

**Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board**  
**March 8, 2005**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Attending:**

Warren Darby  
Mike Davison  
Diana Dibble  
John Leo  
Linda McKinnon  
William Mulroy  
Glenn Murdock  
Phil Politano  
Jeff Raub  
Doug Robertson  
Kay Staley-Smith  
Shannon Trice  
Barry Weiss  
Patricia Wortley

**Organization:**

Onondaga County Sheriffs' Office  
Think First  
AAA  
Onondaga County DOT  
OCTSAB  
New York State Thruway Authority  
Syracuse Utilities  
Politano Group  
New York State Police  
East Syracuse Police Department  
NYS DMV  
Syracuse Police Department  
Stop DWI  
SMTC

*\*Designee*

**Stakeholders Attending:**

Gary Bulinski  
Mike Cronin  
Richard DeMott  
Debbie Kogut  
Mary Jo Kohl  
Michael Lefancheck  
Mary Tone

**Organization**

Syracuse Police Department  
New York State Thruway Authority  
New York State Thruway Authority  
Onondaga County Health Department  
Onondaga County Sheriff's Office  
Baldwinsville Police Department  
DeWitt Police Department

**Guests Attending:**

Brad Swartz

**Organization:**

GTSC

**Excused:** Paul Gottfried, North Syracuse Police Department and Laura Madelone, Syracuse University.

**1. Welcome**

Lt. Shannon Trice, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. at the Thruway Authority Training Room, Liverpool, N.Y.

## **2. Acceptance of Minutes**

Lt. Trice inquired if there were any changes/corrections to the January 19, 2005 minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Murdock moved and Ms. McKinnon seconded approval of the January 19, 2005 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

## **3. Communications and Reports**

### **A. Committee Updates:**

Awards: Ms. McKinnon stated the committee members really need to discuss award nominees prior to September. She requested that people contact her about those they want recognized at the awards breakfast.

Business & Industry and Membership: Mr. Murdock passed a sheet around regarding tentative meeting dates. Following discussion committee members agreed to meet on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 noon. Mr. Murdock will notify the committee members of the location. Mr. Murdock does not believe that the committee will need to meet often and that much of the work should be able to be done via e-mail.

Grants: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the deadline for grant applications is April 8, 2005. No late applications will be accepted. She will be notifying people regarding the meeting dates.

Additionally, Ms. Staley-Smith handed out the Highway Safety Strategic Plan 2005, Onondaga County Traffic Safety Data, and Partners for Safety Award nomination packets. Further, New York State Traffic Safety Data will be sent to those members requesting the information.

Legislative: Mr. Politano stated that the committee met. There is numerous legislation on traffic safety. Mr. Politano and Capt. Raub have discussed hosting an open forum to invite street-level officers in order to discuss their experiences and eventually meet with the legislative body. Sgt. Tone stated that the police agencies have a county wide messaging system and this would be a way to reach all law enforcement agencies to gain their input. Mr. Politano stated that this would be a way to also introduce the officers to the community.

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that after the last meeting it was decided that we would draft a letter to our federal representatives urging them to release federal funds for traffic safety initiatives.

Youth: Lt. Trice stated that the committee would be meeting soon. Lt. Trice would like to expand the Sheriff's Teen Summits into the City of Syracuse. Ms. Staley-Smith stated that at least one of the upcoming Summits would be held in a city school. Ms. Staley-Smith gave the dates for the upcoming Summits.

### **Onondaga County Heath Department Update:**

Ms. Kogut reported on upcoming car seat checks and technician training sessions. Ms. Kogut noted that they have been asked to conduct a car seat check on the Onondaga Nation. Ms. Kogut stated that the new car seat law takes effect on March 27, 2005.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Spring into Pedestrian Safety event will take place on April 1, 2005 at the Lyncourt School. Bicycle safety will be starting up. May is Bicycle Safety month. The "Follow the Leader: Safety Starts with You" event will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Alliance Bank Stadium.

**4. Old Business**

None.

**5. New Business**

**A. Motorcycle & Street Racing:**

Mr. Swartz stated that he had handouts for the law enforcement officers. Additionally, Mr. Swartz provided copies of the New York State Assembly Bill Summary relative to prohibiting one wheel stunts on motorcycles. Mr. Swartz presented "It's Only Illegal if You Get Caught". CD-Rom copies of the presentation were available.

**B. DWI Update:**

Mr. Weiss referred those present to page C-6 of the Onondaga County Traffic Data packet. In reviewing the fatality numbers, they are increasing. He stated that there are things we should be doing. The District Attorney's (DA's) Office is looking into initiatives for the County. Mr. Weiss is seeking input. In the past, the DA's office has given money to support After the Prom Parties. Now they are thinking that they should be funding something that is not just one night a year. Ms. Staley-Smith stated that a sub-committee should be formed. Mr. Politano stated that the fatalities are nothing new. Lt. Trice stated that increased interest is the result of several high profile crashes. Lt. Trice stated that the Zero Tolerance Law needs to be changed because currently it has no teeth. Ms. Staley-Smith stated that each year, the DMV seeks input on legislative changes. She requested that people provide her with wording changes and she would pass them on. Mr. Politano inquired if there were any state legislative representatives on the OCTSAB. Currently there are no state representatives on the Board. Mr. Politano suggested inviting Senator DeFrancisco, as State Senate Judiciary Chair, to the May meeting. Lt. Trice inquired if anyone was participating in the DRE requests. Mr. Weiss does not know. Sgt. Tone stated that DeWitt wanted to send someone. No one from Baldwinsville or East Syracuse will be participating.

**C. Integrating Safety into Transportation Planning:**

Ms. Wortley stated that the New York State Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the Federal Highway Administration are sponsoring a seminar in Poughkeepsie, June 9-10, 2005. Ms. Wortley stated that seminar information was included in the meeting mailing. Further information will be forthcoming. At this time, it is believed that the registration fee will be approximately \$50 and discounted price hotel rooms will be available.

**D. Roundtable Discussion:**

Traffic Safety Conference: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the annual conference would be held October 16-19 in Lake Placid. Anyone with ideas for the conference should submit them by March 28<sup>th</sup>.

New York State Traffic Safety Board: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that Lt. Trice was now a member and Ms. Madelone is the substitute member. They recently attended a meeting. Ms. Madelone is interested in helping the Board with their newsletter. Lt. Trice stated that he is trying to get the State Traffic Conference held in Syracuse on an off year, as it travels around the state, going back to Lake Placid every other year.

S Endorsements: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that relative to bus drivers, there is a possibility that they may be "grandfathered" in. There probably will not be any testing.

Driver Responsibility Act: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the first billing statements will be going out April 1<sup>st</sup>. The new charges include a \$100 charge, for three years, for any one with more than 6 points on their license. Anyone with a DWI will be charged \$250 per year for three years.

Haz-Mat CDL's: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that they have begun fingerprinting. There is a \$138 extra charge for the fingerprinting and background check.

NHTSA: Chief Robertson stated that he recently attended the NHTSA conference on police leadership and stated that it was worth attending and encouraged others to attend in the future.

NYS Snowmobiles: Ms. Kogut handed out *Snowbelt* courtesy of Kevin Bamerick. Mr. Bamerick has an article in there relative to raising the snowmobile maximum speed limit to 55 mph.

Nottingham Road: Ms. Kogut stated that residents at The Nottingham are seeking to have the speed limit lowered on the section of Nottingham Road outside their compound.

## **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Staley-Smith moved and Chief Robertson seconded the adjournment of the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**  
**Thursday, May 12, 2005 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**@**  
**SMTC**  
**Syracuse, NY**