



Board of Transportation Safety

Meeting Minutes

06/12/07

DRAFT

DMV Headquarters, Richmond, Virginia

Chair: Dee Bowles

Recording Secretary:

Audrey Odum

Board Members Present: Dee Bowles, Bruce Wingo, Melvin Robertson, Charles Rosemond, Seldon Rhodes, Tom McGrath, Allen Muchnick, Paulette Benson

Board Members Absent: Walter Yeatts, Rebecca Martin, Judith Suddith, Charles Quillin

DMV Staff: David Mitchell, John Saunders, Audrey Odum
David Mosley, Kathy Aebischer

CTSP Staff: Steve Goodwin, Monty Mills, Doug Stader, Bob Weakley
Butch Letteer, Kimberly Burt, Mary Ann Rayment

Special Guest(s): Ralph Davis, Deputy Secretary of Transportation
Dr. Elizabeth Baker, NHTSA Regional Administrator
Kristen Allen, NHTSA Regional Program Manager
Lorraine Novak, NHTSA Regional Program Manager

Chair Dee Bowles called meeting to order, thanked everyone for attending and recognized Deputy Secretary Ralph Davis, Dr. Beth Baker, Kristen Allen and Lorraine Novak.

Deputy Secretary Ralph Davis acknowledged the Board and thanked them for their support and commitment to highway safety.

Deputy Secretary Ralph Davis discussed the recent increase in fatalities. He shared a recent newspaper article concerning recent crashes on Virginia roadways. (Saturday, June 9, 2006 – Richmond Times Dispatch) Attention was brought to the fact that in the majority of these crashes, those killed were reported as not wearing a seatbelt.

The Deputy Secretary also emphasized the importance of coming up with new strategies to address future growth, additional traffic and most important the potential of increased injuries and fatalities.

Chair Dee Bowles asked Secretary to the Board, David Mitchell to call roll. Representation was not sufficient for a quorum.

Chair Dee Bowles recommended that the Board proceed with Board business and return to items requiring Board approvals once remaining members arrived.

Board Business

David Mitchell mentioned the past action item relating to the “Enforcement Activity Report” and asked David Mosley to address. David Mosley furnished the Board with the year-end spreadsheet covering the concerned localities and reviewed enforcement stats. (Copy attached.)

David Mitchell furnished the Board with a brief update on upcoming legislation effective July 1, 2007. (Copy attached.)

Chair Dee Bowles asked Bruce Wingo, Chair of the Awards Committee, to give a report from the committee. Bruce Wingo recognized the other two members of the committee, Tom McGrath and Walter Yeatts. Chairman Wingo mentioned that the Awards Committee met in March and reviewed approximately 40 award submissions for the Transportation Safety Awards. Out of 17 award categories, 14 winners were selected. Three categories received no submissions. (Rail, Public Transportation & Employee Safety). The Awards Ceremony will be held tomorrow, June 13th at the ACTS Conference as part of a luncheon ceremony. Deputy Secretary Ralph Davis will be presenting the awards.

Standing Reports

David Mosley provided an overview of crash statistics.

Action: Board requested staff to review SUV crash reports to see if a determination of cause can be found. (i.e., rollover, etc.)

David Mosley will be working closely with Tom McGrath on issues surrounding the increase in motorcycle fatalities. Kathy Aebischer mentioned there was a new motorcycle grant that would be available to assist with a motorcycle conference, media campaign and training.

Kathy Aebischer provided an updated Financial Report.

Quorum:

Board member Allen Muchnick arrived, the Board quorum was met.

Chair Dee Bowles asked the Board to review for approval the minutes from the January 2007 meeting. Approved with two amendments:

- Mention Board visited the House and Senate Transportation Committee meetings at the General Assembly as part of their first meeting for 2007.
- Change date of ACTS Conference under Future Meetings.

Presentation

Dr. Beth Baker addressed the Board and mentioned the national “Click It or Ticket” campaign. The campaign was completed and they are currently waiting for results. Dr. Baker also introduced Virginia’s new Regional Program Manager, Lorraine Novak. The new change will be effected October 1, 2007.

David Mitchell addressed the Board concerning the 2008 grant cycle. Briefly discussed how federal funds would be allocated by district and funds would be distributed based on data, which identified the specific highway safety related problems for that geographic region. Additionally, it was reiterated the fact that again this year performance measures will be in place to determine the effectiveness of those safety projects approved for funding.

