



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

COL. JOSEPH M. GASPER
DIRECTOR

**Horatio S. Earle Learning Center
Tuesday, December 3, 2019
9:00 a.m.
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Michael Prince (Chair)	Office of Highway Safety Planning
Carol Reagan	Michigan Department of State
Michael Poulin	Muskegon County Sheriff's Office
Gregg Brunner	Michigan Department of Transportation
Hank Kelley	Local Representative
Rachel Telder	Aging and Adult Services Agency
Scott Marier	Michigan Department of State Police
Ron Wiles	Local Representative
MEMBERS ABSENT	REPRESENTING
Linda Scarpetta	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Ken Micklash	Michigan Department of Education
Steve Kiefer	Governor's Office
STAFF SUPPORT	REPRESENTING
Kara Rueckert	Office of Highway Safety Planning

GUESTS	REPRESENTING
Gary Bubar	AAA
Chris Gerard	Michigan State Police
Anne Readett	Office of Highway Safety Planning
Ronald Tennant	Grand Rapids Fire Department / TIM Action Team
Carissa McQuiston	Michigan Department of Transportation
Kari Arend	Office of Highway Safety Planning
Pat Eliason	Office of Highway Safety Planning
Jeff Daniel	Shelby Township Police Department
Alicia Sledge	Office of Highway Safety Planning
Bobby Gwizdz	Michigan Department of State
Steve Shaughnessy	Michigan Department of Transportation
Daniel Smith	Michigan Department of Transportation
Bryan Cummings	EHS
Kinga Canike	Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan
Heidi Spangler	Michigan Department of Transportation
Kendall Wingrove	Office of Highway Safety Planning

CALL TO ORDER

The GTSAC meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Prince at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present for today's meeting.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Prince welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

- 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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Sheriff Poulin made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019, GTSAC meeting. Inspector Marier supported, the motion carries.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Sgt. Chris. Gerard, MSP

Traffic related bills, there are a lot out there, but no movement. Bill being heard this morning to repeal the law to honk your horn when you pass a car on the right. There are some school bus bills being heard this afternoon. Bills allowing stop arm cameras on school buses. Distracted driving bills are being monitored, but have not moved. There are a couple of bills regarding impediments; people that are hard of hearing/medical condition/etc. to put some sort of designation on their license so the law enforcement officer can have this information before their interaction.

STANDING REPORTS

Commissioner Reports

Local Representative — Sheriff Michael Poulin

MSA—Aging Driver Safety Awareness Week is December 2-6; The Michigan Dept. of State – Traffic Safety Division has put together material and info that is available to you to help promote this important week. The material can be found on their website....click on Resources on the right hand side.
Salvage Vehicle Inspector Refresher School will take place December 10
Ride with Pride in Muskegon County—will have 10 schools involved, so 10 cars will be given away at the end of the school year.
Waiting on an update regarding SRP program.
MDOT ad/letter regarding the elimination of the word “accident”

Links:

[Ride with Pride Resource Folder Handbook](#)

Local Representative — Chief Ron Wiles

September was National CPS month; checked 56 seats
MACP trying to get their traffic safety committee back together; they have and have held a meeting. Looking to create awareness and bring forward strategies to aid in traffic safety and enforcement.
Grant funding has increased this year.

Local Representative — Hank Kelley

No report out today; gave an introduction and talked about their professional background.

Michigan Department of Transportation — Gregg Brunner

TZD: 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 system 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 2021 - 2025 program, the regions submitted 73 projects, of which 31 were proven systemic safety improvements. The 42 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 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Total
Fatalities		9	21	11	18	4	63
Serious Injuries		43	33	46	32	23	177
Total		52	54	57	50	27	240

Source: MDOT Safety Programs CFP Tracking Spreadsheet November 2019

The breakdown by SHSP focus area is as follows:

SHSP Focus Area	Number of Projects
Intersection Safety	27
Lane Departure	37
Pedestrian Safety	6
Driver Behavior	3
Emergency Medical Services	0
Total	73

"It's a crash, not an accident" video explains why the distinction is important

Icy and snow-covered roads are a given in Michigan for several months of the year. So, when a driver crashes because they were driving too fast for conditions – even though they didn't intend to – should we really call it an "accident"?

