

Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board

May 12, 2005

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending:

Don Barrett
Mike Davison
Paul Gottfried
Laura Madelone
William Mulroy
Glenn Murdock
Robin Palmer*
Phil Politano
Lloyd Perkins
Doug Robertson
Kay Staley-Smith
Shannon Trice
Barry Weiss
Leo Williams
Patricia Wortley

Organization:

AVID
Think First
North Syracuse Police Department
Syracuse University
New York State Thruway Authority
Widewaters Group, Inc.
New York State Police
Politano Group
Camillus Police Department
East Syracuse Police Department
NYS DMV
Syracuse Police Department
District Attorney's Office - Stop DWI
Centro
SMTC

**Designee*

Stakeholders Attending:

Jerry Deitz
George Doucette
Sharon Naftal
Kathy Turner

Organization

Centro
New York State Department of Transportation
Onondaga County Sheriff's Office
Onondaga County Health Department

Guests Attending:

Sen. John DeFrancisco
Danielle Krol
Chuck Murphy

Organization:

NYS Senate
SMTC
Sen. DeFrancisco's Office

Others Present:

Christine Robison

Citizens for a Pedestrian Friendly Community

Excused: Diana Dibble, AAA; William McAnelly, NYSMTA; Linda McKinnon, OCTSAB; and Mary Tone, DeWitt Police.

1. Welcome

Lt. Shannon Trice, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's Lower Level Conference Room, Syracuse, NY. Lt. Trice welcomed Senator DeFrancisco.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

Lt. Trice inquired if there were any changes/corrections to the March 8, 2005 minutes. Hearing none, Sgt. Gottfried moved and Mr. Murdock seconded approval of the March 8, 2005 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Communications and Reports

A. Committee Updates:

Aggressive Driving: Chief Perkins informed the group that beginning May 13, 2005, an initiative will take place involving the Sheriff and State Police helicopters targeting aggressive motorcycle drivers on the interstate highways during high traffic times. The helicopter, not police road patrols, will follow the driver to their destination and the offender will receive tickets from any jurisdiction where laws were broken. A video of the pursuit will also be made. Mr. Murdock inquired if the police would be responding to calls from the public regarding aggressive drivers. Chief Perkins stated that a law enforcement official must witness the act in order to enforce it.

Awards: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that Ms. McKinnon would be contacting committee members in late summer to meet.

Buckle Up/Car Seat Support: Zone Sgt. Palmer stated that she is in charge of the Buckle Up campaign for the area. The next enforcement wave will begin on May 23rd and run for two weeks. Zone Sgt. Palmer stated that compliance rates in Onondaga County are pretty high. Mr. Davison inquired if school areas could be targeted. Zone Sgt. Palmer stated that this could be done in the future as all the sites have been selected for this blitz. She noted that they are targeting the Route 31 corridor near Cicero North Syracuse High School now. Mr. Murdock inquired if the magistrates were aware of the crack down. Lt. Trice stated that he would let the City Court system know about it. Lt. Trice inquired if other agencies did surveys. Lt. Trice stated that Operation IMPACT in the City would be coming to a close.

Business & Industry and Membership: Mr. Murdock stated that the committee met two weeks ago. Now that Mr. Barrett is back he will be assisting. They will be working on setting up training sessions. We need to get training and education out there. They are also looking for new members.

Lt. Trice noted that he nominated Christie Casciano for a Partners in Safety award based upon all the stories she did relative to law enforcement.

Grants: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the committee had finished the grants review and she provided a handout of the funding by agency. Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the Cicero Police Department and Lets Not Meet by Accident may not receive funding as they did not meet the requirements. Ms. Staley-Smith noted that Camillus is in as three different local grants. Ms. Staley-Smith stated that Jordan applied late and did not receive any funding. She also noted that Skaneateles did not wish to participate in the process.

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the grants committee met with and is now working with Ms. Turner of the County Health Department. Ms. Turner stated that she was impressed by the work of the grants committee. Ms. Turner noted that over the next year the whole focus of what her department has been doing will be changing. She inquired as to how her department could assist others with manpower and resources.

Lights On: Mr. Barrett stated that the committee will be meeting in June.

Pedestrian/Bike/School Safety: Ms. Madelone stated that she sent out a bicycle and pedestrian survey to all police chiefs. She is trying to gauge what is going on in the County and is looking at how to find resources. Ms. Madelone will be providing packets of information.

Youth: Lt. Trice stated that the committee has not met. Lt. Trice is seeking someone else to chair the committee. Until a new chair is named, Officer Bulinski will be assisting.

B. NYS Association of Traffic Safety Boards:

Ms. Madelone stated that the NYSATSB conference will be held in Lake Placid from October 17-19. She serves on the conference committee and noted that there is a great guest speaker lined up this year. In the future she would like to see more varied presentations at the conference.

Ms. Madelone highlighted some recent happenings, including: a free work zone safety training in Schenectady, a letter sent to Senator Clinton urging more police on the streets under the COPS program, a new California school bus law that all students must wear shoulder and lap belts while on a school bus and an engineering and street improvement program that reports street conditions to the Department of Transportation. Lt. Trice noted that the Syracuse and Camillus Police departments received awards for excellence in traffic safety.

