



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

COL. JOSEPH M. GASPER  
DIRECTOR

**Microsoft Teams Meeting  
Tuesday, December 7, 2021  
9:00 a.m.  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Michael Prince (Chair)	Office of Highway Safety Planning
Emmitt McGowan	Michigan Department of State Police
Kenneth Micklash	Michigan Department of Education
Linda Scarpetta	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Gregg Brunner	Michigan Department of Transportation
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Steve Kiefer (virtual)	Governor's Office
Michael Poulin	Muskegon County Sheriff's Office
Ron Wiles	Local Representative
William Miller	Local Representative
Vacant Seat	Aging and Adult Services Agency
Carol Reagan (virtual)	Michigan Department of State
<b>STAFF SUPPORT</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Kimberlee Kenyon	Office of Highway Safety Planning

**CALL TO ORDER**

The GTSAC meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Prince at 9:11 a.m.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Prince welcomed everyone to today's meeting. Commissioners gave brief introductions to everyone on the call.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Micklash made a motion to approve the minutes, with edits, for the June 1, 2021, meeting; Ms. Scarpetta supported it. The motion carried.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE— Sgt. Nicole McGhee, MSP**

Tabled

**COMMISSIONER STANDING REPORTS**

**Michigan Department of Transportation — Gregg Brunner**

Final research draft reports have been submitted for Synthesis of National Best Practices on Ped/Bike Design, Guidance and Technology Innovations, and Speed Feedback Signs. The research project for Evaluating the Impacts of the 2017 Legislative Mandated Speed Limit Increases will be extended to the end of June 2022 to accommodate further information review.

Last month MDOT held a kickoff meeting for Effective Pedestrian/Non-Motorized Crossing Enhancements along with Higher Speed Corridors research with Western Michigan University. As the

- Michael L. Prince, Chair, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Steven Kiefer, Governor's Office • Carol Reagan, Department of State • Gregg Brunner, Department of Transportation • Linda Scarpetta, Department of Health and Human Services • Kenneth Micklash, Department of Education • Inspector Scott Marier, Department of State Police • Rachel Telder, Aging and Adult Services Agency • Hank Kelley, Local Representative • Chief Ronald Wiles, Local Representative • Sheriff Michael Poulin, Local Representative

title implies the goal is to develop guidance for MDOT on appropriate traffic control devices and operations for non-motorists on our 45 mph or higher corridors where such activity is permitted. In support of Performance-Based Practical Design, Traffic and Safety sponsored two MDOT/ACEC Design Basic Training classes on Data-Driven Safety Analysis (DDSA) taught by Mark Bott (MDOT) and Jeff Bagdade (Atkins Global). Programming covered What is Data-Driven Safety Analysis and How to Apply the Michigan Safety Analysis Maps. The first class was offered on Sep. 28 and Oct. 6, the second class was offered on Oct. 20 and 27. The types of crash safety analysis based on project work type is being reviewed by the system managers upon which the implementation date will be set. MDOT has just completed its annual Safety Call for Projects. To meet MDOT's safety goal of reducing fatalities and serious injuries on the state trunkline in support of the SHSP the strategy of the Safety Program is to select cost-effective safety improvements to address locations with correctable fatality (K) and serious injury (A) crashes. Locations identified shall support the key focus areas of the SHSP.

For the FY 2023 - 2027 program, the regions submitted new 29 projects, broken down by Fiscal Year below:

Fiscal Year	New Projects Programmed	Project Cost
2023	2	\$1,889,564
2024	2	\$261,119
2025	5	\$2,463,100
2026	7	\$3,286,061
2027	13	\$18,926,217
		<b>\$26,826,061</b>

Of these projects, 11 were proven systemic safety improvements. The 18 Time of Return (cost/benefit) submitted projects, based on an existing crash pattern and proposed improvements, will address the following crash severity and SHSP focus areas:

**Severity Addressed Per FY**

Severity Addressed	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	Total
Fatalities	1	0	1	1	4	7
Serious Injuries	7	2	8	3	49	69
Total	8	2	9	4	53	76

The breakdown by SHSP focus area is as follows:

**SHSP Focus Areas Addressed**

SHSP Focus Area	Number of Projects
Intersection Safety	11
Lane Departure	5
Pedestrian Safety	2
Driver Behavior	0
Emergency Medical Services	0
Total	

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services — Linda Scarpetta**

Not too much in terms of Traffic Safety going on at the Department of Health and Human Services. A lot of efforts have been around Covid, and a lot of the implications from Covid are up like mental health

issues and opioid overdoses. A lot of fallout from the pandemic, so people are really busy addressing those issues.

