

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

Fowlerville Weigh Station
Thursday, September 13, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Capt. Rick Arnold
Ms. Katie Bower
Mr. Jeremy Burleson
Mr. John Harris
Ms. Carol Heinowski
Mr. Brian Hitchcock
Mr. Jeff Lee
Dr. Jeremy Worm

Commissioners Absent

Three vacancies

Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Staff

Ms. Sarah Davis
Ms. Katelyn Mullin
Ms. Zada Schriener

Guests

Mr. Patrick Bowman (virtual)
Lt. George Bracco
Lt. Steve Horwood
Mr. Tom Lince
Officer Lance Powell
Ms. Robbin Sims
Ms. Jill Sokacz
Mr. Evan Stouten
Sgt. Marcus Studer
Ms. Michelle Zemla

ROLL CALL

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA –

Captain Arnold motioned for the Financial Report to be moved from the consent agenda and instead remain a recurring discussion item. Ms. Katie Bower supported the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

Captain Arnold motioned to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Jeremy Burleson supported the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

- a. Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2023 – Ms. Katie Bower motioned to approve the minutes; Dr. Jeremy Worm supported the motion. All Ayes. Motion passed.
- b. Enforcement Grant Activity Update
- c. Education Grant Activity Update
- d. FY2023 Project Updates

B. Enforcement Grant Activity – Lt. George Bracco – Michigan State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED)

FY2023 Truck Safety Grant – Progress Report

Enforcement

Goal 1: Reduce commercial motor vehicle (CMV) involved fatal crashes through high visibility patrols. Use a Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) in accordance with the CVED Action Plan by September 30, 2023.

Activity: The CVED will dedicate approximately 15,000 hours, divided among all districts to conduct STET operations, as mandated by MCL 247.675(4)(c), for the purposes of reducing CMV-related crashes and fatalities. These operations will focus on unsafe driving behaviors and defective equipment violations.

Toward Zero Deaths: The CVED will utilize an additional 3,300 hours of overtime for patrol and enforcement activities. This will occur during peak times, locations when and where CMV-related crashes occur, and other periods of peak traffic density, such as summer and holiday weekends. These patrols will occur in areas identified by each district's safety plan.

First - Fourth Quarters: The CVED will submit quarterly reports identifying the results of the STET operations and use the data to plan future operations. See the STET Activity Table and STET Hours Worked table in this report for quarterly and Year to Date (YTD) activity.

Progress Report

STET Activity – Quarterly and Year to Date Totals

ACTIVITY	Q1 TSF	Q2 TSF	Q3 TSF	Q4 TSF	FY23 TSF YTD	Q1 TZD	Q2 TZD	Q3 TZD	Q4 TZD	FY23 TZD YTD
Stops	1357	1803	2219	2032	7411	598	400	602	375	1975
Inspections	1125	1580	1916	1733	6354	530	347	498	288	1663
Verbal Warnings	1044	1502	1815	1640	6001	468	338	496	334	1636
Citations	396	564	689	717	2366	173	90	177	100	540
TOTAL HOURS	2340	3169	4151	3861	13521	837	580	887	588	2892

Non CMV vs CMV-Related Non-Fatal and Fatal Crashes – FY 2023 Year to Date

Evaluation period	Total Number of crashes	Total number of Truck/Bus crashes	Total number of fatal crashes	Truck/Bus fatal crashes	Percentage CMV related crash/fatal
FY23 to date	273400	13911	904	85	5.1/9.4
FY22 to date	275902	14347	990	85	5.2/9.1
Change	- .9%	- 3%	-8.5%	0%	
FY19 to date	296592	14071	834	85	4.74/10.2

Crash data source: TCRS/Numetric on September 12, 2023.

Note: While not an objective to this grant, a portion of the grant award is appropriated to support various Michigan State Police divisions as legislated under Public Act 207 of 2018.

