

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

Michigan Center for Truck Safety
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Absent

Mr. Jeremy Burleson
Dr. Jeremy Worm
Two vacancies

Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Staff

Mr. Manjinder-Singh Ghotra
Ms. Katelyn Mullin
Ms. Zada Schriener

Guests

Lt. George Bracco
Ms. Marilynne Fattal
Ms. Robbin Sims
Ms. Jill Sokacz
Ms. Michelle Zemla

ROLL CALL

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission (MTSC) meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. Introductions were made around the room as we welcomed two new commissioners to the MTSC.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA –

Mr. Brian Hitchcock motioned to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Katie Bower supported the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

- a. Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2023 – Mr. Brian Hitchcock motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Katie Bower supported the motion. All Ayes. Motion passed.
- b. Enforcement Grant Activity Update
- c. Education Grant Activity Update
- d. FY2024 Project Updates

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

FY2024 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 in accordance with the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division's (CVED) Action Plan by September 30, 2024.

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 – 10/1/2023 thru 2/25/2024

ACTIVITY	10/1 – 2/25 TSF	10/1 – 2/25 TZD
Stops	2,439	379
Inspections	2,183	309
Verbal Warnings	1,926	307
Citations	787	102
TOTAL HOURS	4,266	578

Non CMV vs CMV-Related Non-Fatal and Fatal Crashes – FY 2024 YTD

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
FY24 to date	12,2079	6,177	310	34	5.06/10.97
FY23 to date	13,6452	6,739	394	46	4.94/11.68
Change	-11%	-8.5%	-21.7%	-25.5%	
FY19 to date	14,8055	6,720	340	36	4.54/10.59

Crash data source: TCRS/Numetric on 2-26-24.

MSP-CVED will be starting the next Motor Carrier Officer Recruit School (MCORS) on August 4, 2024. We are anticipating starting 25 recruits.

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.

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

Fiscal Year 2024 Michigan Center for Truck Safety Goals:

1. Provide commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety training to up to 1,500 CMV drivers and industry personnel during the 2024 fiscal year.
2. Strengthen Commercial Driver’s License Programs by providing outreach to include seminars and community events to up to 5,000 individuals during the 2024 fiscal year.
3. Provide additional CMV safety activities during FY2024.
4. Develop new or expand and improve, at least one training-related deliverable for the CMV drivers and industry during FY2024.
5. Develop or expand and improve public information and education campaigns during the 2024 fiscal year.

Goal Activities	JAN	FEB	MARCH	Total
Training Program Attendees	62	32		
Outreach				
Seminar	222	926		
Simulator Demos/Event Outreach	184	103		
Facebook Live Video Views	178	53		
Additional Safety Activities				
Phone Calls	295	80		
Truck Driver Guidebooks	11,142	1460		
Other Materials (DVDs, brochures)	1251			
New or Improved Training	In Progress			
Public Information & Education (Marketing)				

Ongoing:

- Michigan Center for Truck Safety (MCTS) received the new Virage Simulators and classroom trailer the first week of February 2024.
- Staff attended training the trainer with Virage staff February 15-16, 2024.
- MCTS is currently viewing a replacement vehicle to haul the mobile classroom. Staff are viewing and test-driving appropriate vehicles to haul the new classroom trailer.
- The new simulator program will be implemented into training March 9, 2024, and be implemented into outreach March 4, 2024.

D. FY24 Project Updates –

Goal – To plan, develop and manage the Michigan Center for Decision Driving (MCDD - Skid Pad) course by September 30, 2024, Activities

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

- All necessary heavy equipment has been donated/purchased.
- Metal plates to be installed on all tractor/trailers – Working with Zick’s Welding & Fabricating. Four tractors and three trailers have the metal plates installed as of February 27, 2024.
- Straps (instead of chains) will be used to connect all tractor/trailers for safety – Working with AAA Sling to purchase. AAA Sling has completed three sets of straps.
- Three complete tractor/trailers are available for use on the skid pad.
- Acquire communication, technology, and office equipment necessary for safe management of MCDD:
 - As of February 27, 2024, MCA has shipped the communication devices and should arrive at the Lansing office
 - As of December 30, 2023, the vendor selected for Management Software to track attendees, event scheduling for online class registration, and website creation is AMO – Arcstone – This remains in progress.

Employ and train staff necessary for safe management of MCDD:

- Hired one full-time trainer to start March 4, 2024.
- Hired one part-time trainer to start March 4, 2024.
- Actively seeking one additional full-time trainer.