That's just one example of why the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), along with partners in law enforcement, emergency medical and fire service agencies, are urging everyone to call traffic collisions "crashes" instead of accidents. A new [video](#) posted on MDOT's YouTube channel, as well as a new webpage: www.Michigan.gov/CrashNotAccident, explain why.

When a traffic crash is described as an "accident," it implies that no one bears responsibility for the outcome. It also leads to the belief there was nothing that could have been done to prevent it.

Most crashes result from distracted, drugged, or drunken drivers, or unsafe or illegal actions, such as driving too fast for wet or icy conditions and failing to stop for stop signs or signals. A small percentage are the result of equipment failures, animals, or medical emergencies.

Spl/Lt. Derrick Carroll, public information officer for Michigan State Police (MSP) Seventh District, and his colleagues in law enforcement have investigated many crashes in their careers and he confirms most stem from driver behavior.

"An accident cannot be reasonably foreseen. A crash is the result of choices made and a disregard for safety," Carroll said. "That's why we in law enforcement call it a traffic crash and never an accident."

Emergency medical personnel, firefighters, and other first responders are changing how they talk about crashes as well.

"Many of us have used the terms 'crash' and 'accident' interchangeably for years, including those of us who see these crashes and their causes firsthand," said Otsego County Emergency Manager and EMS Rescue Chief Jon Deming. "Talking about the true causes of crashes, and not writing them off as unavoidable, can help result in increased awareness and more careful driving."

The word "accident" was used in the early 1900s by companies seeking to avoid liability for workers injured on the job. In the 1920s, automakers and insurers began using it as well in an effort to shift blame, but it has since come to be used as an equivalent term for "crash" to absolve drivers as well.

While an Associated Press Stylebook 2016 [revision](#) says "accident" and "crash" are generally acceptable descriptions for vehicle crashes, it does recommend that journalists use "crash, collision, or other terms" and avoid using "accident" in auto crash reporting, particularly in cases when negligence is claimed or proven.

Several organizations and agencies nationwide are supporting the #CrashNotAccident campaign, such as [Vision Zero Network](#) and [We Save Lives](#).

Michigan Department of State — Carol Reagan

Traffic Safety Section 3-year Priorities: The Traffic Safety Section (TSS) is meeting quarterly with Secretary Benson and executive leaders to discuss traffic safety priorities and accomplishments. TSS 2020 priorities include:

- 1) Drafting MDOS traffic safety vision and agenda
- 2) External stakeholder meetings and events
- 3) Teen drivers
 - a. Pilot Parental Involvement in GDL/Driver Education Program
 - b. The Parents Supervised Driving Guide
 - c. MI Graduated Driver Licensing Parent Checklist
 - d. Administer Michigan.gov/TeenDriver
- 4) Aging drivers
 - a. Lead Safe Driver Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility Strategy
 - b. Administer Michigan.gov/AgingDriver
 - c. Michigan's Guide for Aging Drivers and Their Families
 - d. MDOS Alternative Transportation Listing
- 5) Motorcyclists
 - a. Administration and oversight of the Michigan Rider Education Program
 - b. Transfer MI-REP data systems to new CARS R2
 - c. Administer new Motorcycle Safety and Education Awareness Fund
 - d. Michigan Motorcycle Operator Manual
 - e. Administer Michigan.gov/Motorcycling
- 6) MVN Traffic Safety Messaging

Older Driver Safety Awareness Week: Older Driver Safety Awareness Week is December 2-6 – this week. It's a nationally recognized event that has been organized to promote the understanding of the mobility and transportation issues that affect older adults. The Safe Drivers Smart Options Communications Subcommittee developed resources to help promote the week including a Governors Proclamation, fact sheet, speaking points, etc. The Secretary of State sent out a news release. The resources and the news release are available at [Michigan.gov/AgingDriver](#).

