



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

ROBERT MORRIS
CHAIR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMISSION
LANSING

Approved

**Minutes of the Meeting held December 12, 2008
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
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
John Friend

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)
Department of Transportation (MDOT)

STAFF

Deb Sonnenberg

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Anne Corgan
Sheriff Al Byam

Department of State (MDOS)
Local Representative

GUESTS

Gary Bubar
Sandy Liddle
Patrick Muinch
Homer Smith
Lisa Grost
Carol Reagan
Eric Bombery
Kim Lariviere
Mark Bott
Peter Broderick
Anne Readett
Kathy Farnum
Steve Schreier
Debbie Savage
Ken Stecker
Piétro Semifero
Lawrence Hummel

REPRESENTING

AAA Michigan
Financial & Insurance Regulation
FMCSA-Michigan Division
MADD Michigan
MDCH
MDOS
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MLBA
OHSP
OHSP
OHSP
OHSP
Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan (PAAM)
OHSP
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 8:43 a.m.

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 October 31, 2008, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Captain Powers and supported by Mr. Micklash. ***Motion carried.***

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr. Morris commented on the economic issues facing Michigan and the nation and speculated on the impact legislative actions may have on the transportation industry.

Now that the 2009 Strategic Highway Safety Plan is in place and action teams are actively engaged, beginning with this meeting, action team status reports are back on the agenda. Mr. Morris expressed his desire to attend as many action team meetings as he can and requested meeting schedules be provided to him.

Mr. Morris unveiled the GTSAC lapel pins that were made up for the Commissioners and action team members to wear proudly in acknowledgement of the outstanding contributions everyone has made.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

F/Lt. Matt Bolger was unable to attend this meeting, however, did provide a summary report for review.

Mr. Homer Smith of MADD reported on legislation being developed that would provide a first-time offense for a high Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) offender that also includes raising the BAC level from .15 to .17.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS**• Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Mr. John Friend**

MDOT's Call for Projects – Mr. Friend reported that MDOT is issuing their call for projects letter to staff statewide that provides guidance on how to prepare MDOT's transportation program. The transportation program will have a clear tie to the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) reinforcing staff that the SHSP developed by the GTSAC is the primary vehicle that guides MDOT's safety investments and safety decisions on how they approach projects.

Gas Price Affect on MDOT - Mr. Friend explained that the higher the gas price is, the less usage there is, and when you have a usage-based tax, your revenue can actually go down. At \$4 per gallon, MDOT realizes less revenue than if it were at \$1.70 per gallon since the revenue is based on gallons used vs. percent of the price.

Maintenance Funding – Due to the extremely hard winter, parts of the U.P. are reporting salt use over 50 percent higher than last year which was a record year itself. MDOT may have some challenges this spring to balance maintenance funding with their own forces and county road commissions as well.

Safety Investment Initiatives – The Cable Guard Rail and Centerline Rumble Strip initiatives are showing positive results and gaining public support. Specific instances have been documented where these safety initiatives have reduced fatalities by preventing vehicles from crossing over into oncoming traffic. Ms. Hall commented that seniors are expressing great support for the rumble strips also. Mr. Friend shared that one gentleman wrote in how he used the strips to maintain his lane in a snow storm. Captain Powers added that the Federal Motor Carrier Advisory Committee unanimously adopted the recommendation of more broad and widespread deployment of the two safety systems.

Federal Economic Stimulus Package – MDOT has committed between 2.5 and 3 billion dollars in projects to be delivered within 180 days of the bill enactment. A project list has been developed by MDOT so should the funding be approved, MDOT is ready to begin action on projects. This is the President-elect's proposal; therefore, the final language and requirements will not be known until after he takes office. If matching funds are required, MDOT has requested the projects be 100 percent federally funded due to Michigan's economic situation and requested minimizing the amount of earmarking that would be done.

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

Absent

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

Winter's Affect on Seniors – The winter months tend to increase depression and health issues among seniors due to being alone during the holidays and isolated due to the cold weather. To provide seniors with information on where to go and who to contact for their health and safety concerns, OSA provided an information document to be provided to seniors by volunteers delivering their in-home meals.