On-going Activities include:

- Developing drive track activities.
- Reviewing 2014 MCDD workbook to develop a more current book and track activities.
- Updated Instructor Guide and Student Guide edited and final meetings with printer on February 27, 2024.
- Lawrence Productions will be producing the Skid Pad training videos. Production to take place first two weeks of April 2024.

Acquire necessary operational services and equipment necessary for safe management of MCDD:

- The following items need to be installed on the pad. Working with Eaton to schedule a day and time for install.
 - Directional Lights – Purchased
 - Speed Limit indicators – Purchased

STANDING REPORT/UPDATES:

A. Chair's Report – Ms. Carol Heinowski (Interim Chair) – Private Motor Carriers – Regarding Frost Laws, we received a slight pass due to the weather, but this will remain on the radar at commissioner level for future discussion.

B. Commissioners Perspectives

Ms. Katie Bower – Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning – The 27th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit took place March 12-13, 2024, in East Lansing with an overall attendance of 516 attendees. This event drew 64 speakers for various general sessions and workshops along with 27 exhibitors across two-days. The Michigan Department of Transportation identified eligible continued education hours for various workshops, and we trialed a scanning process through the application use of Whova. On the second day of the event, we held an awards luncheon for the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission Traffic Safety Awards to highlight those who are making an impact in traffic safety initiatives. Overall, the OHSP has received positive feedback on the event with plans to start planning for our event in 2025 in the coming months.

Traffic crashes are down in comparison to last year. As of March 17, 2024, we are at 49,731. Fatalities are also slightly down from 149 to 145. Truck/Bus crashes have increased from 2,574 to 2,740.

April is Distracted Driving Month which will bring additional enforcement to roadways along with several campaigns. A new commercial was filmed and will be airing next month regarding the Move Over Law. The OHSP held a focus group on March 19, 2024, and another on March 20, 2024, for Work Zone Safety with a new commercial to be filmed in the coming weeks. A motorcycle safety commercial is also in the process of being planned for recording.

Mr. Jeremy Burleson – Michigan Community Colleges – Commissioner absent for today's discussion.

Mr. John Harris – Michigan Department of State – The Secretary of State has restarted their Road to Restoration Clinics to assist driver's seeking to obtain their licensing. The first clinic is taking place today in Flint with scheduled appointments and walk-ins available. Additional information located here: <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/license-id/road-to-restoration>.

Drug and Alcohol Clearing House is in the process of having programming in place with goal to implement by November 2024. This will impact those with a negative drop with several steps in place ahead of re-obtaining their license.

Attended the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit where Mr. Dale Schneider from the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) presented on the masking of commercial driver's licenses.

A new training initiative is in place for courts and law enforcement agencies to assist with reading driving records better. If this is something the CVED is interested in providing during their Recruit School, MDOS would be willing to provide someone to do so.

Mr. Brian Hitchcock – Michigan Trucking Association – Seeing a downturn around 20 percent in the state for transportation needs which could be due to a mild Winter. This is across several states including Michigan. Fuels are down due to decreased travel and noticing the lowest mileage since pre-pandemic.

Mr. Samer Koujane – General Public – Company runs 53 foot automotive throughout the Midwest. A driver can leave the terminal and say they have completed their pre-work and later down the road it is identified that something on their truck is non-functional such as lighting. As for safety, there are five trucks that run around the clock yet all it takes is for one driver who fails to buckle up or for speeding.

Mr. Koujane is excited to be a part of this commission moving forth to make positive changes moving forth for truck safety overall.

Mr. Jeffrey Lee – Organized Labor – Looking forward to the opening of the Skid Pad as various organizations will benefit from use.

Question asked if either the CVED and/or the Michigan Center for Truck Safety provides education efforts to organizations and their truck drivers, and the answer is yes. Contact information will be provided to Mr. Lee for next steps if interested in advancing.

A new team recently elected for the Teamsters as they are looking to generate a new school. Mr. Lee spoke to his local group that is working to kickstart the process with discussions in place with various facilities to secure a location.

Inspector Patrick Morris – Michigan State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division – A Recruit School will start on August 4, 2024, and anticipating around 20 individuals to start. A new facility is being started with the goal to complete by December 2024. The CVED is in the process of updating all facilities with work already started at various locations. Allocation of funds for this project was started in 2019 and due to vacancy savings and being low on personnel, they have been able to apply funds to infrastructure.

Inspector Morris recently signed an approval to request contract for messaging like “Speed operation ahead, slow down and move over.” This will be measurable and produce data on how many vehicles slowed down prior to a point in the geofence. Billboards and simple/standard messaging will continue to be utilized to provide multiple layers of messaging with the goal to limit citations and increase compliance.

