copies of the newly published Border Crossing Guide developed to enhance commercial vehicle safety, security, and promote efficient trade and transportation across the borders. The guide provides both foreign (primarily Canadian) and U.S. carriers and drivers with information on how to comply with the regulations upon crossing international borders. The guide is free and is available in three languages and on DVD. The guide can be downloaded from the Michigan State Police Traffic Safety Division's Web site, the Michigan Department of Transportation's Web site, and the Michigan Center for Truck Safety's Web site. Hard copies and the DVD version can also be obtained by contacting Michigan Center for Truck Safety.

Operation Safe Driver/MTSC 20th Anniversary Events - Captain Powers reported on the success of the recent international Operation Safe Driver campaign that was kicked-off here in Michigan with a media event at the Capitol on October 21 in conjunction with the 20th anniversary celebration of the Michigan Truck Safety Commission. Other media events were held in Grand Rapids and Saginaw. Operation Safe Driver promotes driver awareness of the driver factor in crashes. Data identifies 88 percent of all crashes involving a large truck is caused by driver error.

CMV Inspection Totals - Captain Powers identified an error in a recent press release where the total of commercial vehicle inspections conducted during Specialized Transportation Enforcement operations (5,700) was misinterpreted to represent the total number commercial vehicle inspections conducted by MSP motor carrier enforcement officers for the entire year. Actually, over 80,000 inspections were conducted.

Unsafe Transportation of Food - Captain Powers reported that enforcement officers continue to encounter unsafe transportation of food products by trucks, especially rental trucks, to mostly Asian, Chinese, Mexican, and Italian restaurants. Food is not refrigerated, not properly packaged, raw poultry open and hanging in the truck, beef not USDA approved, and even products banned in the U.S.

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

Safety Belt Use Rate - Mr. Prince reported that in 1983, Michigan's safety belt use rate was around 15 percent. As of this day, Michigan's use rate is at 97.2 percent and is the highest belt use rate in the country. Mr. Prince acknowledged the great work of Michigan's law enforcement (state, county and local) in their enforcement efforts, and thanked Anne Readett, OHSP's Communications Chief, for her leadership in the publicity campaigns providing top-notch paid advertising and earned media coverage to compliment the enforcement efforts.

New Emphasis Area - OHSP has added an emphasis area focusing on nighttime safety belt use and drunk driving enforcement. OHSP is initiating stronger efforts to address drunk driving, promote teens to use safety belts and good driving behavior, and motor cycle safety initiatives.

Labor Day Holiday Over the Limit. Under Arrest Crackdown - Mr. Prince reported that 350 agencies in 55 counties took part in the grant-funded overtime enforcement initiative. Their efforts resulted in over 800 drunk driving arrests, over 600 safety belt citations issued, 166 child safety seat citations issued, over 5,000 speeding citations issue, over 2,000 misdemeanor arrests, 12 stolen vehicles were recovered, and 200 wanted fugitives were apprehended.

Halloween Weekend Patrols - Over 50 law enforcement agencies in 13 counties are using a portion of their traffic safety fund to step up enforcement between October 30 and November 2.

Video Billboards - Mr. Prince reported that video billboards are showing up along roadways across the country. These are literally televisions sets the size of billboards that actually show videos. OHSP and others will be monitoring closely the traffic safety issues occurring as the interest in the billboards progresses eastward from California. Since Michigan law prohibits a video monitor in a vehicle that is visible to the driver, it will be interesting to see what transpires when these billboard-size television sets crop up next to the highways here. Legislative action may be needed to address the billboards as driver distraction.

Dear Crash Awareness Month – OHSP, the Deer Crash Coalition, and others are actively involved in deer crash awareness month activities. The Highway Loss Data Institute issued a news release regarding the number of fatal crash caused by animals, particularly deer. According to the Institute's statistics, which are based on FARS data, Michigan is fifth in the nation for fatal crashes involving deer. Michigan's Traffic Crash Data depicts Michigan with an even higher number of fatal crashes because of deer related crash reporting differences.

