

# Michigan Motorcycle Safety Action Team

## DRAFT

January 17, 2024

### Meeting Minutes

#### Present

Peggy Hines – MI Dept. of State  
Lori Thomas – MI Dept. of State  
Patricia Heiler – MI Dept. of State  
Virginia Henry – MI Dept. of State  
Virginia Abdo – MI Dept. of State  
Brandon Cannon – MI Dept. of State  
Gerry Steiner – MI Dept. of State  
Alicia Sledge – Ofc. of Hwy. Safety Planning  
Dan Petterson - SMARTER  
Sean Diaz – Schoolcraft College  
Rick Massic - RiderCoach  
Lindsey Higginbottom – Washtenaw Community College  
Deanna Ward – RiderCoach Trainer  
Gary Kopta – Abate of Michigan  
Herb Rials – Abate of Michigan  
Vern Shock – Abate of Michigan  
Mark Bearl – Abate of Michigan  
Ken Townsend – Abate of Michigan  
Vince Consiglio – Abate of Michigan  
Butch Brown – Abate of Michigan  
Robert Shock – Abate of Michigan

#### Roll Call

The Michigan Motorcycle Safety Action Team meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM.

#### Introductions

Self-introductions were made by those present.

#### Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the October 18, 2023, meeting minutes was made. Approval was given by Butch Brown.

#### Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) Action team Chair Meeting

Peggy Hines provided an overview of the discussion that took place at the November 28, 2023, meeting including, reviewing the Action Team Code of Conduct. In addition, an overview of the expectations of Action Teams and persons serving in chair/co-chair positions was discussed including the responsibility to work towards the objectives in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. During the GTSAC Chair Meeting the GTSAC asked Action Teams to generate ideas for grant funding for traffic safety initiatives. These ideas should be passed through the chairs of each Action Team to the OHSP. The GTSAC reported they are developing a guidebook for Action Team chairs. The GTSAC recommended that Action Teams have one State of Michigan chair and one local/stakeholder chair. It was mentioned that past meeting minutes and upcoming meeting information is available online.

Vince Consiglio reported that he received a cancellation notice for the GTSAC Action Team Chair meeting and did not attend due to this.

MI Department of State Realignment / Chair Positions for 2024

Peggy Hines recommended the Team nominate and select a state chair and local/stakeholder chair that would serve in these roles for all of 2024.

Dan Petterson recommended Peggy Hines (Lori Thomas) serve as the state chair and Deanna Ward serve as the local/stakeholder chair.

Peggy Hines announced that the Dept. of State is realigning the MI Rider Education Program (MIREP) under the Driver Education and Testing Section (DETS) which would change the administrative oversight of the program to another Division. Peggy recommended that Virginia Henry the manager of the DETS serve as chair.

Dan expressed that he was disappointed that the MIREP was again being realigned by the State as it impacts progress. Dan then nominated Virginia Henry and Deanna Ward to serve as chairs.

Vince Consiglio nominated MIREP State Coordinator Brandon Cannon to serve as a chair.

Discussion took place that Brandon would remain in his role as coordinator and a participant on MSAT with the move to the DETS.

Lindsey Higginbottom expressed that he was glad Brandon would be moving with the program and nominated Rick Massic as the local/stakeholder chair.

Rick Massic respectfully declined the position due to other commitments. Rick expressed that he remains interested in participating on the Action Team going forward, but not as a chair. He seconded the motion to have Virginia Henry serve as a chair.

Deanna Ward expressed her willingness to serve but asked to confirm the responsibilities of a chair. Peggy Hines noted the responsibilities would include assisting in the administration of the Action Team as it works toward the mission of the GTSAC and providing leadership to the Team in promoting strategies related to motorcyclist safety. Deanna expressed her interest in serving as a chair for 2024.

Vince Consiglio noted concern that in the past the State Coordinator always served as a chair on the Team. He also noted that the person serving as a chair should have knowledge of rider education programs and should ride a motorcycle.