Charles Rosemond, Chair of the Allocations Committee, gave a brief overview of the May 15th meeting and recognized committee members, Seldon Rhodes and Charles Quillin. He also reiterated David Mitchell’s comments and recognized staff and all the hard work it took to prepare for meeting.

Review of the 2008 grant requests began. Attached is a summary of grants reviewed and recommendations on funding.

Board member Allen Muchnick questioned why the Virginia Bicycling Federation’s grant was denied funding. The Allocation Committee indicated that this project was denied because it would be a duplication of effort of another funded program. Additional concerns of the appearance of a potential conflict of interest were discussed. After much discussion, and input from NHTSA, Allen Muchnick requested that the application be removed from consideration.

Action: Board member Bruce Wingo asked NHTSA for federal regulations relating to conflict of interest.

Action: Invite Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) to a future meeting to provide an overview and status on the following approved grants: (1) Booster Seat Program and (2) Safety Belt Initiative for Tweens.

Special Request:

Virginia State Police - Staff to work with the Department of Transportation on securing funds for future selective enforcement for the Virginia State Police relating to Operation Air, Land and Speed. Total amount of grant is estimated to be \$849,000. Distribution of funds is estimated to be \$373,560 (44%) from DMV and \$475,440 (56%) from VDOT Hazard Elimination Funds. The Board agreed to recommend approval for up to \$500,000 to assist with this initiative. As part of this recommendation, Board requested that all necessary paperwork relating to this funding be prepared as required and Board be kept updated on progress.

Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO) – Staff currently is working to secure RFP to manage the remaining FY07 grant year and FY08 grant for the YOVASO Program. Board agreed to recommend approval up to \$250,000 to complete the process through 2008. Board to be kept updated on status of program.

Public Comment - None

Dates of Future Meetings - TBD

Meeting Adjourned

GHSA Update for May, 2007

Alcohol related

- Drivers who are required to complete an alcohol safety-action program as a result of a conviction for reckless driving may not have the license reinstated until the DMV receives notification of completion of the program.
- DUI ignition interlock installation must be for six consecutive months as opposed to the current “six months” provided that the license holder has no alcohol-related violations

Speed limits for school buses

- The maximum speed limit to 60 miles per hour for school buses traveling on interstates and highways where the speed limit is greater than 55 miles per hour.

Photo-red

- Localities have the authority to install photo-monitoring systems at no more than one intersection for every 10,000 residents at one time. The localities are required to designate at least 50% of fines collected for transportation purposes.

Child restraint devices

- Increased the age that children must be secured in a child restraint device from five to eight years.
- An exemption to this law may be made if a physician licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth or any other state determines that use of a child restraint system by a particular child would be impractical due to the child's weight, physical fitness, or other medical reason. If this determination is made, the person transporting the exempted child must have in his possession or in the vehicle a signed written statement by the physician identifying the child and stating the grounds for the exemption.
- Requires, rear-facing child restraint devices be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the child restraint device may be placed in the front passenger seat only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated.

Cell Phones

- Drivers under 19 years of age who are operating a motor vehicle on the highways of the Commonwealth are prohibited to use any cellular telephone or any other wireless telecommunications device, regardless if the device is or is not hand-held unless there is a driver emergency or when the vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped.
- A violation of this law will constitute a traffic infraction. For a second of subsequent violation the court may suspend the juvenile's privilege to drive for a period not to exceed six months.

Motorcycle License

- Changes the "endorsement" to a license "classification"
- An individual with a Virginia driver's license who successfully completes a motorcycle rider safety training course may use the course completion documentation as a temporary motorcycle classification for 30 days
- Requires anyone who fails the motorcycle road test twice to complete a motorcycle rider safety training course before applying for the motorcycle classification again.
- Allows DMV to exempt those who have completed a motorcycle safety training course from either the written materials or the road test or both.

Driving without a license; penalties.

- Any person convicted of a third or subsequent offense of driving without a license within a 10-year period must serve a mandatory minimum term of confinement in jail of 10 days.
- Also provides that when a person is convicted of driving on a suspended or revoked license the court shall suspend the person's privilege to drive for the same period for which it had been previously suspended.
- Also, when a person is convicted under this section of driving during a period of suspension or revocation that was not for a definite period of time or convicted of driving without a license, the court shall suspend the person's license or privilege to drive for an additional period not to exceed 90 days.