Reauthorization Bill - OHSP is closely monitoring the development of the upcoming reauthorization. The current transportation bill expires at the end of 2009. The GHSA and AASHTO are also engaged and monitoring this issue closely at the national level. Due to many national factors, new administration, economy, budget deficits, etc., it is anticipated funding under the new reauthorization to be more competitive. NHTSA advises there will be more emphasis on performance and accountability to validate that funding for traffic safety on the behavioral side is being directed toward what Congress intended for, and that there is a relationship between the funding that is being spent and traffic safety and reductions of traffic fatalities and injuries.

GTSAC Traffic Safety Awards - Nominations are being accepted until November 7. The awards are a great way to recognize those that contribute greatly to traffic safety in Michigan. Mr. Morris asked that everyone ensure their agencies and organizations are aware of and share with their stakeholders this opportunity to recognize people who have gone above and beyond their duty to do something good for their community that ultimately saves lives.

ACTION TEAM UPDATES

None – Suspended pending Governor approval of SHSP.

OTHER REPORTS

- **Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) & Action Teams Update – Ms. Kathy Farnum**
SHSP Approval - Ms. Farnum announced that the final draft of the SHSP is at the Governor's office for review and approval.

Action Team Chair Meeting - An Action Team Chair meeting was held on September 4 to develop an action plan template and a template for reporting a team's accomplishments and activities to the GTSAC. These templates were designed to provide uniformity to the action plans and reporting guidelines. OHSP's graphic artist has designed new Action Plan cover pages that provide a professional appearance and also uniformity of format. Action Teams will be posting activities and information on their Web pages to provide ready reference to team members and interested parties.

EMS Action Team Development - Ms. Robin Shively of the Department of Community Health is spearheading the effort to establish an EMS Action Team. She is proposing to the EMS Coordinating Committee (similar to GTSAC) to assign a sub-committee to serve as GTSAC's EMS Action Team.

Michigan's SHSP Process Tagged for National Model - Because of Michigan's great performance in developing and implementing its SHSP, AASHTO's sub-committee on Highway Safety Management selected Michigan and five other states to participate in the development of a national project management tool (program model) for states to follow. The model is to be completed by January and piloted-tested in four states from February through October.

- **2009 Traffic Safety Summit Update – Ms. Anne Readett**
 Ms. Readett announced the five general session topics and speakers that are confirmed so far for the 2009 Summit. For the very first time OHSP received more idea topics than there is space available. Every effort was made to accommodate as many of the topic suggestions as possible. Ms. Readett expressed that the 2009 Summit will be the absolute best ever in terms of the diversity in topics to be covered. The Summit is March 24-26, 2009, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

ACTION ITEM

- **Approval of 2009 GTSAC Meeting Schedule**
 The 2009 GTSAC proposed meeting schedule was approved by the Commissioners.

PRESENTATIONS

- **National Save a Life Tour - Mr. Gregg Bliss and Frank Mitidieri**
 Mr. Mitidieri gave an overview of their organization and their efforts in using entertainment through video to provide a simulated experience of driving drunk. In 2007, the Save a Life Tour visited over 700 locations including colleges, high schools, navy bases, and air craft carriers. Of the 700 locations, only five were in Michigan. Mr. Bliss expressed their desire to have an increased presence in Michigan. There are currently eight simulator programs each geared for a particular audience. A motor cycle program is currently under development to address the increase in use and crash statistics.
- **MDOT/MSP Commercial Vehicle Strategy Team (CVST) - Capt. Robert Powers**
 Captain Powers explained that the CVST is a partnership between MSP and MDOT to promote commercial vehicle safety utilizing technology to enhance enforcement efforts and increase protection of Michigan's infrastructure. Captain Powers displayed a video providing an overview of the program.

ADJOURNED AT 11:50 A.M.

Misc. Handouts

Updated Commissioner Contact List

Next Meeting - December 12, 2008