CVED DAILY SUMMARY REPORT

Date Range:	From 10/1/2022 to 9/12/2023
Special Project(s):	300 TSF STET, 601 DR TO ZERO OT
Worksite(s):	Any
District(s):	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, HQ
Officer(s):	Any

SIZE AND WEIGHT ACTIVITY	COUNT
MDOT Special Permit	301
Portable	387
Platform	99
NORTH AMERICAN STD. INSP.	
Level #1	714
Level #2	1948
Level #3	5086
Level #6	0
Haz-Mat (Non-Bulk)	186
Cargo Tank (Haz-Mat Bulk)	68
Passenger Carrier	5
TOTAL SAFETY CHECKS	8007
PATROL ARREST	
Felony	5
Misdemeanor	626
Fugitive	30
TOTAL ARRESTS	661
PATROL ORIGINALS	
Criminal	63
Traffic	415
Non -Criminal	154
TOTAL INCIDENTS	632
OTHER INFORMATION	
Vehicle Stops	9367

CITATION SUMMARY	C	VW
Speed (Construction)	52	84
Speed (X-Way) Truck>10,000 lbs	294	777
Other Speed	215	786
Improper Lane Use	232	1522
SIZE AND WEIGHT		
Overweight	171	64
Oversize	29	59
Special Permit Violations	25	54
Line Added Bypass Open Scale	75	113
ACT 300		
Seat Belt	349	405
Registration	171	617
Drivers License	7	39
Texting/Handheld Device	9	5
ACT 181		
Driver Violations	392	331
Equipment Violations	334	1511
Hours of Service	130	58
HAZMAT Violations	7	40
OTHER CITATIONS		
UCR/CVED Authority	0	32
Fuel Tax	0	55
TOTAL	2902	7623

C. Education Grant Activity – Ms. Michelle Zemla – Michigan Center for Truck Safety (MCTS)

Goal - To plan, develop and manage the Michigan Center for Decision Driving (MCDD) - Skid Pad course by September 30, 2023

Acquire trucks & trailers and make related adjustments to vehicles necessary for safe use and management of MCDD:

- MCDD has acquired donations for 4 tractors and 4 trailers for operation at the skid pad.
- Researching the purchase of additional tractor/trailers if needed.

Acquire communication, technology, and office equipment necessary for safe management of MCDD: Quotes for technology are being sought for the following:

- Classroom/Instructor Computers
 - Instructor Computers are in the process of being ordered through the IT company.
- 2-Way communication devices
 - Obtained demo devices to test out from Mobile Communications America (MCA).
 - NOTE: most communications devices online require an FCC license. Purchasing through MCA does not require licensing.
- Management Software to track attendees, event scheduling for online class registration, and website creation.

Employ and train staff necessary for safe management of MCDD:

- Hiring of Project Director – MCDD named Michelle Zemla as Project Director to begin on July 1, 2023.

- Job posting for the administrative assistant was posted in June. Interviews will take place in July, with a start date for the position in mid-August. Susan Gregus was hired and began with the MTA Education Center Inc., on August 28, 2023.
- MCDD secured staff and will begin updated training.

On-going Activities include:

- Developing drive track activities
- Acquire necessary operational services and equipment necessary for safe management of MCDD.

A soft opening will be scheduled. The MTA Education Center Inc., MCDD will inform the MTSC of the date and time once scheduled.

The above activities are ongoing items.

D. FY2023 Project Updates –

Goal #1 – Provide commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety training to CMV drivers and industry personnel

The stated ambition for this goal is to provide commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety training to up to 1500 CMV drivers and industry personnel during the 2023 fiscal year.

The Center provided safety training to 932 CMV drivers and industry personnel. Training included New Entrant, Simulator Training, Defensive Driving Course, Reasonable Suspicion Training for Supervisors – UP Only, and Driver Performance Management from October 1, 2022- August 29, 2023.

Goal #2 – Strengthen CDL Programs by providing outreach to include seminars and community events.

The stated ambition for this goal is to strengthen CDL Programs by providing outreach to include seminars and community events to up to 5000 individuals during the 2023 fiscal year.

2629 individuals have attended safety related seminars, 65 individuals attended zoom training programs, and 2811 individuals viewed Facebook Live safety videos. In addition, 2509 individuals participated in demonstrations with the Mobile Simulator and 2753 individuals were reached through events such as conferences, Welcome Centers, etc. from October 1, 2022 - August 29, 2023.

Goal #3 – Additional CMV Safety Activities

The stated ambition for this goal is to provide additional CMV safety activities during FY2023.