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

Child Passenger Safety (CPS) – MDCH will be working with their CPS instructors to conduct a variety of CPS courses including certification, re-certification, community outreach, and update continuing education courses. MDCH is currently working with instructors to develop training for hospital personnel to ensure newborns are discharged safely in car seats. A law enforcement curriculum will be pilot tested soon, and also classes on securing special needs children.

Prescription Drug Misuse – The CDC considers the deaths from prescription drug overdose to be at epidemic level. Nationally, traffic crash deaths due to prescription drug overdose have been significantly increasing over the past several years. MDCH is actively pursuing strategies that could be implemented to prevent the overuse/addiction and accessibility to these substances.

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

Eyes on the Road Program – Pupil transportation personnel throughout the state, along with commercial vehicle drivers, are being engaged in the Eyes On the Road program to report any suspicious homeland security activity they may encounter in the course of their daily activity using a toll-free telephone number they are provided.

Fatalities Data for Loading and Unloading – Since the 1970-71 school year, data has been collected on school bus loading and unloading fatalities. The data supports major strides made in pupil transportation safety nationally. The first year data was collected, 1970-71, nationally, 75 children were killed either by their own school bus (run over) or by a passing vehicle. The latest data from the 2007-2008 school year, reports 6 fatalities.

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

Sobriety Identification Programs – Chief Stamm announced that Michigan is implementing an Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program. This program, is funded through the Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) grant program administered through the MSP Training Division, will train officers to identify not only alcohol abuse, but also drug and poly-substance abuse.

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

Absent

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

County Road Association of Michigan Activities – Mr. Puuri reported that due to various funding programs, road commissions were able to undertake several projects in 2007 and 2008. The Washtenaw County Road Commission correlated construction dollars received those two years to supporting 1,000 full-time construction workers. Their 2009 budget correlates to supporting 270 less jobs. Mr. Puuri surmised that all county road commissions will be impacted similarly in 2009 and 2010.

Training Program for New Local Officials – The Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) has designated Michigan Tech to conduct training for newly elected officials on the engineering aspects of traffic safety, traffic signal warrants, etc., to help them better understand the technical aspects behind the positions and decisions road commissions make.

- **Department of State Police (MSP) – Capt. Robert Powers**
Unified Carrier Registration Program (UCR) – Captain Powers reported that the UCR motor carrier fee collection program for interstate motor carriers that went into effect last year is not generating the revenue as anticipated to support commercial vehicle enforcement. The 2009 revenue generated is not expected to be any higher. The reduced revenue will most likely impact the MSP from conducting a Motor Carrier Enforcement Officer recruit school in 2009.
- **Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) – Mr. Michael Prince**
National SHSP Development – Earlier this year, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) initiated a project to develop a Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation Process Model (SHSP-IPM) to assist states with their SHSP implementation efforts. FHWA identified six model states that had demonstrated exemplary safety efforts in some phase of the SHSP process. Michigan was one of the states selected as a model. Mr. Prince acknowledged the efforts of the GTSAC, Mr. Morris, and Ms. Farnum for the outstanding product Michigan has to share with the other states.

Record Low Highway Fatalities – Ms. Mary Peters, Secretary of Transportation, will be announcing new national data showing a significant decrease in highway fatalities in 2008 from 2007. Only data collected from January through October was used so the numbers are provisional pending analysis of data through December. Provisional data identifies 772 people died on Michigan roads from January through October 2008, compared to 895 during the same time period in 2007, which equates to a 13 percent reduction. If the numbers hold true, Michigan could have a very sizable reduction in traffic fatalities.

OHSP Realignment – OHSP sources report that under the new Reauthorization Bill, a lot of focus will be on performance and accountability in determining federal transportation funding. This fall, OHSP realigned its organization structure in preparation for the new reauthorization process and also to continue ever-increasing levels of support to the Commission and action teams.

Halloween Patrols – Mr. Prince reported that officers in 14 Michigan counties arrested 51 drunk drivers and wrote 588 safety belt citations during the four-day Halloween enforcement period October 30 through November 2.

Holiday Drunk Driving Crackdown – Enforcement officers in 34 counties are taking part in a holiday drunk driving crackdown across the state. Officers will also be on the lookout for seat belt violations during the daytime enforcement zones. These counties will be supported by nearly a half million in federal traffic safety funds to put additional officers on the road. The crackdown will be supported by statewide and localized news releases before, during, and after the enforcement effort.