In terms of traffic safety, the Safe Kids' coalitions throughout the state are continuing to do child safety checks and they're doing them virtually, and it seems to be working out pretty well. So, people have adapted to the technology. There it's been working so that parents can still be reached and get their car seats installed correctly.

### **Michigan Department of Education – Kenneth Micklash**

Responsibilities that schools are dealing with to handle day-to-day instruction and we're doing a good job with it as far as I'm concerned. As far as transportation issues, one of the more important items that we're dealing with is the new federal entry-level driver training rules. The theory and skills portion will go into effect on February 7, 2022. The Department along with the Training Agency Association of Michigan has developed the training program that will put the Department in compliance with the theory portion of the training. Schools will then have to deal with the skills section themselves in terms of how they're going to handle that. We're going to be doing a webinar next week for state transportation directors on how the theory portion is going to be available to local school districts unless they choose to develop their own program or purchase it from another source.

The department is also dealing with the school bus driver shortage. We hear about it and read about it nationwide. It is certainly impacting Michigan schools with a lot of concerns and complaints from around the state. School districts are doing the best they can. We see all types of initiatives in place. There are retention incentive bonuses of all kinds that relate to obtaining and retaining school bus drivers. That's a big concern right now. With new school bus driver training going on throughout the state, I think we're starting to get a better handle on it. This is going to take us time; we will be dealing with it all through the school year.

### **Michigan Department of State Police (MSP) – Major McGowen**

Major McGowen reported on some of the traffic initiatives going on within the state.

#### Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division

In the first quarter, there were 12,881 commercial motor vehicle inspections and ending the third quarter 16,551; a significant increase in activity in efforts to make our roads a little bit safer. Commercial motor vehicle border inspections: first quarter 101 and end of the third quarter 279. Again, another improvement there as well. The Commercial Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety Fund strives for zero hours. CVED deploys these teams in high crash areas for inspections. First-quarter, 17 ending the third quarter with 681; that was accomplished by redirecting a lot of MSP patrols.

#### MSP Enlisted Troopers' Activities

##### First District

In trying to bring some of these crash and speed numbers down and doing so in high-visibility wolfpacks (I-75 to US-23). The second and third quarters: 14 hazardous citations; 568 non-hazardous citations; 3631 verbal warnings; and 40 OWI arrests

##### Second District

Metro South and Metro North Posts: There was a significant number of freeway shootings. MSP wanted to address that by increasing patrol activity and personnel on the freeway.

MSP will accomplish that by:

- Putting secured cities squads out there from time to time.
- Emergency Support Team Troopers assigned to the Second District.
- Increase our presence out there by about 15 percent.

MSP also worked with the City of Detroit Police Department to increase those patrols. So later in the summer going into the fall, we did see those shootings decrease.

MSP conducted multiple wolfpacks with motorcycle detail. Worked details on M-39, M-14, I-275, and I-96 to address the aggressive and dangerous driving habits that were taking place. The Motorcycle Unit also worked alongside the Motor Carrier Enforcement Division to promote the Move Over Law in an effort to educate the public for the safety of officers during traffic stops and incidents.

Both districts' overall goal for traffic safety within the district was to reduce crashes through high-visibility patrols dedicated traffic enforcement and the focus on drunk driving. The dedicated traffic control hours throughout the district continued to increase with 3000 hours of dedicated traffic enforcement throughout the district in the third quarter.

#### Third District

Flint Post led this charge with 827 dedicated traffic enforcement hours for the quarter; 8129 verbal warnings; and 1247 citations

The Tri-City Post is also seeing success from this initiative, reporting a 23 percent decrease in traffic crashes.

In addition, the Impaired Driving Action Team in the Third District had another successful quarter with 112 OWI/OUID arrests and 18 additional felony arrests.

