

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

September 24, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Dr. Dan Blower, Chair
Tim Yungfer, Vice Chair
Fred Bueter
Walter Heinritzi
Capt. Mike Krumm
Charles Moser
Michael Prince
Robert Ramels

Commissioners Absent

Sharon Conklin
Dave Goller
Tom O'Brien

Guests

Al Newell, Center for Truck Safety
Michelle Zemla, Center for Truck Safety
Dave Martin, FMCSA
Pat Muinch, FMCSA
John Wallace, FMCSA
Insp. Randy Coplin MSP CVED
Don Willcutt, Brenner Oil
Jan Ramels
Ron Edwards

OHSP Staff

Kathy Farnum
Janet Hengesbach
Julie Roth
Heidi Ruis
Jean Shattuck
Spencer Simmons

ROLL CALL

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. Dan Blower, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions were made by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** to accept the July 8, 2015 minutes was made by Mr. Moser and supported by Captain Krumm. The **MOTION** carries.

STANDING REPORTS

A.Chair's Report – Dr. Dan Blower

Dr. Blower has observed that the first part of 2015 there was a significant increase in traffic fatalities. Nationally, it is up about 14-15% over the first six months of 2014. There are similar numbers in Michigan. Some reasons include recovery in the recession, increasing unemployment, and oil prices are down, etc. but the bottom line is that the fundamental reasons for the increase are not known. However, the increase in crashes points up the continuing need for the Commission's work.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Charles Moser, Transportation Commission - He inquired about an accurate way of tracking of accidents per miles driven. Dr. Blower believes there is, but though not perfect. The best way right now is to rely on statistics on VMT from states reporting to FHWA. Historically trucks have had a higher fatal crash rate, per VMT, than lighter vehicles. In 2010, however, the fatal crash rate for trucks converged with that of light vehicles. Some fraction of that is due to more protections to drivers in light vehicles. However, the decline in the truck fatal crash rate is also likely due to the efforts to make trucks safer, including by the Commission. Mr. Moser also mentioned the continuing problem of the commercial driver's shortage. Not many choosing truck driving as a career.

Mike Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning – Mr. Prince outlined the Project Status Report document which was just developed. This document notes the status of active MTSC projects, MTSC projects in development and MTSC projects on hold. This will be helpful as there are many projects in process and many proposed for the future.

Mr. Prince briefly reminded the commissioners that nominations are being accepted for the 2014 GTSAC Awards. The form is located on the OHSP website.

The Winter Driving campaign will transition this year to the Lower Peninsula, specifically the I-94 corridor. It will feature billboards, and public awareness beginning in November.

OHSP has received the preliminary results from Wayne State University regarding the recent CMV Seat Belt and Cell phone use survey. The report is indicated that the seat belt rate was down from 84.9% in 2012 to 81% in 2014. Also, cell phone use decreased from 8.4% to 7.4%.

Tim Yungfer, General Public
No report

Bob Ramels, General Public
No report

Capt. Mike Krumm, Michigan State Police – Captain Krumm thanked Mr. Heinritzi inviting him to speak at the recent Michigan Trucking Association (MTA) conference. He also thanked Dr. Blower for assisting with some analysis regarding speed limits.

MSP will be hosting a recruit school beginning with 19 recruits and possibly 2 additional. The school will start on October 11.

Fred Bueter, Michigan Department of State – Mr. Bueter reported that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has assured the Secretary of State that Michigan's Action Plan is compliant with Commercial Driver's License (CDL) regulation.

The Secretary of State continues to update the programming and procedures for Commercial Learner's Permits. One new requirement is that ~~one~~ most CDL drivers must present a legal presence document such as birth certificate or passport when renewing a CDL. CDL drivers with a hazardous materials endorsement or Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) license have already provided the necessary documentation. For CDL road tests, one must have a learner's permit 14 days before a road test can be done. Mr. Bueter briefly reviewed some new federal restriction codes which will be in effect in upcoming weeks.

Walt Heinritzi, Michigan Trucking Association – Mr. Heinritzi thanked Captain Krumm presenting during the recent MTA conference.

B. Financial Report – Mr. Spencer Simmons

Mr. Simmons reviewed the most recent financial report ending August 31, 2015.

C. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Insp. Randy Coplin

Inspector Coplin indicated there has been good progress with the FY 15 grant objectives. They expect to use all of the funds allocated to them. Year to date, 11,000 hours were dedicated with 8,000 traffic stops and 5,000 tickets issued. Out of the total tickets issued, only 548 were seat belt infractions. In the twelve-county area, which CVED determined were high crash areas, 900 hours of overtime was dedicated with 900 stops, 450 citations issued, of which 10-12 % were seat belt tickets. Regarding Drive to Zero, overtime was allocated for behavior enforcement, and signs were posted in scale facilities.

They would like to move the CVIEW project to FY 16. Michigan is one of the last states to have this technology so there is not another state at this level which Michigan could buy off of their contract.

Recently, Michigan was awarded from FMCSA for the 5th year, the award for having low fatality rate of CMVs.

D. Education Grant Activity Report – Mr. Al Newell

Mr. Newell requested that any Secretary of State information be sent to him and he will have it added to their website.

Mr. Newell indicated their budget should come in at approximately 95%. He explained one of the Truck simulator scenarios is driving in snowy conditions. Dr. Blower indicated that based on his observation, not all CMVs are slowing down in winter weather and heavy rainfall.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Review and Approval of the 2015/2016 Education Grant

The Center for Truck Safety has the same goals and objectives this year, but they are also requesting funding for an outreach office in the Detroit area. Mr. Newell is also requesting a new trailer for the simulator. Dr. Blower inquired about the budget regarding the Detroit proposal. Mr. Newell informed the Commissioners that they missed their goal of simulator training last year by 20 students as one simulator was not working part of the year.

Mr. Heinritzi recommended that discussions regarding a Detroit area outreach office be tabled for now. Additional data and analysis to support this concept and the amount of money it will cost need to be submitted and discussed by the Commission. Also, approval by the MTA Education Center Inc. Board which oversees the Michigan Center for Truck Safety is required.

Mr. Newell explained that through his research, this would be a feasible idea and it would run in the same way the current Escanaba office operates.

Mr. Moser made a MOTION to table the Detroit area outreach office, Mr. Ramels supported. The MOTION carries.

Mr. Prince reviewed the objectives in the grant with Mr. Newell to summarize what the center is proposing to do in FY 16. Mr. Newell will bring more specific information regarding their activities to the November MTSC meeting.

Mr. Yungfer made a MOTION to approve the Education Grant at the base award amount, Mr. Moser supported. Following roll call vote, the MOTION carries.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Blower	X			
Yungfer	X			
Bueter	X			
Conklin				X
Goller				X
Heinritzi			X	
Krumm	X			
Moser	X			
O'Brien				X
Prince	X			
Ramels	X			

B. Review and approval of the 2015/2016 Enforcement Grant

Inspector Coplin reviewed the CVED requests for FY 16. The amount requested is \$1,607,999 which will include STET operations, using DDACTs for high risk/crash areas, funding of a new recruit school and participation in Drive to Zero campaign.

Commissioners discussed \$28,900 in MSP Support Services costs for MSP Executive staff who work indirectly on the grant but are not staff of CVED. This is part of the Administrative Cost Allocation Methodology and it is authorized under the MSP Appropriation bill and associated matrix. The Governor and legislature appropriated those funds to support administrative overhead. The methodology is used to determine the amounts appropriated from each fund for support services. These amounts are revisited each year during budget.

Mr. Yungfer made a MOTION to approve Enforcement grant, Dr. Blower supported. Following a roll call vote, the MOTION carries.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Blower	X			
Yungfer	X			
Bueter	X			
Heinritzi	X			
Conklin				X
Goller				X
Krumm			X	
Moser	X			
O'Brien				X
Prince	X			
Ramels	X			

Inspector Coplin reviewed the two additional CVED grant requests which include shifting the CVIEW budget to FY 16 as they work on an agreement for this technology, overtime for the Drive to Zero efforts and to purchase 30 radars.

