

- Recognition Request for the Augusta County Deputy. Letter from Board mounted on plaque and Doug Stader delivered to Sheriff's office, on the one year anniversary of the event for which he was recognized.
- Seatbelt Resolution DRAFT provided and reviewed.

Action: Board would like additional information attached to Resolution to include:

--Stats (Impact of having a primary seatbelt law-lives saved if enacted.)

--Economic Cost

--Funding (Funds that could be available to the state if a primary—law was passed)

Once completed, staff will forward to Board via e-mail for review and then proceed with approval process.

- Enforcement Activity Report update will be provided in January in order to furnish final year end data.
- DOE will be invited to future meeting to present on curriculum for young drivers.

New Business

Angelisa Jennings gave an update on current crash facts data.

Action: Provide Board a breakdown of the restraint use category on the crash report to show data on bicycle helmet usage.

Kathy Aebischer presented a summary report for 2006 grant funds and a status report of 2007 grant funding.

Deputy Commissioner David Mitchell provided a legislative update on transportation safety issues. (See attached legislative summary.) He also mentioned the upcoming Governor's Transportation Safety Awards Program and asked the Board to assist in promoting this event. Nomination forms will be ready for distribution and placed on DMV's website December 1, 2006.

Chair Dee Bowles mentioned to Board that the Board's by-laws state that both the Chair and Vice-Chair positions must be voted on each year at the first quarterly Board meeting. She requested that Walter Yeatts, Selden Rhodes and Judy Suddith to serve on the Nominating committee, with Walter serving as Chair of the committee. The committee was charged with bringing forth a slate of officers for Chair and Vice-Chair at the January meeting. All Board members were advised that if they had an interest in these two positions, to contact one of the committee members.

Chair Dee Bowles offered her interest for re-appointment as Chair of the Board which would be the last year for her to be eligible for re-appointment. She also thanked the staff for all they do in making the Board meetings run smoothly and for keeping the Board abreast of current information.

Chair Dee Bowles recognized NHTSA representatives, Dr. Beth Baker and Kristen Allen.

Based on NHTSA's letter of July 24, 2006 addressing concerns with questionable grant requests for federal fiscal year 2007, Dr. Baker was asked to provide the Board an overview of NHTSA's goals and objectives in order to assist the Board in understanding the grant process and NHTSA requirements. (Letter attached.)

Both NHTSA and Virginia's Highway Safety Office has a main goal to reach:

1.0 Fatalities Per 100m VMT by 2008

NHTSA goals are to:

- Increase safety belt use
- Reduce impaired driving
- Improve data collection and analysis
- Reduce rollover crashes
- Improve vehicle compatibility

NHTSA would like states to consider the following when awarding grants:

- Select grants for funding based on how they can impact the states highway safety goals.
- Use data based problem ID to determine what, where and who to fund.
- All project agreements should be prescriptive.
- Implement and require strong monitoring requirements for project monitors.

Chair Dee Bowles had a concern about past and present grant requests covering highway safety research projects. Dr. Baker mentioned that guidelines have been stretched in the past and that empirical research projects with a goal of reducing highway safety numbers could be funded out of 403 funds. Highway Safety Countermeasures that have proven to have an impact on a states highway safety goal can be funded out of 402 funds.

David Mosley proceeded with a grant review update. He first addressed the grants that NHTSA listed in their July 24th letter. Second, David addressed both pending grants from the July 11, 2006 Board meeting and new grants and grant increase requests that have been received since the July meeting. Attached is an updated list of the above mentioned grants and the recommended approvals or pending status.

New Business from Floor

Chair Dee Bowles mentioned that DMV staff has offered grants management training to the Board. The Board expressed their interest in this training.

Action: *Staff will come up with draft agenda for training and forward to Board for review and input. Training will be set within the first quarter of 2007.*

Public Comment

None

Tentative Dates of Future Meetings

January 2007
General Assembly
Richmond, VA

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 p.m

Recommended Legislative Concepts 2007

Child Safety Seat or Booster Seat

Amend § 46.2-1095 to require any child through age 6 (currently the age is 5) be properly secured in a child restraint device which meets the standards adopted by the United States Department of Transportation.

Explanation:

During calendar year 2005, 7,731 Virginians 5 to 6 years old were injured or killed as a result of not using any type of restraint or using an improper restraint.

VA would qualify for an additional 6 million in **Section 2011 funding** if this law is enacted.

Safety belt use by all occupants

Amend § 46.2-1094 to require all occupants age 16 and older (in both front and rear seats) to use safety lap belts and shoulder harnesses. Violation of this law should be a primary offense instead of a secondary offense.

Explanation: During calendar year 2005, 7,731 Virginians sixteen years and older were injured or killed as a result of not using any type of restraint.

Cell phone use for drivers under the age of 21 Amend § 46.2-334.01 to prohibit the use of wireless telecommunication devices (cell phones) while operating motor vehicles.

The primary responsibility of the driver is to safely operate their motor vehicle. This requires the driver's full attention to focus on the task of driving. Because young drivers are inexperienced and sometimes lack sound judgement, the use of a cell phone poses a distraction during those first few years of driving when they are gaining on-road experience.

Open Container Amend § 18.2-323.1 to read that no one is allowed to possess an open alcoholic beverage container in the passenger area of a motor vehicle on a public highway or shoulder of the roadway.

Explanation:

- To continue VA's effort to reduce alcohol related crashes and fatalities needs to tighten its open container law.
- If Virginia does not pass an open container law, approximately **\$14 million** will be transferred from the federal aid program to DMV. **In 2006, \$7.6 million** was further transferred to VDOT for hazard elimination projects.
- If the state passes the Open Container law, all funding will remain with VDOT and can be used to address VA highway transportation challenges.