#### Fifth District

The district's Crime Prevention Safety Squad began its third-round patrols beginning on August 21. Benton Harbor had some serious staffing issues, and they are still facing some staffing issues. MSP deployed their Fifth District Hometown Security Team into Benton Harbor to work the opposite shift of the Crime Prevention Squad. Statistics during the third quarter: 502 traffic stops; 15 firearms seized; 51 original felony charges; 14 original misdemeanor charges; 16 felony fugitive arrests and 27 misdemeanor fugitive arrests.

#### Sixth and Seventh Districts

Activities are consistent with what was previously reported.

#### Eighth District

They began to focus a little bit more on criminal activity and criminal complaints. This is reflected in a 36 percent reduction in patrol time. Even with this reduction in patrol time, personnel increased the number of enforcement actions per hour of control. This led to an overall reduction in injury crashes by 8.2 percent. Fatal crashes remained consistent, but it's notable that this district did not see an increase in fatal crashes like the rest of the state.

#### Recruits

Currently active recruit school with 51 troopers that are scheduled to graduate from the academy on February 17, 2022. After graduation, the 141<sup>st</sup> Recruit School will begin on March 20, 2022. MSP hopes to have another school starting later next year. With these graduations, hopefully, MSP can get some more troopers on the road and have a greater impact on traffic safety

### **Chair's Report / Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)— Michael Prince**

This is the latest report this week from the MSP Criminal Justice Information Center. We have now surpassed 1,000 fatalities. 1,002 fatalities compared to 918 at this time in 2020; serious injuries are at 5,379, compared to 5,010 in 2020. Total crashes are up to almost 257,000 compared to 227,000 in 2020. Truck/bus crashes are also up 12,334 compared to 9,888. These increases are pretty consistent with what other states are seeing around the country even though there is less driving on the roadway. Doctor Carol Flanagan from the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute provided two opportunities to see a presentation on her analysis of what is happening out there since the pandemic hit with regard to traffic crashes and fatalities. If you didn't get a chance to see it, the recording of that presentation is available at [www.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org](http://www.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org).

### Staffing Updates

Jessica Riley accepted a position with the new MSP Professional Development Bureau, which began the week of November 28. That was a promotion for her, so we congratulate her on that career opportunity. Charlotte Kilvington has stepped up to serve as acting section manager for the Planning and Administration until the position can be filled.

Fiscal Section Manager, Spencer Simmons', last day with OHSP is December 12. He accepted a promotional position with the Department of Education. Spencer will head up the budget operation over there, and he will do a fantastic job. We really appreciate all the 19 years of service that Spencer had with our office. Heidi Parker has agreed to be the acting section manager until the position can be filled.

Another vacancy that we will be filling soon is for a position that will be coordinating the development and execution of traffic safety outreach strategies with a special focus on diverse audiences as well as unique urban and rural traffic safety challenges and other new and Emerging Highway Safety traffic issues Traffic Safety issues in Michigan. That position we are hoping will be posted here in the near future.

### OWI Enforcement

OHSP is funding traffic enforcement that is taking place from December 1, 2021, through February 29, 2022. This will be a speed enforcement campaign. OHSP has a brand-new speed enforcement ad to try to get voluntary compliance from people before they get pulled over by one of the troops, deputies, or officers that are out there participating in the campaign. We also have a 1.3 million dollar paid advertising campaign in connection with that, so we are putting a big investment of federal funding into the airing of that ad, and you can find it on our YouTube channel at YouTube/OHSP. Mr. Prince thanked Communication Section Manager, Kendall Wingrove, and Dennis Raymo for their hard work to get the information out there on several media platforms. We have seen probably some of the best media coverage in a long time for enforcement campaigns. In addition to the speed campaign, OWI driving enforcement is from the 17th of December through January 1. That is part of the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

The county sheriff's Secondary Road Patrol program has had a significant increase in funding thanks to the approval of some surplus funding by the Legislature and the Governor so that program has had a big funding boost for this current fiscal year.

## **Michigan Department of State — Carol Reagan**

### Clean Slate Driver's License Suspensions Lifted

Since October 1, driver's license suspensions have been lifted for more than 150,000 Michiganders who failed to pay tickets or court fines or failed to appear in court for certain non-moving and other violations. The change in state law reclassified these violations as civil infractions and restricted the violation's ability to suspend an individual's driver's license. The Michigan Department of State mailed letters to impacted residents which explained whether they needed to take additional action as additional infractions, including additional suspensions or revocations, needed to be addressed before they could reinstate their license. If a driver owes fees for their violations, they will still be responsible for paying those fees and/or appearing in court. Though qualifying suspensions will be marked as cleared and will no longer be in effect, they will still appear as entries on an individual's driving record. Guidance on the new laws and additional information is available at [Michigan.gov/SOSClea Slate](https://Michigan.gov/SOSClea Slate).

