

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

July 11, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Excused

Dave Goller

Guests

Dan Blair, MPSC
Kirk Forbes, MPSC
Jill Skutar, MCTS
Pat Muinch, FMCSA
John Wallace, FMCSA
Collin Castle, MDOT
Jeff Stevens, Maner Costerisan
Insp. Randy Coplin, MSP

OHSP Staff

Kathy Farnum
Janet Hengesbach
Kim Kelly
Charlotte Kilvington
Spencer Simmons

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 March 14, 2012 MTSC meeting was made by Dr. Blower and supported by Mr. Moser. The **MOTION** carries.

STANDING REPORTS

Chair's Report – Mr. Bueter

Mr. Bueter reported that pending legislation for additional funding sources for the Department of State (DOS) saw no action this year. Also, the additional \$10.00 increase for CDL fees for drivers has apparently failed. He noted that instead, the legislature has added approximately \$600,000 for the FY13 DOS budget. Commercial drivers are reporting their medical information as required. Five months into the program and approximately 100,000 drivers have reported their medical information out of a total of 300,000 registered CDL drivers in the state. They have a two-year window to report their medical info and if they are an intra or inter –state driver.

Financial Report – Ms. Kim Kelly

Ms. Kelly presented an overview of the financial statement as of May 31, 2012. She noted the revenue has increased showing an approximately 3.3% increase compared to last year. This is approximately a 2.51% increase overall. This is the time of year when the revenues are up and expenses are down. The expenses are expected to increase later in the year.

Education Grant Activity Report – Ms. Jill Skutar

Ms. Skutar highlighted the recent activities and accomplishments of the Center during the time frame of April 2012 through June 2012. She noted that currently there are two vacancies at the center with one of those vacancies being the simulator trainer. She reported increases in some goals and decreases in others, but overall the numbers should even out. Their big season is Spring and Summer as instruction and training increase.

Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Insp. Randy Coplin

Inspector Coplin presented the report today on behalf of Lt. Sue Fries. Since the March meeting, the truck safety enforcement grant has provided for 4,700 hours of patrol, which included, 2,900 traffic stops with 2,000 citations, 2,500 inspections, and 100 incident complaints. They are writing many seat belt violations - out of the 2,900 traffic stops, 266 were seat belt violations. He also reported that over the recent July 4th holiday weekend, there was 167 dedicated patrols on the roads for a total of 118 traffic stops, and 105 citations. Approximately, 10% of the stops are resulting in seat belt violations.

ACTION ITEMS

a. Update on MTSC Strategic Plan

Ms. Kathy Farnum discussed the comments received from the Commissioners regarding the draft MTSC Strategic Plan. She noted two areas: 1) Truck crash data. This will be updated with 2011 data and, 2) Modifying the speed limits. Members discussed what those modifications should be – an increase from the current limits and/or a split – one for cars and one for trucks and on what basis would this be done. The logic is to decrease the amounts of conflicts, light vehicles overtaking the large trucks and lower speeds in the event of a collision. An increased speed for trucks would allow for companies to advertise speedier delivery times for one example. Dr. Blower suggested the members review at the report again and submit comments to the committee. The vote for approval will be held during the September meeting.

Mr. Bueter thanked the committee for their work on this project.

b. FMCSA Safety Grants

Ms. Farnum updated the members regarding the two grants:

#1. TACT Grant: On June 21 an initial meeting was held to discuss the Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks project which included discussion on the enforcement, public information, and evaluation components of the project. The project will take place in Kent and Ottawa County with two locations in Wayne and Washtenaw counties serving as control sites. The meeting included representatives from law enforcement, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, and OHSP. A meeting is being scheduled with enforcement and truck drivers to discuss the type of aggressive driving behavior truck drivers observe committed by passenger vehicles.

#2. CMV Observation Grant: Field observations of CMV seat belt use are nearly complete. Data analysis will take place in July and August. The seat belt use rate should be available in September.

Ms. Farnum also briefly discussed the two draft Request For Proposals (RFP's) discussed at the March meeting.

The first one is to analyze the incidences and crash data of intrastate trucks weighing less than 26,000 lbs. Legislation (PA 231 of 2012) related to the RFP has passed and signed by the Governor. The bill would amend the Motor Carrier Safety Act to say that, with certain exceptions, the act does not apply to vehicles less than 26,000 lbs. GVW operated entirely within Michigan.

