

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

March 14, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Dr. Dan Blower, Chair
Sharon Conklin
Jill Skutar
Capt. Mike Krumm
Michael Prince
Michelle Taylor
Charles Moser

Commissioners Absent

Dave Goller
Tim Yungfer, Vice Chair
James Fackler
Amanda Williams

Guests

Lawrence Archer
MC Lt. Susan Fries
John Wallace
Michelle Zemla
Brandon Cannon
Cheryl Llano
Greg Causley
Bill Kotysnski

OHSP Staff

Kara Rueckert
Spencer Simmons
Heidi Ruis
Anne Readett
Charlotte Kilvington

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

Mr. Moser made a motion to approve the January 10, 2018, meeting minutes. The motion was supported by Capt. Krumm. The motion carries.

STANDING REPORTS

A. Chair's Report – Dr. Dan Blower

Defer to later; Dr. Blower will have a short presentation dealing with standing committees and future projects for the commission.

B. Commissioners Perspectives

Charles Moser – Michigan Transportation Commission

Frost laws coming and going up north and logging is robust. Mackinac Bridge has been shut down several times this winter.

Sharon Conklin - Representing Private Motor Carriers

West Michigan Safety Council: March 20 meeting cancelled; will be attending the Safety Banquet instead. Planning meeting will take place Friday, March 16, for the May meeting. Hoping to make an annual event involving training and a golf outing.

Michael Prince - Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning

Michigan Traffic Safety Summit will take place March 20-22, 2018, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.

Summertime enforcement campaign will be geared up following the Summit.

Capt. Mike Krumm - Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, Michigan State Police

Westbound weigh station will break ground in June and will take a few months to get going. Another recruit school will begin August 5. Capt. Krumm will be traveling to Phoenix for a conference on the Help Board. ELD talk—out of service for that violation takes effect April 2; federal mandates are always recognized, so enforcement will be affected.

Jill Skutar - Michigan Trucking Association

Safety Banquet will take place March 20.

Dr. Blower—plug for a call of topics/speakers for future meetings. He would like to have presentations during the meetings.

C. Financial Report - Mr. Spencer Simmons - Office of Highway Safety Planning

Mr. Simmons gave a brief report of the Truck Safety Fund. Report is current through February 8. As a reminder, grantees have 30 days after the end of a period to submit reports. Fund balance has changed because a miscellaneous operating project for the Skid Pad was established; money was taken out of the Truck Safety Fund line. Expenditures will work their way back closer to the budgeted amount. Expenditures for the Skid Pad will be included in the miscellaneous operating project (can be used over 1, 2, or 3 years); these funds are not available in the Truck Safety Fund.

D. Enforcement Grant Activity Report

Enforcement activity numbers are typical to this time of the year due to the weather we have had. Toward Zero Deaths overtime is doing well; more of those hours are used during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays. Fatal crashes as of March 12 and percentages as they relate to all categories (about normal); overall at 4.1%

Recruiting is in full-swing; there is currently one conditional offer in place.

Dr. Blower inquired about truck parking—mostly in MSP 5th District; last year it was decreasing the number of violations; Lt. Fries will inquire with 5th District and the topic will be added on the May 9 meeting agenda.

Dr. Blower also asked about the recent pile-up in Grass Lake and whether there is any information on this. Lt. Fries offered the explanation that it was due to unforeseen white out conditions that popped up unexpectedly. Unfortunately, there is nothing that could have predicted this; it is very possible that truck drivers are not driving according to the weather conditions. The majority of these situations occur east-west on I-94. Possible educational campaign opportunity; MDOT published a report and included MSP data on the I-94 pileup from a few years ago. Studies have been done to show people underestimate their speed during winter driving conditions.

Cheryl Llano has been questioned about the CVED financial structure in the past; Capt. Krumm posed the question of whether or not the commissioners feel it is necessary for her to be at these meetings? Consensus—during grant period time or upon request.

E. Education Grant Activity - Ms. Michelle Zemla - Michigan Center for Truck Safety

Michelle Zemla gave an update report on the Truck Center. Two new staff members have been hired as of January 23—a full-time safety specialist and simulator instructor; and a part-time safety specialist.

- Goal #1 – Provide new entrant safety management to 75 motor carriers; 44%
- Goal #2 – Provide driver performance measurement (DPM) evaluations to 100 drivers; 34%
- Goal #3 – Provide national safety council defensive driving for professional truck drivers (PTD) to 300 individuals; 48%
- Goal #4 – Provide simulator training to 500 drivers and provide demonstrations to 1,200 individuals; 58% / 46%
- Goal #5 – Provide online fatigue training to 300 individuals; 7%
- Goal #6 – Provide various safety seminars to 2,000 individuals; 59%
- Goal #7 – Provide phone technical assistance (incoming/outgoing calls); 64%
- Goal #8 – Distribute truck drivers guidebook (TDG); 10875 for quarter (no numerical goal set)
- Goal # 9 – Increase social media and outreach; increased by 43 (no numerical goal set)

Dr. Blower inquired about the types of topics being asked through phone conversations; ELD in October-December, weight restriction questions currently, general questions about obtaining a CLD/truck schools/etc.