### Traffic Safety Messaging

Since September and through the end of 2021, the Traffic Safety Section has identified, developed, and implemented traffic safety educational messaging on:

- Work Zone Awareness (September – November)
- Teen Driver Safety (October)
- Pedestrian Safety (October)
- Impaired Driving (focused on marijuana) (November & December)
- Older Driver Safety Awareness Week (December)

Messaging has and continues to support Michigan and national campaigns, current and emerging issues, new laws, etc. Tactics utilized to promote and implement traffic safety education initiatives have included Motor Vehicle Network messages in branch offices, social media posts, Public Service Announcements via the Department of State Information Center hold loop, and promotion of campaign assets to Driver Education Providers and other partners.

#### Motorcycle Safety and Education Awareness Fund

Annually, \$300,000 of the Motorcycle Safety and Education Awareness Fund is being allocated to promote motorcycle awareness, safety, and education. The post Motorcyclists Are Hard to See, Look Twice. Save a Life. 2021 Communication Campaign Survey was implemented during September 2021 to evaluate the 3-year long impact. Survey results, stakeholder feedback, and other new countermeasures are all being considered for fiscal year 2022 planning and beyond. MDOS posted a Statement of Work on November 5 to elicit proposals from 5 pre-qualified ad agencies with an anticipated vendor contract to begin soon.

#### SOS Branch Office Vacancies

The Department of State has frequent branch office position postings that are open to the public. Visit Department of State Job Openings for a current vacancy list.

#### Two-year Vehicle Registrations Enabled

Governor Whitmer approved a new law that will give vehicle owners the option to purchase a two-year vehicle registration starting in October 2022. People who opt for a two-year registration will owe registration fees for both years at the time of renewing their vehicle. More information will be made available closer to program implementation.

#### Water-Winter Wonderland Plate

As of December 1, the iconic "Water-Winter Wonderland" license plate has returned. It's available for passenger, disability, and personalized plates.

#### Service Driven Update

Michiganders have embraced the service improvements made by Secretary Benson, and now more than half – 60 percent – of all transactions are conducted without visiting a Secretary of State branch office. This is up from just 26 percent in 2018. The 93 kiosks – which broke down frequently – have been replaced with more than 150 new self-service stations installed through a public-private partnership at no cost to taxpayers. Residents have also embraced the ability to schedule their branch office visit ahead of time, which can be done online at [Michigan.gov/SOS](https://Michigan.gov/SOS) or by calling 888-SOS-MICH. Appointments are released twice a day every business day at 8 a.m. and noon for residents to schedule. In all, 88 percent of office visits are scheduled ahead of time. Residents can also walk up to any office, and they will be served immediately if there is availability or assisted with scheduling a return visit at a time convenient for them. The average time visitors spend in any Secretary of State Office is 20 minutes total, including the time they conduct their transaction with staff. Effective November 3, branch offices are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays to provide service to residents who cannot visit offices during traditional business hours. Branch offices are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on other weekdays. A presentation is available that covers all of the ways Michigan citizens can complete their business with MDOS entitled, *Doing Business with the Secretary of State*. Click the link to schedule a presentation for your group - [Michigan Department of State Event Request Form Survey](#) ([surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com)).

#### Non-binary ID Option

Building on policy changes implemented in 2019, as of November 10, residents can add a non-binary sex designation. Residents who wish to change their sex-marker to "X" are able to do so by filling out the correction form, available online and at branch offices, and submitting it at a Secretary of State office. Residents are encouraged to schedule a visit to complete this transaction via [Michigan.gov/SOS](https://Michigan.gov/SOS) or by calling 888-SOS-MICH.