The second RFP is to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs offered at the Michigan Center for Truck Safety in the areas of simulation, computer-based instruction, and behind the wheel training. The proposed evaluation is in response to HB5300. There has been no activity on this legislation since

January. Discussion took place as to whether these RFP's should move forward in light of the legislation activity. Members made a suggestion to move forward with sending the RFP's out with the caveat that the MTSC Research and Evaluation Committee will select the best proposal for each RFP and present them for approval at the next MTSC meeting.

c. FY13 Enforcement Grant Review and Approval

Inspector Coplin reviewed the proposed grant for FY13. He outlined and reviewed each one of their goals for the upcoming year including dedicating approximately 10,970 regular hours to conduct STET operations with the focus on Driver Behavior, Construction Zone enforcement, and equipment violations. Other goals include: Enhancing commercial motor vehicle enforcement efforts by publishing and distributing the CMV Enforcement Quarterly Bulletin, the purchase of two portable fingerprint scanners, and the purchase of 12 driver's license readers for 12 patrol vehicles among others.

MOTION to approve passed by Roll Call Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Bueter	X		
Heinritzi	X		
Ramels	X		
Houck	X		
O'Brien	X		
Prince	X		
Blower	X		
Moser	X		
Love			X
Ferris	X		

d. FY 13 Education Grant Review and Approval

Ms. Skutar reviewed the proposed grant for FY 13. There are increases of 1.5% for the goals which include increasing the participation of drivers in the MCTS Fatigue Awareness educational programs, strengthening CDL programs by increasing onsite training of company representatives and drivers on CDL requirements by September 13, 2013 among others. She reported there are two vacancies which they are hoping to fill in the near future.

MOTION to approve passed by Roll Call Vote

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Bueter	X		
Heinritzi			X
Ramels			X
Houck	X		
O'Brien	X		
Prince	X		
Blower	X		
Moser	X		
Love	X		
Ferris	X		

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

a. CMV Hand Held Cell Phone Ban

Captain Love reported that a letter and some educational materials have been developed advising of the new CMV hand held cell phone ban which took effect on January 3, 2012. These materials are scheduled to be sent out to interested trucking partners by August 1, 2012. The materials will also be located on the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division's website and discuss what the rules cover, who they apply to and what the penalty is among other topics. MSP is hoping that by developing these informative documents, they would appeal to local enforcement to gain support for this ban. Captain Love is hoping

that Michigan Vehicle Code legislation will be passed so to further support compliance. States have until January 2015 to be totally compliant with this ban.

b. Mr. Collin Castle, MDOT - 1-94 Truck Parking Information and Management System

Mr. Castle gave a presentation regarding an idea to enhance highway safety by providing timely and reliable truck parking information. I-94 was chosen as it links Western US to Canada thru Chicago to Detroit and Port Huron. He explained that rest area expansion is not feasible along the corridor financially and noted some of the high level requirements of a system like this. He outlined the potential system architecture, and noted some of the stakeholders in this project would include, MDOT, MSP, OHSP, DTMB, and FMCSA. Challenges to this project include software integration and the need to be scalable to other corridors and states. Members are direct any inquires to Mr. Castle at MDOT or to Mr. Bueter.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. CDL Skills Test Waiver for Veterans

Mr. O'Brien is currently working with Veterans Administration in Muskegon regarding any programs that would be in place for these returning veterans. Many veterans that are returning are already trained in commercial vehicle driving and maintenance. He indicated that veterans returning back would need some further training if they want to continue with CMV driving. Members discussed how this would get done and how it would get promoted. Mr. O'Brien feels as though having the truck commission supporting this kind of effort would be a big help. Mr. Prince suggested that this idea should be forwarded to the MSP Legislative Office to find out if there is any current legislation and what the MSP's position is on any legislation or suggestions such as this.

Mr. O'Brien will have additional information prepared for the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Blower inquired about an effort to amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow properly certified self-driving vehicles on Michigan roads for experimentation purposes. He will send his inquiry to the MTSC via-email.

Mr. Bueter also reminded the group that his term as Chair of the MTSC will be ending in September.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.