



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT MORRIS  
CHAIR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
LANSING

**August 28, 2009**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>	<b>STAFF</b>
Robert Morris, Chair	Office of the Governor	Deb Sonnenberg
Michael Prince	Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)	
Linda Scarpetta	Department of Community Health (MDCH)	
Chief David Stamm	Local Representative	
Pamela Hall	Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)	
Anne Corgan	Department of State (MDOS)	
Sheriff Al Byam	Local Representative	
John Friend	Department of Transportation (MDOT)	
Capt. Robert Powers	Department of State Police (MSP)	
Kenneth Micklash	Department of Education (MDOE)	
Steven Puuri	Local Representative	

<b>MEMBERS EXCUSED</b>
All present

<b>GUESTS</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Jack Peet	AAA
Sandy Liddle	Financial & Insurance Regulation
Homer Smith	MADD Michigan
Carol Reagan	MDOS
Ron Wilson	MDOS
Mark Bott	MDOT
Peter Broderick	MLBA
Jackie El-Sayed	MTSC
Chris Hawkins	MSP
Kathy Farnum	OHSP
Debbie Savage	OHSP
Piétro Semifero	OHSP
Anne Readett	OHSP
Dan Vartanian	OHSP
Ken Stecker	PAAM
Tom Bruff	SEMCOG
Dominique Matich	Traffic Improvement Association
Jim Santilli	Traffic Improvement Association
Lawrence Hummel	Van Buren Co. Road Commission
Eric Bombery	Wats
Aaron K. Ellison	Ellison Corporation
Curt Patterson	Ellison Corporation
Paula Duren	Ellison Corporation
Randy Klifman	FSU

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 8:35 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**

None

### **APPROVAL OF GTSAC MINUTES**

Chair Bob Morris called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2009, meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mr. Prince and supported by Sheriff Byam. ***Motion carried.***

### **STANDING REPORTS**

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

Mr. Morris commented on the traffic safety issues of suspended driver licenses and distracted driving and the increased public attention that is being given to these issues. Distracted driving, especially among young people, is getting national attention. Mr. Morris is open to discussing if the GTSAC should spend more time on this issue and to what degree.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

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

Captain Powers reported that the state's budget climate resulted in 100 State Police troopers being laid off June 28, 2009. Some have obtained other employment; six of them were rehired as Motor Carrier Officers. It is uncertain if these troopers will be called back after October 1, or if additional trooper layoffs will occur. The reduction of troopers and the mileage restrictions placed on MSP vehicles has had a negative impact on the department's ability to provide basic police services and also provide traffic safety programs and patrols. It is known that over the long-term, a decrease in visibility will result in an increase of traffic crashes and this deeply concerns the department.

It is uncertain at this time if the state's School Bus Safety Inspection Program will continue after October 1. This is a \$1.4 million program to support MSP Traffic Safety Division Vehicle Safety Inspectors to carry out the mandated inspection of every school bus, public and private, annually. Almost 18,000 buses are inspected each year. The current inspection cycle ends next week. Captain Powers will report on the inspection results at the next meeting.

Captain Powers stated that F/Lt. Thad Peterson of the Traffic Services Section, an active member in GTSAC action teams, has been temporarily reassigned to assist with a special project. Anyone having any issues they would normally contact F/Lieutenant Peterson about, or bring to his attention, should now be contact Lt. Gary Megge.

#### **• Local Representation – Chief David Stamm (MACP)**

From the local agency perspective, budgets are being prepared based on receiving state revenue sharing. The uncertainty of the level of revenue sharing, together with the 10% reduction in property values, is definitely going to have an impact on law enforcement and public safety in general. Agencies will be striving to maintain quality of services in light of the lack of funding.

Chief Stamm thanked the Office of Highway Safety Planning staff for the successful Drunk Driving Over the Limit. Under Arrest. media campaign event held at his office.

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

Sheriff Byam commented that while traveling out west on vacation, many states have 75 m.p.h. speed limits including trucks, and that the absence of enforcement was noticeable. Traffic safety PSA's were aired everywhere they went, most on drunk driving, some on seat belts.

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

Although it appears there is a heightened level of activity as normally seen during the construction season, budgeting issues have transitioned the activity from major reconstruction projects to preventative maintenance projects providing for wide spread short-term fixes. Future budget projections have the counties preparing for a decrease in routine maintenance. Mr. Puuri's agency conducted a services review covering all aspects of types of services performed, future funding projections, how they do business compared to their surrounding counties. Thirteen measures were developed and proposed to their Board to consider. All of this material is available on the Washtenaw County Road Commission Web site. The Board will present their decisions in October on which of the service level adjustments will be adopted.

