

Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board

January 19, 2005

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending:

Mike Davison
Michael Goudy*
John Leo
Laura Madelone
Linda McKinnon
Glenn Murdock
Jeff Raub
Doug Robertson
Kay Staley-Smith
Shannon Trice
Barry Weiss
Leo Williams
Patricia Wortley

**Designee*

Organization:

Think First
Onondaga County Sheriff's Office
Onondaga County DOT
Syracuse University
OCTSAB
Syracuse Utilities
New York State Police
East Syracuse Police Department
NYS DMV
Syracuse Police Department
Stop DWI
Centro
SMTC

Stakeholders Attending:

Gary Bulinski
Jerry Deitz, Sr.
George Doucette
Kathy Furneaux
Debbie Kogut
Mary Jo Kohl
Michael Lefancheck
Mary Tone

Organization

Syracuse Police Department
Centro
NYS Department of Transportation
Pupil Transportation Safety Institute
Onondaga County Health Department
Onondaga County Sheriff's Office
Baldwinsville Police Department
DeWitt Police Department

Excused: Diana Dibble, AAA; Paul Gottfried, North Syracuse Police Department; Bill McAnelly, NYS Motor Truck Association; and William Mulroy, New York State Thruway Authority.

1. Welcome

Ms. Wortley, Secretary, opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. at the East Syracuse Police Department, East Syracuse, N.Y.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

Ms. Wortley inquired if there were any changes/corrections to the November 9, 2004 minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Murdock moved and Mr. Davison seconded approval of the November 9, 2004 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Communications and Reports

A. Committee Updates:

Awards: Ms. McKinnon asked those present for comments on the January 11, 2005 Awards Breakfast. All comments were positive and it was decided that we would again hold next year's Tuesday Awards Breakfast at The Marx. Ms. McKinnon will convene a committee meeting in the near future.

Sgt. Tone stated that all police departments have police benevolent associations (PBA) and suggested that each PBA might be able to contribute funds toward the Awards Breakfast in the future. Sgt. Tone will approach the PBA's relative to this proposal.

Lights On: Ms. Kogut stated that 50 vehicles participated in the 21st annual event that went from Centro to Manlius Pebble Hill School. Ms. Kogut thanked all those who participated in the event.

Business & Industry and Membership: Mr. Murdock stated that he is trying to develop an educational program in order to get the OCTSAB name out there.

Nominating: Mr. Deitz stated that the committee met and they recommended the following slate of officers:

Chair	-	Lt. Shannon Trice
Vice Chair	-	Kay Staley-Smith
Secretary	-	Patricia Wortley

No nominations were received from the floor. One vote was cast and the officers were elected as nominated.

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the following people were reappointed to three-year terms on the Board: Sgt. Paul Gottfried, Linda McKinnon and Kay Staley-Smith. Further, Ms. Staley-Smith stated that Chief Doug Robertson and Barry Weiss were appointed to the Board for three-year terms. Lastly, Liz Morgan's and John Hayes' terms expired and they will be leaving the Board.

Legislative: Ms. Kogut stated that the booster seat law goes into effect on March 27, 2005. The extended car seat law requires all children under the age of seven or 4'9" to be in booster seats or safety vests. Senator DeFrancisco is seeking to amend the law. Discussion was had regarding the confusion with the new law. Lt. Lefancheck inquired as

to whether there was any information on the new law on the Internet. Ms. Kogut stated www.safeny.com has information on the new law.

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the DMV has a new law regarding CDL licenses with Hazmat endorsements. Beginning January 31, 2005, there will be a required fingerprinting and a New York State Police background check. There is an additional \$104 charge for this. Ms. Furneaux inquired if the new procedure applied to school bus drivers. Ms. Staley-Smith stated that she was not made aware of "S" endorsements. Additionally, as Ms. Staley-Smith had stated at the November meeting, the Driver's Responsibility Act went into effect on November 18, 2004. Beginning February 15, 2005, drivers with more than six points on their licenses will be billed an additional fee. More information is available at www.nysdmv.com. Ms. Kogut stated that helmets are now required for skateboarders up to the age of 14 in New York State, however, in Onondaga County, helmets are required up until age 18 for bicyclists, skate boarders and inline scooter riders.