State Forensic Laboratories Toxicology Funding – As a result of the zero tolerance BAC .08 legislation passed a few years back, MSP forensic laboratory toxicology units became overwhelmed with blood analysis for drunk driving and drug screening cases submitted by state, county, and local law enforcement agencies. Since no extra funding was included in the bill to cover the extra case load expenditures, OHSP worked with the state laboratory to provide them with updated equipment and additional toxicology scientists to specifically conduct blood analysis in drunk driving cases.

Video Testimony Equipment – Funding from OHSP and the National Institute of Justice supported an integrated video pilot project where closed circuit video equipment was installed at one MSP forensic laboratory and also at a select group of courts where forensic scientists traveled to on a regular basis to testify in drunk driving cases. This project enables the laboratory scientists to testify directly from the laboratory allowing them more time for forensic analysis in lieu of wasted hours on the road and waiting in courtrooms to testify. This project has been so successful that MSP was awarded a Council of State

Governments 2008 Innovation Award for the development and use of video testimony. Michigan is the first state in the country to employ a statewide video conferencing system specifically designed for forensic expert testimony in court proceedings.

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.

ACTION TEAM UPDATES

- **Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety – Ms. Lisa Grost**

Ms. Grost reported that the action team concentrated on restructuring their action plan over the last few months and provided an overview of the four areas of recommendations the team would like to concentrate their efforts on. Ms. Grost highlighted the team's many accomplishments in 2008 and their very intensive initiatives plan for 2009. A copy of Ms. Grost's report was provided to all in attendance.

- **Senior Mobility – Ms. Kim Lariviere**

Ms. Lariviere reported that the team's action plan is complete and will be posted on the Web site next week. Accomplishments for 2008 included MDOT awarding Central Michigan University and the DEER Center a research project where the results will be used to develop a multi-media tool kit to promote education and awareness for seniors on safe driving practices. Ms. Lariviere also highlighted future initiatives and what actions are in progress to address them.

- **Impaired Driving – Mr. Homer Smith**

Mr. Smith provided the results of the "follow-up" survey sent to participants of the social norming symposium held earlier in the year. One-third of the participants responded to the survey. One hundred percent of the responses indicated the symposium was a positive and beneficial experience. Over one-half of them indicated they had either implemented or increased their usage of social norming messages as a result of attending the symposium. Mr. Smith commented on the accomplishments and success resulting from this initiative. Mr. Smith provided an overview of the team's future initiatives and actions in progress to address them.

- **Commercial Vehicle Safety – Mr. Mike Prince on behalf of Dr. Jackie El-Sayed**

Mr. Prince provided copies of the published Michigan Truck Safety Commission's (MTSC) Annual Report and stated it is also available on the MTSC Web sit. Since 2002, commercial motor vehicle crashes have declined 26 percent in Michigan and is a testament to the successful education and enforcement initiatives funded by the Commission. One of the highlights of 2008, was the creation of the MTSC 2008-2010 Strategic Plan utilizing data from the comprehensive study conducted by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) on Commercial Motor Vehicle Crashes, Factors, and Prevention. Mr. Prince provided an overview of the MTSC's future initiatives and the endeavors in progress to address them.

OTHER REPORTS

- **GTSAC 2008 Traffic Safety Awards – Ms. Debbie Savage**

Ms. Debbie Savage reported that 37 excellent nominations were submitted for traffic safety award consideration. The selection committee reviewed the nominations and selected three long-term award winners and five 2008 award winners. The Commissioners concurred with the selections. OHSP will initiate the notification process.

- **2009 Traffic Safety Summit Update – Ms. Anne Readett**

Ms. Readett announced the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit is March 24 to 26, 2009. The registration brochure will be available on OHSP's Web site within a week, followed by a mailing in early January. The cost to attend is the same as last year, \$75 for early registration and \$125 if registering late. There are 28 workshops offered covering topics of interest to law enforcement, transportation engineers, EMS and first responders, and state and local government, to name a few.

ACTION ITEMS

- None

PRESENTATION(S)

- None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:40 a.m.

Next Meeting – February 27, 2009