Mr. Puuri commended MDOT for their Intersection Safety Program for local agencies that focuses on improving the 5 percent worst intersections. This safety program is being implemented along with another safety project proposed for next year. Both of these programs address rural road areas.

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

Mr. Micklash commented on the proposed elimination of the \$1.4 million funding to support school bus safety inspections, and how many school transportation officials throughout the state are lobbying hard to maintain the funding. The projected cost per unit if the mandated inspections were paid for at the local level would be \$50 to \$100, which would impact school budgets significantly. Funding for the school safety patrol program is to continue. The MDOE is working with the 14 intermediate school districts and Northern Michigan University to develop the continuing education program for both supervisors and school bus drivers.

Working cooperatively with AAA and MSP, the School Crossing Guard Training manual update was completed and is available to agencies on MDOE's Web site.

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

Ms. Scarpetta conveyed that in June, the Governor signed PA 57 which improved/strengthened Michigan's child passenger safety laws. It removed the nursing mother's exemption which then made Michigan eligible for additional federal funding. The Act also included the rear seating requirement for kids. OHSP launched a public education campaign and press release, and also applied for the additional NHTSA funding of approximately \$600,000. Planning is underway on how best to deploy the funding.

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

Ms. Hall announced that she recently got married and her new name is now Pamela Webb. Her e-mail address, however, will remain Pamela Hall.

Ms. Hall Webb reported that due to budget issues, this is the last year for the Senior Citizen of the Year program. The senior selected will be honored in a ceremony held during the Michigan State Fair. Ms. Hall Webb encouraged every agency to participate in the Michigan State Fair in support of this event.

OSA is going through its annual implementation of their multi-year plan. This is a three-year plan that directs the activities of the local area agencies on aging. This year, two strategies were added. One was incorporated as a result of a Bay City man freezing to death last winter because his utilities had been turned off. OSA has taken a proactive approach and requested area agencies on aging to contact the utility companies in their communities and ask that they be notified of any senior's account not being paid so the agency can intercede on the senior's behalf. Also as a proactive measure, OSA has requested the area agencies on aging to acquire information on local community transportation services to provide that direction and assistance should an inquiry be made.

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

MDOS continues to work closely with their Medical Advisory Board. Revisions are being made to assess a driver's physical and mental condition, vision standards of drivers, and the reexamination and driver license appeal process.

The MDOS driver assessment analyst worked again with AAA in the carfit program helping seniors to maximize their safety while driving.

Secretary Land issued a press release this week reminding parents that safety is on their teen driver's back to school list. Reinforcing that the training process together with parental involvement are key to keeping teen drivers safe.

Following last meeting's presentation by Judge Hoffman on drug courts, MDOS convened a meeting for Secretary Land to meet with judges and representatives from MADD, the Sheriffs Association, and other interested parties to discuss the pilot program. Legislation is being drafted to implement the pilot program.

The Enhanced Drivers License has proven to be popular with approximately 55,000 being issued so far. The license is now available at 119 offices statewide.

MDOS's Technology Refresh Project/Business Application Modernization is on schedule to be implemented in March/April of 2010. The first step takes effect September 12 when all existing drivers' licenses and personal identification numbers will become permanent. In addition, the personal identification card numbers are being expanded from 11 to 13 characters to match the drivers license.

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

Mr. Friend reported on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the stimulus money that was issued through MDOT. This is 100 percent federal money for states and local units of government to fund their construction programs. Due to a cooperative effort between MDOT, counties, and municipalities MDOT feels very confident that they will get all of the targets. Mr. Friend complimented the local units of government that helped MDOT deliver that program.

Mr. Friend commented that there are limitations to the program. The program funding is for a short-term, 2009 and 2010. The program does not allow flexing the money over to maintenance operations for winter activity. On the construction side, a respectful sum of money is available in the short-term, although the long-term federal picture is pretty bleak. The immediate crisis here in Michigan is having funding to continue with basic maintenance operations and to have Michigan money available starting in the 2011 year to meet the federal aid match requirements.

The recent meeting of the State Transportation Commission discussed 2010 issues and the dangers associated with not having the ability to make the federal match requirements in 2011. The Commission's recommendations are to focus on the core of safety and preservation and to maximize, to the extent possible, money to make the federal match. This direction will drive MDOT's five-year program activities.

MDOT representatives were given the opportunity to provide a high-quality briefing to the legislature on Quick Clearance legislation. Mr. Morris commented that the bill was reported out of committee last week without any opposition and he expects it to get through the House.

