

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

May 14, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Fred Bueter, Chair
Tom O'Brien, Vice Chair
Dr. Dan Blower
Sharon Conklin
Walter Heinritzi
Capt. Mike Krumm
Mike Prince
Robert Ramels
Tim Yungfer

Commissioners Absent

Dave Goller
Charles Moser

Guests

Al Newell, Center for Truck Safety
Michelle Zemla, Center for Truck Safety
Jeremey Russo
Pat Muinch, FMCSA
John Wallace, FMCSA
Paul Soehnlein
Larry Fennell
Marie Barrett

OHSP Staff

Kathy Farnum
Janet Hengesbach
Charlotte Kilvington
Julie Roth
Heidi Ruis
Spencer Simmons

ROLL CALL

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 March 12, 2014 minutes was made by Mr. Prince and supported by Mr. Yungfer. The **MOTION** carries.

STANDING REPORTS

A. Chair's Report – Mr. Fred Bueter

Mr. Bueter reported that the latest federal requirement states Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) drivers must certify which operation they perform – inter- or intra-state. Thus far, 40,000 drivers have not reported their certification. The Michigan Department of State (MDOS) will be sending letters to those drivers to notify them of this requirement. They will then have 60 days report their certification or risk losing their commercial vehicle driving privilege.

Commercial vehicle learner permit rules will change in July 2015. For existing drivers seeking a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), it will be necessary they have a learner permit for at least two weeks before seeking a road test to finalize the process. Drivers will need to schedule a skills test with a third party tester as the MDOS does not perform these types of tests any longer. Once passed, the tester will send the results to MDOS electronically.

Regarding medical cards, it is not getting any easier to attain a medical card per various meeting attendees. In some cases, a sleep apnea test may need to be scheduled. This process can take a long time so the drivers and companies are left in limbo. Mr. Muinch indicated that if the testing shows electronically on their record, the drivers should be ok to continue to drive.

Chair Bueter indicated that there has been no activity on the legislation originally introduced in 2013 which would discontinue the MTSC and or move the oversight to the Department of State. In partnership with SOS and OHSP, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently completed a driver education program assessment. Michigan is the eighth state to go through this type of peer review assessment. The state passed with flying colors. There will also be a NHTSA-sponsored traffic records assessment scheduled for November 2014.

There are test kiosks are available in some branches. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is funding this effort and very soon every branch will have at least one. Mr. Bueter is optimistic that by July 2015 all license testing results will be available on the driving records as required by FMCSA rule.

Chair Bueter inquired about the drive simulator which has been idle for some time. Mr. Newell intends to discuss this in his report later in the meeting.

B. Financial Report – Mr. Spencer Simmons

Mr. Simmons reviewed the most recent financial report ending April 30, 2014.

C. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Capt. Mike Krumm

Captain Krumm reported their overtime hours are down. He thanked the Commission for approving their request for monies for overtime and the upcoming media project. Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED) is in the process of hiring new motor carrier officers so a Motor Carrier Recruit school will be starting in June. They have reached out to a contractor to assist with the media campaign so they may look at a distracted driving campaign. Their other objectives include dedicating money for overtime to total 3,500 hours. With the recruit school coming up, they will have to bring seven officers off the road into Lansing to assist.

D. Education Grant Activity Report – Al Newell

Mr. Newell reported that on Monday a technician will be working on one of the simulators as it will not power up. The generator and some other mechanical issues need to be looked at as well.

The truck which the Center has been using needs to be replaced as it has been operated at approximately 2,000 lbs. over its gross weight. There is no law that cannot be used at this weight, but there is much liability attached. He has placed bids for a new truck which would be able to pull a larger amount of weight.

Mr. Newell found some evaluations that had been completed indicating the value of the simulator. These evaluations were done by people who had done testing with the simulator and felt it was worthwhile training. Commissioners discussed the uses for the simulator and getting the word out when the simulator is up and running. Captain Krumm suggested perhaps a joint operation between MSP and the Center for Truck Safety.