The Center has provided additional CMV safety activities that included:

- Distributing over 24,187 Truck Drivers Guidebooks as well as other resources.
- Assisting with 2951 phone calls to the Centers two hotlines.

Goal #4 – Develop or Expand at least one training deliverable.

The stated ambition for this goal is to develop new or expand and improve, at least one training-related deliverable for the CMV drivers and industry during FY2023.

Currently, there are additional training scenarios being created for additional offerings through the simulator program.

The MCTS has awarded Virage Simulation, Inc. for the purchase of 2 simulators and 1 classroom trailer. The MCTS has put paid half the deposit in June to start the purchase, in order for Virage to start the classroom trailer build.

Goal #5 – Public Information & Education (PI&E) Campaign

The stated ambition for this goal is to develop or expand and improve public information and education campaigns during the 2023 fiscal year.

There is a PI&E campaign targeting Detroit, Grand Rapids, and the Upper Peninsula geographical areas. The digital and radio campaigns will run Mid-May through Mid-July. The digital media campaigns were extended for September.

Additional Notes:

The MTA Education Center Inc. hired Susan Gregus for the open Administrative Assistant position.

STANDING REPORT/UPDATES:

A. Chair's Report – Capt. Rick Arnold – Looking forward to today's conversation regarding financials and project proposals for FY2024.

B. Commissioners Perspectives

Ms. Carol Heinowski – This week is National Truck Driver Appreciation Week and encourages the commissioners to share via social media to honor our truckers.

Ms. Katie Bower – The Office of Highway Safety Planning is preparing for our 2024 Michigan Traffic Safety Summit March 12-13, 2023, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan. Seeking recommendations for speakers and topics by September 29, 2023.

Truck/Bus crashes have reduced by 4.78% compared to this same-time last year. However, injuries and fatalities have increased.

Mr. Jeremy Burleson – Nothing to report.

Mr. John Harris – Michigan Department of State (MDOS) continues [Road to Restoration Clinics](#) throughout the State of Michigan. MDOS is working to update and modernize kiosks located at Secretary of State branches:

Mr. Jeffrey Lee – Appreciates the opportunity to meet with the commissioners at the weigh station.

Mr. Brian Hitchcock – The Bluewater Bridge traffic has improved. Concerns raised regarding I-96 and M52 with carriers blocking traffic. The left turn lane is blocked and does not allow traffic to turn, unless turning into oncoming traffic. Captain Arnold to follow-up for resolve.

Dr. Jeremy Worm – Thank you for the opportunity to meet at the weigh station today. Found the presentation from Mr. Bowman to be very informative for this commission.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Financial Report – Ms. Zada Schriener – OHSP

Conversations have taken place among the OHSP, MTA/MCTS and Captain Arnold as the group continues to streamline processes.

For FY2023, there is \$120,000 remaining with an anticipated remaining budget balance. Projected to have excess revenue over expenditures. Projecting a balance of \$4.5 – 6 million dollars for FY24 with three pending project proposals for review and approval.

By statute, FY2024 Authorization is set to \$3,974,600. A justification will be submitted to the MSP Budget Office, with a proposal to legislature to then follow from the State Budget Office. For today's action items on the three project proposals, the commission is to assume additional funding will be available.

Truck Safety Fund (PA 348 of 1988)
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance
For Fiscal Year 2023
As of August 31, 2023

FY24 Authorization	Annual Budget	Received/ Expended Year to Date	Remaining Budget	% Received/ Expended Year to Date	
Revenues:					September
Truck Registration Fees (SOS)(1)	\$2,200,000	\$2,194,858	\$5,142	99.77%	
Uniform Carrier Fees (CIS) (2)	750,000	562,500	187,500	75.00%	
Fund Balance Reserve	200,000	0	200,000	0.00%	
Total Revenues	\$3,150,000	\$2,757,358	\$392,642	87.54%	
Expenditures					
Administration (3)	\$100,000	\$37,845	\$62,155	37.85%	Projected remaining balance
Commissioner Expenses (4)	5,000	0	\$5,000	0.00%	No expend expected
Education (3)(7) *	1,039,390	63,696	\$975,694	6.13%	MI Center for Decision Driving/Skid Pad (GRANT)
Education (3)(5) *	1,512,971	828,793	\$684,178	54.78%	MTA/MI CenterTruck Safety -
Enforcement-MSP (3)(6)	2,000,000	1,706,790	\$293,210	85.34%	CVED will use all available
Total Expenses	4,657,361	\$2,637,124	\$2,020,237	56.62%	
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	(\$1,507,361)	\$120,234	(\$1,627,595)		