### **Governor's Office – Steve Kiefer**

The Kiefer Foundation has been focused on eliminating distracted driving over these last five years since we lost my son, Mitchell. We have done a number of things with MDOT to put up cable guardrails utilizing some private funding. We have done some awareness campaigns and certainly some safe driving classes, but most of the initiatives over these last three years have been focused on hands-free legislation. We call it *Hands-free USA* because we are trying to get it done in every state in the nation. However, we are focusing on Michigan right now *Hands-free Michigan* is a series of three House bills. They are going into session today for the third reading, so we expect a House floor vote on bills 4277, 4278, and 4279. These three bills collectively will make it illegal to hold a cell phone or electronic device while driving. These hands-free bills have been adopted into law in 24 states in the nation and in each state that they have been adopted, we have seen crash rates, fatalities, and even insurance rates drop. Hopefully, the foundation will get this through the House, swiftly through the Senate, and then to the Governor's desk for signing. The Governor has been supportive of this even calling it out in her first State of the State address.

### **Local Representative — William Miller**

Tabled

### **Local Representative — Chief Ron Wiles**

Tabled

### **Aging and Adult Services Agency – Vacant**

Tabled

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Safe System Approach – Ms. Brandy Solak, US Department of Transportation**

Ms. Solak provided a presentation on the Federal Highway Administration's Safe System Approach. The approach is based on the following principles: Death/Serious Injury is Unacceptable; Humans Make Mistakes; Humans are Vulnerable; Responsibility is Shared; Safety is Proactive, and Redundancy is Crucial. The approach aims to eliminate fatal and serious injuries for all road users by accommodating human mistakes and keeping impacts to the body at tolerable levels. The five elements: Safe Road Users; Safe Vehicles; Safe Speeds; Safe Roads; and Post-Crash Care focus on reducing death and serious injuries through designs that accommodate human mistakes and injury tolerances and making a commitment to zero deaths by addressing every aspect of crash-risk through the elements of the safe system.

### **Strategic Highway Safety Plan: Stakeholder Survey and Outreach – Mr. Andrew Ceifetz**

Mr. Ceifetz gave a brief presentation on the initial steps for the development of the new Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), which will need to be developed and approved by the end of 2022. The presentation included a snapshot and a timeline for the anonymous, interactive stakeholder survey. In addition to feedback from stakeholders gathered through the survey, meetings will be scheduled beginning in February 2022 with stakeholders and Tribes to gain additional input which will then be taken into consideration for the development of the SHSP.

### **Great Lakes, High Stakes — Ms. Pat Eliason, OHSP**

Ms. Eliason provided a brief presentation with an update on the Great Lakes, High Stakes traffic enforcement campaign. In the Spring of 2021, the OHSP was contacted by National Highway Safety Administration's Region 5 Office. They asked if Michigan would be interested in doing a regional high-visibility enforcement campaign. They wanted OHSP to look at a 9-day enforcement period, that covered two weekends, to be conducted between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The OHSP looked at the data and enforcement plan to determine what the focus should be. According to Michigan's crash data, 16 percent of fatal and serious injuries were speed-related. In 2020, there was a 15 percent increase in speed-related fatalities. Grant funding was not available, so it was a voluntary effort conducted June 19-27, 2021, by law enforcement across the state. Participation status: 57 agencies comprised of 35 MSP posts/worksite teams/CVED, 10 local police departments, and 12 county sheriff's

offices. The results of the 9-day campaign are as follows: 2,941 citations; 2,353 warnings; 109 OWI/High BAC arrests; 25 OUID arrests; 320 seat belt and child restraint citations and 34 warnings.

Some of the highlights were as follows:

- Nine stops by the Grand Rapids Post in a 55-mph zone were driving more than 70 mph.
- 111 speeding citations issued by Hazel Park Police Department included:
  - Two for 20-24 mph over the speed limit
  - Four were 25-29 mph over the speed limit
  - One was for 60 mph over the speed limit
- The Chippewa County Sheriff's Office reported a semi-truck driving 86 mph.

The OHSP is in the process of looking at doing this campaign again in FY 2022 probably around the same timeframe.

Mr. Wingrove added that this newly released speed enforcement commercial already has more than 103 thousand views.

#### **GTSAC Recognition – Mr. Michael Prince**

Mr. Prince presented Mr. Micklash, who is retiring from the State of Michigan, with a plaque and thanked him for his many years of service on the commission.

Mr. Brunner presented Mr. Prince, who is retiring on December 31 from the State of Michigan, with a plaque and thanked him for his service on the commission and for serving as chair for the past 10 years.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2022.