



# Board of Transportation Safety

## Meeting Minutes

01/31/08

**DRAFT**

VDOT, Richmond, Virginia

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**Chair:** Dee Bowles / Charles Rosemond      **Recording Secretary:** Audrey Odum

**Board Members Present:** Dee Bowles, Charles Rosemond, Bruce Wingo, Melvin Robertson, Judy Suddith, Seldon Rhodes, Tom McGrath, Allen Muchnick

**Board Members Absent:** Paulette Benson, Rebecca Martin, Charles Quillin, Walter Yeatts

**DMV Staff:** David Mitchell, John Saunders, Audrey Odum, David Mosley, Angelisa Jennings, Elroy Bentick, Bruce Biondo, Ernestine Barrett

**Special Guest(s):** Deputy Secretary Ralph Davis  
Dr. Beth Baker – NHTSA MidAtlantic Regional Administrator

Chair Dee Bowles called meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending.

David Mitchell proceeded with opening remarks in the Deputy Secretary's absence. First David Mitchell emphasized the importance of the Board and thanked the Board for their service. A brief update was given on recent crash stats, the new electronic grant submission process and future public service announcements. David Mitchell introduced Elroy Bentick as Acting Grants Director and mentioned that Kathy Aebischer had a new position within DMV.

Deputy Secretary Ralph Davis arrived and gave welcoming remarks, provided highlights on recent fatalities especially involving the motorcyclist, and mentioned the Highway Safety Challenge and the three agencies: DMV, VDOT and State Police that had joined forces on this challenge. The Deputy Secretary also referenced various transportation bills that were being introduced this year. Primary safety belt being one of them. After verifying with the Secretary of Transportation, Deputy Secretary Ralph Davis asked for the Boards support in promoting safety belt legislation which would make non-use of motor vehicle safety belts a "primary offense". He also encouraged the Virginia Highway Safety Office at DMV to provide key statistical documentation to assist the Board in these efforts.

- Action:** Staff was asked to assist Board immediately by pulling together data on:
- safety belt usage
  - cost to Virginia
  - States within our Region with a Primary Safety Belt Law
  - percentage decrease in fatalities after states passed a Primary Safety Belt Law

Chair Dee Bowles asked Secretary to the Board, David Mitchell to call roll. Representation was sufficient for a quorum.

### **Board Business**

Chair Dee Bowles asked the Board to review for approval the minutes from the November 2007 meeting. Approved with no amendments.

David Mitchell addressed past action items:

- Washington Metro Council on Government (Street Smart) – Grant application completed and provided to Board. Previously approved at the November 2007 meeting.
- Transportation legislative packet provided to Board.
- Youth Representative to Board - *New guidelines will be set for this position and staff will work on soliciting interest statewide for the new youth representative.*

Chair Dee Bowles asked Seldon Rhodes, Chair of the 2008 Nominating Committee, to furnish the report from the Committee. Selden Rhodes recognized the other two members of the Committee, Charles Quillin and Judy Suddith. Chairman Rhodes stated that all interested candidates were well qualified and offered a lot of expertise and commitment to the field of transportation safety. Chairman Rhodes proceeded with bringing forth two nominees for the position of Chair and two nominees for position of Vice-Chair.

<b><u>Chair</u></b>	<b><u>Vice-Chair</u></b>
Charles Rosemond Bruce Wingo	Melvin Robertson Walter Yeatts

Dee Bowles thanked the Nominating Committee and called for other nominations from the floor. None were received. The nominations were closed. Ballots were distributed and a vote taken. Selected by ballot vote were Charles Rosemond for Chair and Walter Yeatts as Vice-Chair.

Newly appointed, Chair Charles Rosemond commenced his position as Chair and proceeded with meeting. Chair Rosemond thanked everyone for their support in choosing him as the new Chair. He also thanked staff for all they do in making the Board's responsibilities run smoothly.

### **Standing Reports**

Chair Rosemond recognized Dr. Beth Baker, Regional Administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Dr. Baker gave a brief update on NHTSA's priorities for the upcoming year: occupation protection and impaired driving with motorcycle safety being added due to the increase in motorcycle fatalities nationwide. Dr. Baker also discussed forthcoming correspondence from the NHTSA Headquarters to the Governor in reference to the benefits and support for a primary safety belt law.

Angelisa Jennings provided an overview of crash statistics. (Report Attached) See also explained to the Board the various reasons why the total fatality number may decrease, one being that a law enforcement officer will submit a supplemental report from a crash he/she previously investigated changing the cause of death from crash related to one of natural causes.

Elroy Bentick furnished the Board an updated financial report. (Report Attached)

### **New Business from Floor**

Due to outdated by-laws, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Selden Rhodes asked Board to consider having an adhoc committee review and bring forth recommendations to the full Board on up-to-date Board by-laws. Board agreed and Chair Rosemond asked Selden Rhodes to Chair this committee. Bruce Wingo and Tom McGrath agreed to also serve on this committee.

Chair Charles Rosemond proceeded with asking for volunteers to serve on various other committees. On the Awards Committee, Melvin Robertson agreed to serve as Chair with Bruce Wingo and Judy Suddith as committee members. On the Allocations Committee, in his absence and as newly elected Vice-Chair to the Board, Walter Yeatts will Chair the Allocations Committee with Allen Muchnick and Dee Bowles serving as committee members. Board agreed.

David Mosley presented new grant submissions to the Board. In addition to the new grant applications shown on the financial report, two additional grants were submitted. One for DMV, for Click It or Ticket 2008 Media & Enforcement Program for \$395,663 and one for DOH, Child Safety & Child Booster Seat Program for \$461,000. Board approved all new grant requests. (See financial report.)

**Action:** Board would like more information on the HERO Program. Invite to future meeting.

### **Public Comment - None**

### **Dates of Future Meetings -**

June 11-13, 2008  
Annual Conference on Transportation Safety  
Portsmouth, Virginia

June 2008 (TBA)  
Full Board Meeting – FY09 Grant Review  
DMV Headquarters – Richmond

**Update**

Staff completed action item for the safety belt data request and provided to Board Chair on January 31, 2008. Chair Charles Rosemond prepared cover letter on February 1, 2008 and provided information to The Honorable Beverly J. Sherwood, Chairman of the House Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee for consideration. (See attachments.)