Mr. Bueter made a MOTION to approve the move the CVIEW budget to FY 16 Mr. Moser supported. Following a roll call vote, the MOTION carries.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Blower	X			
Yungfer	X			
Bueter	X			
Conklin				X
Goller				X
Heinritzi	X			
Krumm			X	
Moser	X			
O'Brien				X
Prince	X			
Ramels	X			

Mr. Yungfer made a MOTION to approve the additional grant requests in the amount \$150,571 which includes OT for Drive to Save Lives, and to purchase 30 new radars, Mr. Moser supported. Following a roll call vote, the MOTION carries.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Blower	X			
Yungfer	X			
Bueter	X			
Conklin				X
Goller				X
Heinritzi	X			
Krumm			X	
O'Brien				X
Moser	X			

Prince	X			
Ramels	X			

C. Approval of the MTSC Strategic Plan Proposal

OHSP placed an RFP out for bid for the 2016-2019 MTSC Strategic Plan. The RFP Committee met and selected a proposal from Western Michigan University (WMU). While all of the proposals submitted were good, the committee felt this one was the best choice based on the proposal evaluation. WMU has already made an adjustment in their proposed budget of approximately \$22,000. WMU also plans to survey carriers, truck drivers and truck organizations.

Because Dr. Blower is an employee of UMTRI (one of the applicants), he excused himself from this discussion.

Commissioners expressed concerns that they have not had an opportunity to review the proposal in advance of the meeting in accordance with the MTSC bylaws.

Mr. Yungfer stated that the Commissioners are not prepared today to discuss and vote on the proposal. Mr. Prince suggested to keep this project on track, OHSP could request WMU to prepare a grant application and then provide the proposal and the completed application to the Commissioners at least three weeks prior to the November meeting. If approved, work could begin in mid-November.

Mr. Prince made a MOTION that Western Michigan University should complete an application for the November MTSC meeting for Commission review and approval. Mr. Ramels supported. The MOTION carries.

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

MCTS Records Management System Assessment (PP)

Dr. Lidia Kostyniuk from UMTRI presented information on a Records Management System for the Center for Truck Safety. The goal of the study was to examine the record keeping system for training program and suggest improvements. Those improvements include keeping the current Access program but update with a newer version, hire a programmer to design reports, etc., use DOT numbers as identification, incorporate firewalls and other security measures. The Center for Truck Safety will review these recommendations and make a decision in the near future.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A.Update of MCDD

Dr. Blower initiated a detailed discussion of the status of the Michigan Center for Decision Driving. Mr. Blower indicated that Mr. O'Brien was not in attendance today, but that at the Commission's request, he had initiated a recent visit and meeting to the Ingham County Fairgrounds with himself, Mr. Ramels, Mr. Prince and Mr. Simmons to view the space and infrastructure for a possible Center for Decision Driving. Ingham county officials are supportive of the project, they would however, have to secure approval from the County Board of Commissioners.

Dr. Blower indicated that he is supportive of the concept of skid pad training, but that there are many questions to be considered, particularly since it appears that a facility will have to be constructed. There are questions of how this can be accomplished within the constraints on how Commission funds can be expended. What are the commissioners going to support, i.e. building, operations, etc. There are also legal considerations if the state of Michigan were to get involved in a project such as this. Mr. Prince reported that enrollment at the Center for Decision Driving dropped 58% between 2007 and 2013. A needs assessment should be performed including what the trucking industry is interested in regarding this type of training.

One proposal was submitted as a result of the RFP which OHSP placed out for bid. There was discussion of why an RFP had been issued while possible locations for a skid pad continued to be researched. Mr. Prince and Dr. Blower explained that location ideas were being researched even before

an RFP was placed out for bid, and that the intent of the RFP was to help determine the level of interest in operating a skid pad.

Following further discussions in which it was strongly urged that the existing proposal should be considered and evaluated, Dr. Blower indicated that it was his intention to allow for a vote on the proposal at the next meeting.

B. Truck Safety Coordinator discussion

This position would assist the commission by investigating and coordinating truck safety activities. Commissioners are requested to review the document included in the packets with further discussion at an upcoming meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Willcutt from Brenner Oil referred to the discussion regarding the Center for Decision Driving and asked why no one brought up the one proposal until Mr. Heinritzi mentioned it and noted that it was not included in the agenda. Mr. Willcutt indicated that he is a board member of the MTA and this proposal was discussed in great depth at their last meeting. Dr. Blower responded he was laying the groundwork to discuss the whole issue of the skid pad, and would have brought it up at the appropriate time.

Regarding the Program Coordinator Proposal, he inquired as to whom asked for this position. Dr. Blower responded that he was the one who suggested consideration of a Program Coordinator position as an option to keep the projects going between meetings.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.