MTA is working with the board to work to fill the director position. MTA did receive resumes for the position and a meeting should take place in the next several weeks.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Skid Pad Project - Dr. Blower

Hobbs and Black Architects have been retained to design the plans for the Skid Pad. Dr. Blower went over the options for the location of the Skid Pad and the drawings that have been provided. There is a concern for what would happen if trucks were to slide/run off the pad; one option would be to build a raised, soft run-off to stop them.

For the storage area, it was suggested that vehicles have an entrance and exit door for easy access (option 4). It has been identified that MDOT may be able to do the maintenance on the vehicles (vehicles would have to be registered to the state for this to occur).

The office will be at the base of the Skid Pad and would include an instruction area, restrooms, and an office.

A retention pond and drainage system may need to be installed. The retention pond would be used to flood the skid pad when needed; the drainage system would likely be in the storage area and used when vehicles are hosed down/cleaned.

Next meeting should provide a preliminary amount for how much this will cost; then a refined timeline will be put in place.

B. TACT Project Update - Dr. Blower

With regards to funding, there has been no notice of funding availability posted yet. Once that is posted, the project can move forward by putting together an application, plan, and getting the committee together to gather the scope of the project.

C. Standing Committees / Future Projects - Dr. Blower

- Budget: Dr. Blower, Mr. Yungfer, Ms. Conklin, Mr. Prince, can include 1 more commissioner
 - This committee sets the funding levels for the enforcement and education grants.

- Research, evaluation, and planning: Dr. Blower, Ms. Conklin, Lt. Fries, Ms. Kilvington, can included 3 more commissioners
 - Skid Pad project will be a key component for this committee
 - Dr. Blower would like to move forward on doing more activities instead of waiting for the Skid Pad project; would like to keep pursuing global mission.

Dr. Blower would like an email from any commissioner interested in filling these positions. As a reminder, the current strategic plan is a helpful tool to use when considering new projects.

D. Recent Trends in Safety - Dr. Blower

Dr. Blower showed a graph of all fatal crashes and CMV crashes in Michigan and total fatalities in the US. For CMV crashes, there was a general decline until 2012, then they began increasing until 2014, when it declined again. Michigan fatal crashes saw a significant increase in 2015; 2017 will likely show a decrease. For all US fatalities, 2017 will be about the same as 2016. The economy plays a large role in these results.

A second graph showed CMVs and Light vehicles in fatal crashes. From 2004 to 2009, there was a decline in both. Since 2014, both have been inclining again.

A third graph included CMVs and Light vehicles in KAB crashes. CMV stats went down significantly more than light vehicles until 2009. Both have seen relative increases through 2016.

****Miles travelled is the largest factor****

ATA may be able to provide more insight into the autonomous vehicle situation. There will also be a workshop at the Summit next week on this topic and where AVs are heading.

Ideas for Research and Activities:

- Identify candidate questions for Michigan Driver Licensing exam and seek to have them included in the state's driver tests
 - From Brandon at MDOS: at this time, due to legislation and various aspects, this is proving to be a real battle. MDOS is currently working on adding new information for motorcycles, as well, and looking into the direct process to having questions added to the exam.
- Truck and light vehicle driver relative contribution to crashes.
- Something related to drugs in CMV crashes, to estimate the impact of marijuana legalization in Michigan
 - Some sort of research on drugs and CMV crashes; possibly do research/literature review on the states that have already done this
- Impact of other drugs on truck safety
- Driver shortage
 - Document the nature of driver shortage
 - Literature review
 - Identify alternative solutions
 - Get information out regarding community training options (Michigan Works) for apprenticeships
- Call for topics from Commissioners and audience

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Priorities: marijuana and other drugs (Charlotte Kilvington); Mike Prince said it will likely be on the ballot and approved before the study was done.

Dr. Blower requested someone from MDOS attend the next meeting to discuss the process of adding questions to the driver licensing exam. Kara will connect with Brandon Cannon (MDOS attendee) to do this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michigan Traffic Safety Summit is next week (March 20-22); networking reception Tuesday evening at the R.E. Olds Museum.

Send ideas to Dr. Blower as they come up; do not wait until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at the Center for Truck Safety.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.