Other discussion took place on who Brandon's supervisor would be and the alignment of Brandon under the DETS. Peggy advised that Brandon would be a direct report to Virginia Henry who was nominated to serve as the State chair. Peggy also advised that under the new alignment Brandon would continue to serve as a participant on the Action Team but would not hold a chair position due to other responsibilities and that the State would move forward with having a person in a managerial role serve as the state chair for 2024.

Discussion took place to move forward and move on to the next agenda item.

Final Chair Positions for 2024: Virginia Henry – State Chair and Deanna Ward – Stakeholder Chair

**Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)**

Peggy noted the SHSP was sent out with the meeting appointment and with an updated version(s) of the October 2023 meeting minutes. She noted this is the GTSAC approved plan that is in place from 2023 through 2026. Discussion took place amongst attendees on how the motorcycle portion of the SHSP was developed. Attendees that had participated in previous years Action Team meetings reported they were not asked for input on a Motorcyclist Action Plan that would or should have been used in the SHSP. Attendees also reported that there were no notes or minutes kept on previous Action Team meetings which would provide a historic account of discussion and proposed plans.

Alicia Sledge reported that the MI Dept. of Transportation oversaw the development of the SHSP and contracted with a third-party to develop the plan. Discussion took place noting the plan was written at a high level and was very generalized. Many attendees voiced concern that the existing plan does not address issues that Michigan has seen consistently for many years.

### **Action Team 2023 Accomplishments Document**

Peggy reported that during the GTSAC Chair Meeting it was discussed that each Action Team must submit an Accomplishments Document by January 30, 2024. She noted that the document should provide an update on everything the Action Team and its participants did in 2023 related to the objectives and strategies in the motorcycle safety section of the SHSP. Peggy relayed that she went through the document and updated it with relevant accomplishments that she has knowledge of. She asked all attendees to review the document and provide her with other accomplishments that should be included by January 23, 2024, so she can compile them into one document for submission to the GTSAC.

### **Motorcyclist Safety Action Plan**

Attendees discussed the fact that the current SHSP expires in 2026 and again noted the Action Team was not consulted when this plan was completed. Discussion took place on the importance of moving forward as a Team to ensure its voice is considered for future SHSPs.

It was also discussed that before Brandon left for military leave that the Action Team did start working on a motorcyclist action plan however it was not completed at that time. Moving forward, this may be a good starting point at plan development.

### **General Discussion**

Alicia Sledge mentioned to the group that OHSP will open proposals for funding for FY25 on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Interested parties should check the OHSP website for proposal information and guidelines.

Herb Rials addressed the Team noting that many of the issues in the SHSP that are trying to be addressed have been in place for many years with no solution. He mentioned that unendorsed cyclists continue to be an issue and voiced his concern that enforcement surrounding this issue isn't being addressed. He noted that for this Team to be effective it must find and do what works and enforcement has to improve. He also expressed that often there is little done to motorists that injure/kill a cyclist and this also has to change.

Dan Petterson mentioned a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Counter Measures document that is posted on the SMARTER website. He agreed focus must be on what works and that the Team must pay attention to what research shows using the data that is available in order to move motorcyclist safety forward in Michigan.

Lindsey Higginbottom discussed how MI must have effective training programs available to all riders throughout the state. Focus should be on crash avoidance strategies and then crash survival. He mentioned that novice classes need to be more widely and easily accessible especially in northern Michigan.

Vince Consiglio discussed the need for law enforcement support when they identify an unendorsed cyclist. He voiced concern that law enforcement does not tow the bike, which they could if a person is not endorsed properly.

Gerry Steiner reported issues with law enforcement not getting support from the courts in certain areas of the state when enforcing cycle laws.

### **Action Items**

Alicia Sledge: Provide the 2022 Traffic Crash statistics related to helmet use.

Peggy Hines: Provide a copy of the draft version of the Action Plan, SHSP, and Accomplishments document.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:54 AM.

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, April 10, 2024. Location is to be determined.