Dr. Jeremy Worm – Michigan Four-Year Colleges and University – Commissioner absent for today's discussion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Financial Report – Ms. Zada Schriener – OHSP

Fund balance just over \$4 million. Spend pattern for the first quarter is low but historically this picks up over the year and will continue to be monitored closely as we move forth.

Copy of report produced on March 6, 2024, found on the following page.

**Truck Safety Fund (PA 348 of 1988)
 Statement of Changes in Fund Balance
 For Fiscal Year 2024
 as of February 29, 2024**

	Annual Budget	Received/ Expended Year to Date	Remaining Budget
Revenues:			
Truck Registration Fees (SOS)(1)	\$2,200,000	1,422,463	777,537
Uniform Carrier Fees (CIS) (2)	750,000	312,500	437,500
Total Revenues	\$2,950,000	1,734,963	1,215,037
Expenditures			
Administration (3)	\$100,000	14,426	85,574
Commissioner Expenses (4)	5,000	-	5,000
Education (3)(7) MCDD	1,003,300	87,754	915,545
Education (3)(5) * MTA	1,618,545	195,799	1,422,746
Enforcement-MSP (3)(6)	2,000,000	19,229	1,980,771
Total Expenses	4,726,845	317,208	4,409,636
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	(\$1,776,845)	1,417,755	(359,090)

Fund Balance			
* Beginning Fund Balance	\$3,668,844	3,359,430.01	
Payable Write-Off	0	-	
Total Beginning Fund Balance	\$3,668,844	3,359,430.01	
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	(1,776,845)	1,417,755	
Ending Fund Balance	\$1,891,999	4,777,184.52	

***2024 Beginning Balance updated to reflect actual carryforward after State of Michigan closeout was 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

B. Michigan Trucking Association Contract Changes and Costs – Ms. Katie Bower, Ms. Zada Schriener, Ms. Jill Sokacz, and Ms. Michelle Zemla

The Center for Truck Safety was reverted to a contract around four years ago. When Ms. Bower assumed her position with the Office of Highway Safety Planning, it appeared that the state money was referencing federal restrictions within the state contract which was not necessary. Currently, the center is needing to report items such as phone costs, rentals, personnel costs, etc. Through a variety of contracts for the State of Michigan, we approach this based on a contract to do business vs treatment of a grant. The statute states that the truck commission funds should be expended for establishing truck safety education programs with no verbiage regarding a grant.

We are nearing the time of the year where the commission will need to decide funding wise. Ms. Bower is seeking support of treating this as a contract and moving more towards a vendor service. The State of Michigan does have a requirement to include a value within the contract as this was previously paid as a direct payment. The current contract with the State of Michigan is for 2020-2023 with a three-year extension. The contract has money on it with no concerns of adding funds to the existing contract. Ideally, we would amend the payment structure of the contract as well.

Details continue to be considered and revised ahead of implementation of official changes.

Mr. Jeffrey Lee motioned to approve the Michigan Trucking Association and Center for Truck Safety to advance with planning efforts. Mr. John Harris supported the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

C. Michigan Center for Truck Safety New Simulators and Classroom Trailer – Ms. Michelle Zemla

The new classroom and simulators are now in place. These are available for a tour for those interested post-meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Michigan Trucking Association and Michigan Center for Truck Safety Contract Changes and Costs – Commissioner vote for organizations to move forth with planning efforts with presentation to commission in July 2024.

COMMISSIONER		Yay	Nay	Abstain	Absent
1.	Ms. Katie Bower	X			
2.	Mr. Jeremy Burleson				X
3.	Mr. John Harris	X			
4.	Ms. Carol Heinowski (Interim Chair)	X			
5.	Mr. Brian Hitchcock	X			
6.	Mr. Samer Koujane	X			
7.	Mr. Jeffrey Lee	X			
8.	Insp. Patrick Morris	X			
9.	Dr. Jeremy Worm				X
10.	Vacant				X
11.	Vacant				X

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For our next meeting on May 8, 2024, we are *tentatively* planning for a vote for a new commission chair.

Who on the group is working with Dr. Worm on vetting out future projects – this includes Ms. Bower and Mr. Hitchcock. Work continues with a deep dive of the current strategic plan. This will be added to the agenda for the May 8, 2024, meeting.

Commercialservices@michigan.gov for interest in signing up for subscription services.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments for today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Heinowski motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Katie Bower supported the motion. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The MTSC will meet again on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, starting at 9 a.m. at the Michigan Center for Truck Safety.