Youth: Lt. Trice deferred to Ms. Madelone. Ms. Madelone and Officer Bulinski will be meeting with representatives from Syracuse University's (SU) School of Architecture relative to SU purchasing the Dunk and Bright property in Armory Square. Students are concerned about traffic to and from Armory Square.

Onondaga County Heath Department Update:

Ms. Kogut provided copies of her report. Ms. Kogut noted that low cost booster seats would be available at upcoming events.

NYS Traffic Safety Board:

Lt. Trice inquired as to whether or not we wanted to designate a representative from the OCTSAB. He stated that membership in this organization would be very valuable. In December, he attended the meeting in Albany along with Ms. Staley-Smith, Ms. Madelone and Ms. Kogut.

Ms. Madelone provided copies of the meeting minutes to those present and discussed the meeting. She stated it was a great networking environment. They have a quarterly newsletter and the OCTSAB could submit articles for publication. Ms. Staley-Smith stated that we need an official representative from the OCTSAB to attend the meetings and that there was a \$100 membership fee. Lt. Trice stated his department would take care of the fee. Ms. Staley-Smith nominated Ms. Madelone as our official representative. All present were in agreement. Ms. Kogut suggested drafting a letter from the Chairman to County Executive Pirro requesting that the County cover the cost of the membership. Lt. Trice will draft a letter.

4. Old Business

None.

5. New Business

- A. Meeting Dates for 2005:** Ms. Staley-Smith stated that a listing of meeting dates for 2005 was mailed to all. Anyone in need of a listing could pick one up today.

Committee Membership: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that a new committee membership listing has been developed. Ms. Staley-Smith stated that an e-mail will be sent out regarding which committees people are on. Please review and comment.

B. Roundtable Discussion:

Funding: Lt. Trice highlighted upcoming workshops relative to focus groups for fiscal year 2006. Grant money for 2006 will be approximately the same as last year. Congress is two years late in approving reauthorization. Lt. Trice outlined the new procedures: alcohol grants will be eliminated as there is no money left, but limited funding is available for Safe and Sober efforts; Child Passenger Safety is not affected 100%; BUNY and STEP funds are being cut across the board; and TraCS and Corridor grants will be by invitation only. Lt. Trice suggested that departments submit Block Grants with other departments in order to secure funding. Ms. Madelone stated that she would be willing to assist any department with writing a grant proposal.

Ms. Staley-Smith suggested that the Board send a letter to our federal representatives regarding the appropriation of funding.

Police Safety on Highways: Mr. Murdock inquired if it would be possible for officers to wear more visible gear when on the roads and wondered if the departments had addressed this issue. Lt. Trice stated that there was no safety officer in the City of Syracuse to address the issue. Discussion followed about making officers more visible versus wearing dark clothing for their own protection in other situations. George Doucette stated that the New York State Department of Transportation has developed a traffic operations working group, comprised of City, State, and County representatives, and that they will be looking at these types of issues. Ms. Kogut suggested educating the public through defensive driving courses and the Heat Is On campaign in June. It was suggested that we get the media involved. Chief Robertson stated that he was meeting with Channel 9 later in the day regarding another matter and that he would mention it.

Centro Bus Camera System: Mr. Williams stated that Phase I of the digital audio/video surveillance system is completed on 85% of Centro's buses. There are a total of six cameras per bus – five inside and one with a driver's view out the front window. This may provide useful information to law enforcement agencies. Lt. Trice inquired if it would be possible to get a demonstration of the system. A demonstration will be set up in the future and notices will be sent out regarding the date and time.

Alcohol Grant: Lt. Trice will be meeting with Barry Swartz relative to the alcohol grant.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Davison moved and Ms. McKinnon seconded the adjournment of the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, March 8, 2005 – 9:30 a.m.
@
New York State Thruway Authority
Liverpool, NY