Through lessons learned from the "Social Media" presentation at the last Traffic Safety Summit, MDOT now has a Facebook page. Mr. Friend invited everyone to become a friend of MDOT. The site provides information on construction projects and many other issues of public interest. MDOT can also be followed on Twitter. MDOT's MyDrive Web site is also experiencing many hits and positive feedback from the public.

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

Safety Belt Use Rate - The results from the summer campaigns include the belt use rate is now at an all-time high in Michigan at 97.9 percent, and is actually a record for the country. As of today, unless another state hits the 98 percent mark, this makes the second year in a row Michigan has had the highest rate in the country. In May, Michigan was presented with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *Champion Award* in honor of Michigan's successful efforts to increase seat belt use, achieving the highest belt use in the country in 2008. The award was presented by Admiral Tom Barrett, U.S. D.O.T. deputy secretary. Mr. Prince congratulated everyone that worked so hard on that effort, in particular, the law enforcement partners.

July 4 Drunk Driving Crackdown took place June 26 through July 5. Law enforcement reported more than 10,000 hours of safety belt and drunk driving enforcement. Results:

- Nearly 3,050 safety belt and child restraint citations were issued;
- 272 OWI arrests were made;
- 4 stolen vehicles were recovered;
- 372 uninsured drivers were cited;
- 21 reckless driving citations were issued;
- 49 drug arrests were made;
- nearly 300 red-light running and illegal turn violations were cited; and
- nearly 600 misdemeanor and 88 felony arrests were made

High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) projects began taking place in Ottawa and Kalamazoo Counties in March and were joined by Genesee and Saginaw County in July (including the MSP posts). HVE's are conducted on identified high alcohol-related crash corridors, electronic signage is placed on each end of the corridors, and officers working the enforcement wear reflective safety vests to draw attention to the enforcement. This is proving to be a very successful strategy to address alcohol-related crashes on identified problem corridors. As of the end of July, reported activity includes: 133 OWI arrests, 41 safety belt and child passenger safety violations, 208 suspended or uninsured motorists, 118 speeding citations, 12 arrests for drugs, 55 fugitive arrests, 54 red light violations, 21 illegal turns, 13 felony warrants, 80 misdemeanor warrants, 993 other traffic violations, 35 MIPs, and 21 open intoxicant citations.

On July 31, the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office noted 1 female was arrested for DWLS but also had 12 outstanding warrants including 3 felonies (B&E, retail fraud and Armed Robbery).

OLUA Drunk Driving Crackdown began August 21 and runs through September 7 with officers from 300 law enforcement agencies in 55 counties participating. News conferences featuring victims of drunk driving crashes took place last week and were very well received. A new PSA called "Keg and Chain" is airing Wednesdays through Sundays for three weeks on television and cable stations. Because the target audience for this campaign is primarily the 21-34 male age group, ads will be airing on sports and video gaming web sites such as NFL.COM, FOXSports.com, XBOX.com, and GameSpot.com.

2010 Traffic Safety Summit will take place March 30-April 1 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Save the Date postcards will be going out mid-September. There are only a few more days to submit suggestions for general sessions and workshops. The deadline is Monday, August 31. The suggestion form is available on OHSP's Web site. Keep checking OHSP's Web site over the next several months for information and updates on the Summit.

The GTSAC Awards Luncheon is moving to the middle of the Summit rather than on the last day as in the past. It will take place on Wednesday, March 31. The last day will begin with a general session, have a series of workshops, and then the Summit will end without a closing luncheon.

National Child Passenger Safety Week is September 12-18. OHSP provided funding for Michigan's four children's hospitals, DeVos in Grand Rapids, Bronson in Kalamazoo, Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, and C.S. Mott in Ann Arbor to purchase child safety seats primarily for low income families to take their children safely home in. In FY 2010, from the federal CPS funding Michigan is to receive, the goal

is to provide car seats to every county in the state to make available to the low income population. The Department of Community Health will also be providing additional training for car seat technicians. A new paid ad campaign will also be developed to promote the use of booster seats and the law that went into effect.

Booster Seat PSA Award – A public service announcement about Michigan's 2008 booster seat law was awarded third place in the 2009 Highway Safety Public Safety Announcement category during the International Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) conference in April. The PSA was produced by OHSP.