Mr. Deitz inquired about election of officers for the NYSATSB. Ms. Madelone stated it was an election year. Mr. Deitz inquired if the OCTSAB got a ballot to cast. Ms. Madelone will cast a vote on behalf of the OCTSAB. Ms. Staley-Smith inquired as to when nominations had to be in and if it would be prior to the July OCTSAB meeting. It was noted that Region 5 covers six counties, not just Onondaga County, but usually only Onondaga County provides reports. Mr. Deitz stated that he would like to nominate either Ms. Madelone or Ms. Staley-Smith as vice president. Ms. Madelone declined the nomination.

Ms. Madelone stated that there is a good teen driving program up north and she has requested information about the program. Ms. Staley-Smith gave an overview of the Driver's Edge program recently held at the Fair Grounds. Ms. Madelone also stated that she was editor of the *Interchange* newsletter and passed copies around.

Lt. Trice noted that the Empire State Traffic Safety Law Enforcement conference could possibly be held in Syracuse within the next two years. Mr. Politano suggested that Lt. Trice contact the Chamber of Commerce Conventions and Visitors Bureau to enlist their help in getting the conference here.

4. **Old Business**

Safety Vests: Mr. Murdock commended the Syracuse Police on their new green traffic safety vests.

5. **New Business**

A. New York State Legislation:

Sen. DeFrancisco spoke relative to the legislative process. He stated that in discussions prior to the meeting that he was able to speak to some people to find out our concerns. He spoke about the Zero Tolerance law and how it was difficult to prove. He stated that when incidents happen there is a rush to have a new law passed and that the emotion of the moment rather than careful thought are the driving factors. The Senator stated that AAA has people that monitor legislation. The Senator stated that Mr. Murphy of his staff deals with transportation issues and he would be able to provide the OCTSAB with heads up information. The Senator stated that information is available on his website relative to introduced bills: <http://senatordefrancisco.org/>. The Senator stated that he attaches all correspondence, positive or negative, to the bills that are introduced.

Lt. Trice inquired as to how we could get a bill introduced. The Senator stated that we would need to contact his office with a concept and he has people to draft the legislation. The Senator stated that if there was an existing bill that was not workable, one could provide suggestions for changes to the bill. Mr. Murdock inquired if there was a form on his website for legislation suggestions. The Senator stated that all that was necessary was sending an outline to his office and a proposal could be drafted. The Senator provided a listing of proposed bills (see enclosures).

B. Bill Loucks

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that Mr. Loucks passed away over the weekend. A collection will be taken at the next meeting.

C. SMTC Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan:

Ms. Krol stated that the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) recently completed its Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. She stated that copies of the plan are available on the SMTC website, www.smtcmpo.org, or on CD-Rom. Ms. Krol noted that there would be a public meeting on June 8, 2005 at Onondaga Lake Park, Willow Bay Pavilion and provided meeting flyers.

Ms. Madelone noted that the Chancellor together with the SOCC has asked that the University study the intersection at Euclid and Comstock.

D. July Picnic

Ms. Staley-Smith reviewed the options available. After discussion it was decided that the picnic would be held at the Glen Loch. Further information to be sent out as soon as it is known.

E. Roundtable Discussion

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that the Driver Responsibility Act letters went out on May 11, 2005. Further, letters relative to S Endorsements for school bus drivers were sent out and drivers are self-certifying now. However, anyone with less than 2-years experience will be re-tested.

Chief Perkins stated the Hamilton College exhibit is in Skaneateles and it will be going to Jamesville-DeWitt. From all the comments he has heard it is very impressive. Chief Perkins stated that Chief Conway wants to create a local exhibit to go from school-to-school. Mr. Politano inquired if we could ask for grant money next year for this type of project. Ms. Madelone stated that perhaps the Syracuse Area College Coalition could fund it. Chief Perkins stated that someone would be needed to put it together. Mr. Murdock and Mr. Weiss stated that we should get area businesses involved. Mr. Weiss stated that the West Genesee School District and the District Attorney's office were working together now. Ms. Staley-Smith inquired if we could see the program they developed. Mr. Weiss will report on it at next meeting.

Ms. Turner inquired if people were in favor of Driver's Edge. Ms. Smith stated that she received a last minute invite and that she attended one day. She stated that it was an excellent program. Ms. Madelone stated that we need to go to the Niagara County safety fair before making a decision about sponsoring something like Driver's Edge. Ms. Smith noted that Mr. Swartz had commented on our county not holding a traffic safety fair. Ms. Madelone, Ms. Staley-Smith and Lt. Trice will be going visit the Niagara County Traffic Safety Fair later this month. Chief Perkins inquired if we could use the fairgrounds for training. He stated that kids do not get this kind of training and it could be done with driver's education. Lt. Trice stated that EVOC instructors could provide the training. Mr. Politano stated that they have been unsuccessful in obtaining funding to build a course somewhere in the county and also there has been a problem finding a location.

6. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting:
July 13, 2005 – 1:00 p.m.
@
The Glen Loch
Jamesville