

Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board

January 18, 2006

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending:

Don Barrett
Paul Gottfried
John Leo
Laura Madelone
Linda McKinnon
William Mulroy
Glenn Murdock
Lloyd Perkins
Jeff Raub
Doug Robertson
Shannon Trice
Barry Weiss
Leo Williams
Patricia Wortley

Organization:

Justice Services/AVID
Southern Wine & Spirit of Upstate New York
Onondaga County Department of Transportation
Syracuse University
OCTSAB
New York State Thruway Authority
Widewaters Group, Inc.
Skaneateles Police Department
New York State Police
East Syracuse Police Department
Syracuse Police Department
District Attorney's Office - Stop DWI
Centro
SMTC

**Designee*

Stakeholders Attending:

Amir Blot
Steve Brustein
Gerald Deitz
George Doucette
Diana Graser
Michael Lefancheck
Jim McKeever
Steve Rotunno
Jeff Tripp
Kathy Turner

Organization

Assemblyman Magnarelli's Office
DMV Frauds & Auto Theft Unit
Centro
NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Transportation
Baldwinsville Police Department
The Post-Standard
Camillus Police Department
North Syracuse Police Department
Onondaga County Health Department

Excused: Diana Dibble, AAA; and William McAnelly, NYS Motor Truck Association.

1. Welcome

Lt. Trice, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. at the Lower Level Conference Room of the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, Syracuse, NY. Following introductions, Lt. Trice proceeded with the meeting.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

Lt. Trice inquired if there were any changes/corrections to the November 10, 2005 minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Gottfried moved and Mr. Murdock seconded approval of the November 10, 2005 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Communications and Reports

A. Committee Updates:

Aggressive Driving: Capt. Raub stated that the committee has not met.

Awards: Ms. McKinnon stated that the Awards Breakfast was very successful with a phenomenal turnout. She would welcome any comments people had about the breakfast.

Buckle Up/Car Seat Support: Capt. Raub stated that the committee has not met and they will be meeting later.

Business & Industry: Mr. Murdock stated that he is working on setting up some things and looking at options. He is working with P& C with regard to their resources. He would welcome input from those present. Lt. Trice inquired about the trucking group. Mr. Murdock stated that there is a membership fee to join. He suggested that Mr. Pierce of P & C is already a member and that perhaps we could gain information from him rather than joining as a member ourselves. Mr. Murdock stated that he is continuing to research ways of making money. One suggestion is hosting a haunted house. He is currently looking for a location and researching insurance options.

By-Laws: Mr. Deitz stated that committee has not met.

Grants: Ms. Madelone stated that she met with representatives from the County Health Department and Mr. Swartz last week. She stated that training sessions for all grants would be set up in February. She stated that the grant applications need to be new and unique in order to receive funding. Ms. Madelone also stated that in order for departments to receive Buckle Up New York (BUNY) funding they will need to provide proof that their department has a seatbelt policy for all officers requiring them to wear seatbelts while in their cars.

Lt. Trice stated that he and Lt. Rotunno will be attending a Focus Group meeting in Albany on January 19th.

Lights On: Mr. Barrett thanked all those helped with the event. He stated that he has received numerous phone calls.

Nominating: Mr. Deitz stated that there were eight terms up on the Board. Undersheriff Darby, Capt. Raub, Lt. Trice, Ms. Madelone, Mr. Leo and Mr. Murdock will be reappointed to the Board. The two new Board Members are Lt. Rotunno, Camillus Police, and Officer Tripp, North Syracuse Police. They are appointed to fill the two vacant positions on the Board. The term of all the appointments will expire on December 31, 2008.

Mr. Deitz stated that the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers: Chair – Ms. Madelone; Vice Chair – Lt. Trice; and Secretary – Ms. Wortley. Hearing no nominations from the floor, the slate of officers as presented was accepted. The officers will serve a one-year term.

Pedestrian/Bike/School Safety: Ms. Madelone stated that there is a meeting on January 19th with Safe KIDS. The informational packets are almost complete and will be handed out soon.

Youth: Lt. Trice stated that departments would be doing more stings in the City and county. Tamara Kurtz has contacted some of those present regarding a press conference on January 19th. The Prevention Network is going strong.