CPS Medical Toolkits - The Office of Highway Safety Planning has distributed child passenger safety (CPS) Medical Outreach Toolkits to CPS instructors to share with local health care providers. The kits, created by the National AAA, are part of an effort to supply health care providers with the resources to promote CPS to their patients. The kits include a mixture of English and Spanish CPS educational materials such as a waiting room poster, DVD, pamphlets, prescription-like note pads with CPS guidelines, and stickers for the children.

GHSA Conference – Mr. Prince will be attending the GHSA conference which begins August 30 and runs through September 2. The meeting theme this year is "Toward Zero Deaths: Every Life Counts." More than 400 state, national, and private sector highway safety representatives are expected to attend. Recently confirmed NTSB Chairman Debbie Hersman will be the keynote speaker.

GAO Teen Driver Study - The US Government Accountability Office is conducting a teen driver study. Michigan is one of six states that have been selected to participate in the study. The other states are New Jersey, Oregon, Florida, Mississippi, and North Dakota. A team will be coming to Michigan in the near future and will be interviewing some of OHSP's safety partners.

Distracted and Aggressive Driving are big issues in the media. OHSP has tagged Ms. Lynn Sutfin to be the news media point person on distracted driving, and Ms. Alyson Kechkaylo as the news media point person on aggressive driving; both are members of the Communications Section. OHSP will be addressing these issues more in FY 2010.

NETS Drive Safety to Work Week Campaign Materials - Mr. Dan Vartanian, OHSP's Corporate Outreach Program Coordinator, announced that October 5-9, 2009, is Drive Safely Work Week (DSWW), an annual "Workplace Safety Campaign" developed by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS). To promote DSWW in the work place, Michigan NETS is offering a free interactive, Web-based, DSWW Tool Kit providing everything needed for a business to launch a successful employee safety campaign. Information on how to download the tool kit from the NETS National Web site will be sent out next week via the GTSAC Listserv. The tool kit provides activities for each day, including interactive quizzes and tools, daily communication messages, downloadable graphics, and communication tools including press releases and a campaign launch letter.

NETS Sponsored Defensive Driving Class – Mr. Dan Vartanian reported that on July 25 and August 8 a total of 30 Michigan NETS corporate partners participated in a day-long hands-on defensive driving class that took place at the Michigan State Police Drive Track located at its Training Academy. The first 90 minutes of the program consisted of a classroom course on defensive driving, the balance of the day was spent behind the wheel of a vehicle on the drive track receiving instruction on six primary driving maneuvers that included: serpentine; precision maneuvering; evasive maneuvering; controlled braking; skid control; and off-road recovery. Businesses interested in advanced driver training can contact Mr. Vartanian to make arrangements.

#### **LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY** - Trooper Chris Hawkins, MSP

A legislative summary report was provided to all in attendance. An overview of current legislation relating to traffic safety issues was presented and discussed.

### **ACTION TEAM UPDATES**

The following Action Teams reported on their activities and accomplishments to date:  
(Copies of the reports are available on the GTSAC Web site.)

- Lane Departure & Intersection Safety – Mr. Tom Bruff
- Traffic Records – Mr. Fred Bueter
- Commercial Vehicle Safety – Dr. Jacqueline El-Sayed
- Motorcycle Safety – Mr. Ron Wilson

### **DISCUSSION ITEM**

Driving While License Suspended – Mr. Robert Morris discussed the increasing number of crashes involving drivers having suspended or revoked drivers licenses and the impact on traffic safety. Mr. Morris called for a task force to be established to explore the licensing, enforcement, adjudication, and legislative issues surrounding suspended drivers and to identify possible solutions. Task force members will be solicited from these various disciplines. Mr. Morris will report on the Task Force findings at the October Commission meeting.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

None

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- California Teenage & Drunk Driving PSAs – Captain Robert Powers – MSP  
Captain Powers shared video clips of California's teenage and drunk driving public service announcements.
- Michigan's OUID Law – Mr. Ken Stecker, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorney's Assn. of Michigan (PAAM)  
Mr. Stecker reported on the court challenges occurring citing conflicts between the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act of 2008, and the OUID *per se* Act. For more information on this issue, cases and statutes cited, Mr. Stecker can be contacted at (517) 334-6060 or at [steckerk@michigan.gov](mailto:steckerk@michigan.gov).
- Emergency Response Warning System – Mr. Aaron Ellison, Ellison Corporation  
Mr. Ellison presented an overview of the Emergency Response Warning System (ERWS) his company developed including its safety features, cost savings, green technology, and functionality. For more information on the ERWS, Mr. Ellison may be contacted at (313) 483-0371 or at: [www.ellisontraffic.com](http://www.ellisontraffic.com).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:50 a.m.**