MVN Traffic Safety Messaging: MDOS developed several 30-day traffic safety messages for the MVN monitors in our branch offices. In September, for Child Passenger Safety Week, MVN messaging focused on proper booster seat use and keeping kids safe in the car. In October, for Teen Driver Safety Week, the theme was "Six Rules for the Road" focusing on the greatest dangers for teen drivers. Then, in November the message featured safety tips for pedestrians and drivers. Longer-term messaging was developed for teen drivers on parent required supervised drive time, the STOPPED program, and the Courageous Persuaders Contest.

New self-service kiosks: On Monday October 28, the first of 150 new kiosks powered by Intellectual Technology, Inc (ITI) began to be installed in select Secretary of State branches. In addition, they also will be installed in some Kroger and Meijer stores. Deployment of the new kiosks are the first step in modernizing our self-service capabilities. Initially, the kiosks will provide renewals for vehicles, motorcycles and watercraft – we will expand services once we have driver-related functionality with the CARS Release 2 project. Many of the new kiosks will accept cash and they will all be multi-lingual with Spanish being rolled out first and Arabic in the next phase. The new kiosks are fully developed and maintained by ITI!

CARS Release 2 kickoff/timeline: CARS Release 2 – has kicked off and this phase began in mid-August. Some high-level timing of activities leading up to implementation going live on March 16, 2021:

3Q2019 to 3Q2020 – definitions and development

3Q2020 – testing begins

Late 4Q2020 to Early 1Q2021 – training begins

The CARS project team wrapped up the “Definition” phase as of October 18. In November, scenario writing began.

Michigan State Police — Inspector Scott Marier

Districts and Posts have been required to submit strategic plans for the year, as well as for a long-term sustained initiative for traffic safety (cannot be a one-day event, must provide measurables for efficiency).

Operation CARE took place over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Now under IACP who encourages all law enforcement to participate. Reporting is made to IACP, not MSP. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Inspector Marier.

Oral Fluid Pilot Program—first day legal, three shops in Ann Arbor sold \$220,000 in marijuana. Patrol car hit over the weekend; driver admitted to smoking three hours before. Second phase of program started in October. First phase was in 5 counties, now open statewide and 66 agencies participating (64 counties); 102 DREs participating.

Chair’s Report / Office of Highway Safety Planning — Michael Prince

2019 Traffic Fatalities/Injuries: The Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center reports 842 people died on Michigan roadways as of December 2, 2019. Compared to last year, there are 24 fewer fatalities. In this same timeframe, there have been 5,138 A/suspected serious injuries, up 79 from a year ago.

December Drive Sober OWI Campaign: OHSP will be funding a drunk driving crackdown this month from Dec. 18-Jan. 1. The last enforcement mobilization focused on seat belt enforcement where officers in 36 counties conducted more than 7,000 traffic stops that resulted in nearly 2,000 seat belt and children restraint citations.

Michigan Forum on Highway Traffic Safety and Enforcement: A small group of law enforcement leaders will meet December 5 in Okemos to discuss challenges and opportunities law enforcement face regarding enforcement of traffic laws. The national law enforcement liaison Tim Burrows will serve as the meeting facilitator.

DRE School: All 24 law enforcement officers passed the first phase of DRE school that took place in October. This group is now in Arizona working on completing their hands-on proficiency testing. A second DRE school will be held in 2020.

Strive for a Safer Drive high school teen traffic safety program: The partnership program with Ford Driving Skills for Life has approximately 60 high schools participating for the 2019-2020 school year. Schools conduct peer-to-peer programs aimed at making students better and safer drivers. At the end of the program, students are invited to attend a hands-on Ride and Drive event hosted by Ford.