Fund Balance					
Beginning Fund Balance	\$3,604,118	\$3,604,118			
Payable Write-Off	0	50			
Total Beginning Fund Balance	\$3,604,118	\$3,604,118			
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	(1,507,361)	120,234			
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,096,757	\$3,724,352			

*2024 Beginning Balance subject to change after State of Michigan closeout is completed.

(1) Authority: PA 346 of 1988; MCL 257.801

(2) Authority: PA 347 of 1988; MCL 478.7

(3) Per PA 348 of 1988; MCL 247.675- Administration is not to exceed 5% of total revenues, up to \$100,000;
Education must be not less than 30% of total revenues, but not less than \$1,000,000;
Enforcement must be not less than \$750,000 of the balance of funds.

(4) Not considered an Administration expenditure, per 10/95 MTSC meeting

(5) Michigan Center for Truck Safety

(6) Michigan State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division

(7) MTSC Decision Driving - Skid Pad 473,971 budget updated May 10, 2023

Proposed Activities 515,000

B. Review of MTSC bylaws

Captain Arnold shared there has been no momentum on the bylaws at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Michigan Traffic Crash Facts (MTCF) Truck Data – Mr. Patrick Bowman – University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI)

Data reflected is year-end data from the MSP Criminal Justice Informatics Center (CJIC) for 2013-2022 with all information available on <https://www.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org/>.

Overview provided on the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety data/publications.

Starting in October, UMTRI will zone in on 2022 data. Analysis Reports available now for each group in the meantime.

Data Query Tool reviewed with the group which starts at 2004 with filters allowing you to zone in on specifics as needed. Request from Captain Arnold for a deeper dive.

Mr. Bowman is available to assist with specific requests the commissioners may be interested in. Presentation from today’s meeting to be shared with commissioners.

ACTION ITEMS

A. FY24 CVED Project Proposal

Responding to public concern regarding CMV safety, the Michigan Legislature established the Truck Safety Fund (TSF) in 1989. Legislation requires MSP CVED to conduct specialized CMV enforcement operations, known as Special Transportation Enforcement Team Operations (STETS). MSP-CVED now splits the grant working STETS during normal business hours and Drive To Zero (DTZ) overtime operations during holidays, or other peak travel periods.

MSP-CVED is the only enforcement group solely focused on one responsibility, the enforcement of CMV regulations. MSP-CVED is working towards reducing crashes involving CMVs and protecting our infrastructure.

MSP-CVED has faced staffing shortages over the past three to five years. To combat these shortages, we will use a portion of our TSF Grant to recruit, hire, and train new motor carrier officers each year for the next three years

Captain Arnold made a motion to approve the FY2024 CVED project in the amount of \$2,000,000; Mr. John Harris supported the motion; All ayes. Approved by the MTSC.

COMMISSIONER		Yay	Nay	Abstain	Absent
1.	Capt. Rick Arnold, Chair			X	
2.	Ms. Katie Bower	X			
3.	Mr. Jeremy Burleson	X			
4.	Mr. John Harris	X			
5.	Ms. Carol Heinowski	X			
6.	Mr. Brian Hitchcock	X			
7.	Mr. Jeff Lee	X			
8.	Dr. Jeremy Worm	X			
9.	Vacant				X
10.	Vacant				X
11.	Vacant				X

B. FY24 Michigan Center for Truck Safety (MCTS) Project Proposal

In 1988, the Michigan Legislature created the MTSC with the enactment of Public Act 348. This was in response to a rise in crashes, violations of the Hours-of-Service Rules, insecure loads, and excessive speeding by commercial drivers. This was detrimental to the image of the trucking industry. The primary provisions of the Act are as follows:

- Establishment of an 11-member Commission representing a cross section of transportation safety groups and individuals. The Commission is established in the Office of Highway Safety Planning a division of the Department of State Police. The office of Highway Safety Planning shall administer the grants.
- The FY2023 grantee for the CMV safety education program is the MTA Education Center, Inc., a subsidiary of the Michigan Trucking Association, doing business as (DBA) the Michigan Center for Truck Safety.
- The MCTS is tasked with the responsibility of establishing truck driver safety education programs, to improve the safety of commercial vehicles operated in the state of Michigan. The MCTS provides the general motoring public information on how to share the road safely with trucks. MCTS is responsible for the effective and efficient use of funding provided.

The Challenge:

For fiscal year 2024, 2025 and 2026 the MCTS programs seek to reduce crashes involving CMVs, both in frequency and severity, by providing information and education to professional drivers and motor carriers, and outreach information to the general motoring public.

According to preliminary statistics for 2022 (1), the number of CMV/bus crashes accounted for 7.5 percent of the 118,648 traffic crashes in Michigan, with 105 fatalities for 2022 CMV/bus crashes, according to MSP Criminal Justice Data Center crash report totals for 2022. The MCTS mission is to provide Michigan drivers with appropriate information to reduce crashes. In analyzing crash data, the MCTS Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver educational programs should have a positive effect on reducing CMV crashes.

(1) preliminary MSP Criminal Justice Data Center crash report totals for 2022

Captain Arnold made a motion to approve FY2024 MCTS project in the amount of \$1,618,545; Mr. John Harris supported the motion; All ayes. Approved by the MTSC.

COMMISSIONER		Yay	Nay	Abstain	Absent
1.	Capt. Rick Arnold, Chair	X			
2.	Ms. Katie Bower	X			
3.	Mr. Jeremy Burleson	X			
4.	Mr. John Harris	X			
5.	Ms. Carol Heinowski	X			
6.	Mr. Brian Hitchcock			X	
7.	Mr. Jeff Lee	X			
8.	Dr. Jeremy Worm	X			
9.	Vacant				X
10.	Vacant				X
11.	Vacant				X

C. FY24 Michigan Center for Decision Driving (MCDD) Project Proposal

Any motor vehicle crash is potentially tragic, but crashes involving trucks tend to be more serious than those involving other vehicles. Studies show that even the best of drivers tend to overestimate their driving abilities. This could have serious, even deadly, consequences in a dangerous situation that requires highly developed decision-making skills and quick reactions. 2021 Traffic Crash Data and Trends show an uptick in both total and fatal crashes. From 2020 to 2021 fatal crashes increased from 77 to 93, total crashes increased from 11,344 to 14,293 fatal.

To reduce crashes and improve highway safety, it is essential that commercial drivers fully understand proper stopping and skid-control techniques that are unique to the type of vehicle they operate. The MCDD intends to use both classroom training and hands-on experience to provide commercial drivers the knowledge and skills necessary to avoid collisions before they happen and to give them real-time recovery methods to recover control of the commercial vehicle before a crash.

Goal for the Skid Pad to open in November 2023 with an open house to commemorate its opening.

Captain Arnold made a motion to approve FY2024 MCDD project in the amount of \$1,306,000; Mr. John Harris supported the motion; All ayes. Approved by the MTSC.

COMMISSIONER		Yay	Nay	Abstain	Absent
1.	Capt. Rick Arnold, Chair	X			
2.	Ms. Katie Bower	X			
3.	Mr. Jeremy Burleson	X			
4.	Mr. John Harris	X			
5.	Ms. Carol Heinowski	X			
6.	Mr. Brian Hitchcock			X	
7.	Mr. Jeff Lee	X			
8.	Dr. Jeremy Worm	X			
9.	Vacant				X
10.	Vacant				X
11.	Vacant				X

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No formal announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Evan Stouten – thank you to this commission for their support.

ADJOURNMENT

Captain Arnold motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Jeff Lee supported the motion. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Captain Arnold made the motion to reschedule the October 25, 2023, MTSC. Due to scheduling conflicts for November, the MTSC agreed to meet on Wednesday, December 12, 2023, at the Michigan Center for Truck Safety.