

# MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

March 13, 2013

## Meeting Minutes

### Commissioners Present

Fred Bueter, Chair  
Tom O'Brien, Vice Chair  
Walter Heinritzi  
Dr. Dan Blower  
Keith Ferris  
Capt. Harold Love  
Charles Moser  
Mike Prince  
Robert Ramels  
Ken Houck

### Commissioners Absent

Dave Goller

### Guests

Tim Bolles, MSP  
John Wallace, FMCSA  
Jill Skutar, MCTS  
Jeff Stevens, Maner Costerisan  
Lacey Latimore, MPSC  
Kirk Forbes, MPSC  
Dr. Nicholas Nwabueze, MPSC  
Lt. Susan Fries, MSP  
Glenn Murckel, Davis Cartage  
Greg Causly, Causly Trucking  
Ed Eberly, MTA  
Evan Stoutant  
Dave Richmond  
Brad Banks  
Tom Reed

### OHSP Staff

Kathy Farnum  
Janet Hengesbach  
Kim Kelly  
Spencer Simmons  
Charlotte Kilvington  
Julie Roth

## CALL TO ORDER

The MTSC meeting was called to order by Mr. Fred Bueter, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self introductions were made of those present.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the November 7, 2012 MTSC meeting was made by Mr. Ferris and supported by Captain Love. The **MOTION** carries.

## STANDING REPORTS

### A. Chair's Report – Mr. Fred Bueter

Mr. Bueter reported the recent legislation regarding the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) skills test waiver for military veterans has passed and will be effective in March 2013. All qualified veterans can waive the skills portion of the test. Qualified veterans would still have to pass the knowledge test portion of the process. Thus far, 37 states have passed similar legislation.

The hand-held cell phone ban for CDL drivers will be effective in October 2013 along with the current no texting ban in a commercial motor vehicle. The Secretary of State's (SOS) office and courts are working on the programming needs for these upcoming laws. The sanctions for these new laws treat them as Serious CDL violations where 2 or more such serious violations in a three-year period results in the loss of a driver's CDL for 60 days.

There is a change to requirement for DOT numbers and regulations. Trucks under 26,000 lbs. will no longer be mandated to have a DOT number on the side of the vehicle and to have annual inspections performed. It will, however, continue to be necessary for trucks to be checked for hazmat items, etc.

As mentioned during previous meetings, all interstate drivers must submit a copy of their medical card to the SOS at least every two years. This implementation began in January 2012 and thus far over 200,000 drivers have complied and are certified. Another round of reminder letters will be sent out to those who have not certified. If drivers are not certified by January 2014, their CDL will be removed.

B. Financial Report – Ms. Kim Kelly

Ms. Kelly provided an overview of the financial statement as of January 31, 2013. She has not received the final numbers for the education grant. As of the end of February, revenue has increased 3.02%.

Upward revision to MSP Grant – FY 12 UCR fees – Ms. Kelly briefly explained the excess Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED) UCR fees have a balance of \$732,746. This money comes from UCR fees and will be transferred to the enforcement grant. Lieutenant Fries will outline how CVED intends to use this money in 2013 for the enforcement grant later in the meeting.

C. Education Grant Activity Report – Ms. Jill Skutar

Ms. Skutar highlighted the recent activities and accomplishments of the Michigan Center for Truck Safety during the time frame of October 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013. She briefly discussed the recent Michigan Truck Expo and Safety Symposium. The enrollment was lower this year because Baker College chose not to send their students. She reviewed the numbers for the Michigan Center for Decision Driving, Materials Distributed, and other information regarding the grant.

D. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Lt. Susan Fries

Lieutenant Fries reviewed the objectives they have set for this upcoming year including dedicating 10,970 hours to conduct special enforcement for driver behavior violations, construction zone enforcement, and equipment violations. She indicated that most of the objectives have been completed for the quarter while others are still in process.

**ACTION ITEMS**

A. Upward revision to MSP Grant – FY 12 UCR fees (con't)

Lt. Fries advised that the CVED would like to use the \$732,746, which Ms. Kelly referred to earlier in the meeting, to increase the overtime hours of the Motor Carrier Officers in order to further the accomplishment of one of their objectives. The use of these monies will exhaust the carry forward funds and will increase the regular STET hours to 16,400. This is an increase for 2013 only.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Heinritzi and supported by Mr. Ferris to approve the use the \$732,746 by the Motor Carrier Officers for enforcement of Objective #1 chosen for 2013. The **MOTION** carries by roll call vote.

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bueter			
Heinritzi			
Ramels			
Houck			
O'Brien			
			Goller
Prince			
Blower			
Moser			
		Love	
Ferris			

An inquiry was made regarding updates to the motor carrier vehicles. Captain Love is aware of those updates and makes sure they are done accordingly. He also mentioned that he could use another 20-25 officers and that 13 are scheduled to graduate on March 14.

## **PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

### A. CMV grants update – Dr. Dan Blower

Dr. Blower updated the members of the two grants. The two projects are fairly new so currently the team is working on gathering data, documents, files and other preliminary information that will be needed to complete this project. A more comprehensive report will be given during the May MTSC meeting.

Members had a brief discussion related to pending legislation (SB 169) regarding autonomous vehicles. This is a project that is being tested and researched for the future. Mr. Bueter inquired if members thought that commercial motor vehicles be included in this testing. The current trend is to have legislation for testing and not for use by the public at this time. The wording of the current legislation says that Michigan would be the center of autonomous research. There will be more discussions in the future regarding this technology.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### A. SB 88/HB 4389

SB 88 proposes to eliminate the \$15.00 registration fee that currently funds the truck safety fund. This remains in legislative discussions.

HB 4389 would place the Truck Safety Fund at the SOS and eliminates the MTSC. No money would go to MSP for enforcement. Instead, the Center for Truck Safety would be the only entity to receive money specifically for the education grant. This bill also remains in the discussion stage currently.

Mr. Prince explained that OHSP has given MSP Legislative Affairs information explaining the impact of these two bills, SB 88 would remove all but the annual revenue that comes into the truck fund and HB 4389 would eliminate all but the education grant.

### B. Status of the Simulator

There was inquiry regarding the simulator. Ms. Skutar explained that the simulator is in storage at another location and is plugged in to an electrical outlet. Since it is being stored outside, she confirmed with the manufacturer who agrees this is ok. She noted there is some corrosion on a video card, but other than that, the machine is operational. Current funding issues need to be settled, once that happens; she will hire additional personnel to operate this equipment.

### C. MCTS Monitoring Report

Mr. Prince explained that recently OHSP staff completed a monitoring report of the MCTS grant. The staff noted some findings relative to the grant and on March 1, correspondence was sent to the MCTS indicating those findings. This has resulted in no reimbursements being paid to the MCTS. On Tuesday, March 12, documents relative to this grant, arrived at the OHSP Office. The fiscal staff will review the documents in order to clear the findings noted in the report. Representatives from MTA and MCTS indicated a willingness to work with OHSP to clear the findings so that reimbursements can be released to the MCTS. Mr. Prince also indicated that a meeting will be scheduled with representatives from OHSP, MTA, and MCTS, if necessary, to further discuss the findings and to clear up this matter.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Prince reported that the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit is being held March 26-28, 2013 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Thus far, approximately 450 people have registered.

The State Strategic Highway Safety Plan has been approved by the Governors' office and will be available at the Summit and the OHSP web site.

Motor Carrier graduation is scheduled for Thursday, March 14. Thirteen cadets are set to graduate and will begin work on Monday, March 18, 2013 at their pre-determined locations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.