2020 Traffic Safety Summit: A draft agenda is being reviewed and will soon be finalized for next year’s Traffic Safety Summit. Registration for the annual event is expected to be open in early January. Watch the OHSP website for more details.

FY21 planning: OHSP program staff are working on plans for the FY21 Highway Safety Plan. Anyone with ideas for projects or funding should discuss this with the appropriate OHSP program coordinator.

OHSP web-based grant system: OHSP will be working with the vendor Agate to upgrade the web-based grants system for FY21. The new system will be easier to navigate and include features that should make it easier for users to navigate.

OHSP materials catalog is now online: The OHSP catalog is now online at Michigan.gov/OHSPcatalog. You can view and print any of the items available and order larger quantities by the using the order form.

PRESENTATIONS

FY20 Upper Peninsula Traffic Safety Projects — Jamie Dolan, OHSP

****Presentation available upon request****

Jamie works with ALL areas within the region and with partners to achieve goals, rather than one concentrated program.

FY20 Enforcement Campaigns — Pat Eliason, OHSP

- Providing grant funding to about 120 agencies throughout the state.
- Look at data when planning enforcement.

- Enforcement periods: October 17-31, 2019 and May 11-31, 2020
- Earned and paid media used during these enforcement periods; sample social media posts also provided to our grantees/law enforcement partners
- Impaired driving enforcement: December 18, 2019-January 1, 2020; July 1-19, 2020; August 14-September

Action Team Spotlight: TIM — Chief Ronald Tennant, Grand Rapids Fire Department

****Presentation available upon request****

DISCUSSIONS

SHSP Update — Anne Readett, OHSP

Still in draft form due to a change in the letter from the Governor. Discussions taking place and hoping to get a final version posted in the next month or two.

Zipper Merging — Carol Reagan, MDOS

Starting in the spring, the MDOS office of communications received many inquiries regarding zipper merging. Looking at what the traffic law is and what drivers should be instructed to do, some information has been combined for everyone.

Zipper merging occurs when you come upon a work-zone, signage to stay in lane, cars should be merging one-for-one when you get to the work zone. There is no law, drivers should be abiding by the signage posted in these zones.

MDOT background: Zipper merging does not take place in every work-zone. High commuter traffic zones, for example. Two key things MDOT does—different signing sequence and media outreach to explain what it is and what's going on in particular location. This is used on a case-by-case basis.

Carol asked how we are enforcing zipper merging and how we, as educators, should make drivers aware of these. Sheriff Poulin offered insight as far as confusion on how enforcement should take place and said education is extremely important. Chief Wiles offered he isn't seeing zipper merging as an enforcement issue. He agrees that education is key.

It takes time to become familiar, understand, and do this properly. Education is key. Reality of enforcement in the Grand Rapids or Detroit area is difficult because of the amount of traffic and few number of those able to patrol the area.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the 2019 GTSAC Award Recipients

Sheriff Michael Poulin is the chair of this year's committee and moderated the selection meeting last week. Ten recipients have been selected in the areas of Student (1), Long-Term (3), and Outstanding Achievement (6).

Chief Wiles made a motion to approve, Inspector Marier supported. Motion supported.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bryan Cummings — importance of using turn signals. Has been doing research for years on his own to see how many people are (or aren't) using turn signals. In his experience, law enforcement is not enforcing the use of turn signals. Mr. Cummings also brought up the topic of driving in the right lane and passing in the left lane. He has been using Twitter frequently with the handle theturnsignalguy.

MDOT safety programs is providing up to 50 scholarships for the Summit. Up to 10 for TIM. Please contact Heidi Spangler with any questions.

AAA is focusing on party-giver best practices (like alcohol use, safe rides home, etc.) this holiday season.

Looking for another action team spotlight for the March 3 meeting. Would also like an additional presentation—agencies are welcome to send suggestions to Kara or Mike to get on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at the Horatio S. Earle Learning Center.