Lt. Trice inquired of Chief Perkins as to the status of Gone4Ever. Chief Perkins stated that the committee is waiting to hear about available grants. Chief Conway has been pursuing grant options. Mr. Weiss and Chief Conway are drafting a letter to Mr. Swartz, GTSC, regarding grant money. Chief Perkins stated that the display is close to being completed and they hope to have it in schools within the next two months. He noted that County Executive Pirro has been very supportive of this effort.

B. Onondaga County Health Department Update:

Ms. Turner stated that since County Executive Pirro has been out of the office, the meeting originally scheduled for today has been postponed until March. She stated that Ms. Staley-Smith had forwarded some questions for the County Executive to her already. She asked that any further questions for the County Executive be forwarded to her in advance. Ms. Wortley will send an e-mail out to regarding the questions. Ms. Turner stated that she and her staff met with Mr. Swartz and Ms. Madelone last week to discuss the direction of next year's grant and reporting system. Perhaps they will be hosting a health/safety fair. Ms. Turner would like to talk to the Board officers regarding her department's reporting system.

On behalf of Ms. Barnett, Ms. Turner thanked the OCTSAB for presenting Ms. Barnett with a Chairman's Award at the breakfast. Ms. Turner reported that the SHAPE program has recruited new volunteers.

Discussion was had relative to the OCTSAB website. Ms. Turner will talk to the County IT people regarding making updates to the site.

4. Old Business

None.

5. New Business

A. Roundtable Discussions:

Ms. Madelone stated that there is a Save Your Friend's Life Over the Air Waves competition being sponsored by the State Traffic Safety Board. Students that are interested are asked to develop radio spots. The winning spots will be played on the radio. Ms. Madelone asked that anyone interested in receiving the *Interchange* newsletter let her know via e-mail.

Lt. Trice stated that a four-day course on video cameras in cars will be offered.

Mr. Mulroy stated that the NYSDOT has a Traffic Management Team that is doing great work. Mr. Doucette stated that NYSDOT has formed a Traffic Operations Working Group to look at a number of traffic operational issues on the interstates. One issue they are working on is the development of pre-planned detour routes. Additionally, cameras and Variable Message Boards (VMBs) are being installed on the interstates. Another issue deals with the clearing up of incidents following a collision. New procedures are being looked at regarding the removal of vehicles and debris after an incident to clear the road for travel. Lt. Trice recommended that any police department with an interstate in their area contact the NYSDOT to become involved with the Working Group. Mr. Doucette stated that the NYSDOT would welcome the additional

police involvement with the Group. Mr. Doucette stated that there are proposed changes to the Vehicle and Traffic Law to deal with Quick Clearance legislation. Discussion was had over the time highways were shut down to deal with crashes. Mr. Mulroy stated that the Thruway Authority sets goals for the amount of time to clean up an incident. He noted that this has been successful.

It was noted that there is a need for some type of education for the public, as many believe that you need to keep your vehicle in the exact location the incident occurred. Mr. Deitz suggested that the GTSC could produce a Public Service Announcement (PSA). Chief Robertson stated that we need to get the insurance industry involved because they are the ones telling their insured not to move vehicles following a crash. Discussion followed regarding having insurance representation on the OCTSAB.

Lt. Trice stated that the Empire State Law Enforcement Conference would be held in Syracuse at the end of April

Chief Perkins inquired if there was funding available for in-car cameras. Lt. Trice stated that the funding was only available for State Police. Ms. Madelone suggested applying for a grant under Homeland Security. Mr. Mulroy inquired if funding for in-car cameras could be tied into the Business and Industry committee.

Further, Chief Perkins stated that in Skaneateles there are a lot of problems with crosswalks and he was looking for suggestions. Lt. Trice stated that there is a problem with crosswalks in the Syracuse University area. It was noted that the cones with pedestrian signs do not work well. NYSDOT does not allow permanent signage on their roadways.

Mr. Murdock stated that in the past there was a Seat Belt Tracking Committee and that this has not been pursued recently. Discussion followed regarding how difficult it was to get judges not to dismiss the tickets. Publicity about the dismissals does not please the judges, as there was a lot of negative feedback following a Channel 3 story. Ms. Madelone noted that the State Traffic Safety Board is taking up the issue of seat belt ticket enforcement.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chief Perkins moved and Mr. Murdock seconded the adjournment of the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.