

GTSAC Distracted Driving Action Team

April 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Participants: Pat Eliason, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning; Kathy Farnum, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning; Linda Fech, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning; Kim Lariviere, Michigan Department of Transportation; Dave Morena, Federal Highway Administration; Jack Peet, AAA Michigan; Carol Reagan, Michigan Department of State; Keith Schultz, General Motors

Chair and co-chair

The State Strategic Highway Safety Plan established a new action team, Distracted Driving, which replaces the former Driver Behavior Action Team. Anne Readett will serve as the team chair and Jack Peet will serve as co-chair.

Action team participants

The group discussed others who may be interested in taking part in the action team and they will be included on future meeting notices.

Action team plan

Carol Reagan indicated she has formulated an extensive background document on distracted driving, based on existing information and research. Ms. Reagan will provide it to Anne Readett for reference and assistance with the action plan process.

The Distracted Driving Action plan strategies are identified in the updated State Strategic Highway Safety Plan:

- Conduct effective communication and outreach activities

Kim Lariviere indicated Bob Felt from MDOT communications could be of assistance with this strategy.

- Continue to implement effective low-cost roadway countermeasures

Ms. Lariviere can provide information for this strategy regarding the use of rumble strips.

- Explore improvements in data collection on driver distractions involved in crashes

Dave Morena and Kathy Farnum are collaborating with the Crash Data Users Group (CDUG) who is working on updates to the Michigan Traffic Crash Report form (UD-10). This is an issue the group is discussing. Mr. Morena suggested a presentation at a future meeting to learn what is being pursued with changes to the form could assist with providing greater information regarding distracted driving crashes.

- Encourage enforcement of the state's texting law

The group discussed this particular strategy might be expanded beyond the state's driver texting ban. Pat Eliason will assist with this area.

- Monitor development of new countermeasures and identify those that could be implemented in Michigan

Ms. Reagan mentioned a program presented at the recent Michigan Traffic Safety Summit, the use of red stickers on license plates to identify newly licensed drivers. This allows law enforcement to more easily determine if the driver falls under restrictions for younger drivers, such as cell phone bans, passenger restrictions, and nighttime driving restrictions. Ms. Reagan is exploring further within the department.

- Monitor national pilot projects related to distracted driving

- Provide recommendations related to distracted driving legislation

Recommendations will be derived from action team members.