UPDATE ITEMS

None

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

1. TACT Grant Monitoring reports – Ms. Charlotte Kilvington

The Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks (TACT) program is a high-visibility traffic enforcement program that uses communication, enforcement, and evaluation activities to reduce CMV-related crashes, fatalities, and injuries. The MTSC provided some of the supportive funding to operate the program in Michigan. Ms. Kilvington reported that a team from OHSP visits the (TACT) grantees regularly to assure that procedures are being properly followed. She reported that as a result of their review of the MCTS grant, it was well managed, there was proper documentation available and they seem to be achieving their goals.

Regarding the CVED/TACT grant, the dailies for grant tracking were outstanding. They were very detail oriented, there was much documentation available and noted that it's a very well managed project.

Additional Funding for New Projects – Ms. Charlotte Kilvington

OHSP staff met recently to discuss what projects could be implemented using the commission monies. Based on input from MTSC members, they came up with the following ideas for consideration:

1. An electronic records management system in place at the MCTS. This type of system would allow training, testing, etc. to be electronic. The information would then be easily available for research if necessary as all of the records would be in one location.
2. Initiate another TACT project funded with 100% truck funds. There could be conversation with local enforcement to see where the problems are and focus on those areas.

Chair Bueter inquired about the updated UD-10 form. Mr. Prince indicated that it is not expected to be released until January 2016. He suggested that Tpr. Scott Carlson could come to the commission and give a presentation on the new form.

3. Send out an RFP to a university inquiring what kinds of education/training would be needed for truck drivers.
4. Repeat the CMV seat belt/hand held use device observation study rate to determine the progress which has been made.

Dr. Blower suggested that another idea would be a data linkage project. There is a tremendous amount of data out there and what it would take to link them together. Mr. Prince indicated that there is currently a traffic records committee working on this exact item currently. It is an active project to find out where these data sets lay, crash, driver, vehicle, roadway, EMS, etc.

5. Road Team concept – whose truck is being used – center's or whom? The Road Team had been a MCTS-sponsored event in the past and various members supported resurrecting this educational program that involves taking a truck to various locations to educate drivers on how to share the road safely with large vehicles.

Mr. Bueter made a **MOTION** that OHSP will pursue RFPs for the above projects, and then bring that information back to the Commission. The Commission would review it and decide which suggested projects to move forward on. This part of the project would not involve spending any monies. Mr. Yungfer supported. **MOTION** carries

2. MDOT Truck Parking Pilot Project – Dr. Blower

Commissioner Dr. Blower reported that this MDOT-sponsored pilot project is currently underway and will provide enhanced amounts of information regarding commercial truck parking to CMV drivers. The pilot project was initiated as a result of the required change of hours of service and availability of parking for commercial trucks. The pilot area in Michigan is from Jackson to the Indiana boarder. There are both public and private lots with rest areas being monitored. Currently, 10 private truck stops are participating in this project. One of the methods of dissemination will indicate that X numbers of spaces are available at a particular exit. Cameras and imbedded sensors are set up in order to monitor this information. The information is then delivered to drivers through road sign, website and/or a phone app. There will be more to come on this in the future.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

MCDD Scholarship eligibility- Mr. Mike Prince

Mr. Prince reported approximately 1,000 students per year train go through training at the MCDD for an average of \$290 per student.

It was noted that some of the individuals who go through the training are not CMV holders. Some are teen drivers, private companies, state entities, and some are from out state. Scholarships fees are from truck fund grant and are for people who do not hold a CMV or drive a truck. If the training was limited to CMV drivers, there may not be enough flow of students going through the center to sustain the operation.

Mr. Newell remarked that he is unsure how the out state drivers are handled. The teen drivers is a non-issue, there could be maybe 2-3 students per year. Occasionally a state agency will call to see if a staff member/field staff could go through the program.

If the commission is comfortable with this usage, perhaps there should be a mechanism developed to better track the various types of drivers utilizing the programs. Mr. Newell is currently scanning attendee applications so he will go back and track those which are non-CMV's and are taking the training.

The commission believes that OHSP should keep this going as is.

Mr. Newell indicated that he has met with trucking industry in UP. They are happy that the center is up and running again and enjoy the information distributed. Commissioner Mike Prince noted that OHSP staff have been meeting with Mr. Newell and have nothing but positive experiences with him and the center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Prince noted that Dr. Blower and Captain Krumm gave great presentations on CMV issues of concern during the recent Traffic Safety Summit. Captain spoke about the CVED and the services they provide. Perhaps he could present during one of the upcoming commission meetings.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.