

**Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board**  
**September 10, 2002**  
**Revised Meeting Minutes**

**Members Attending:**

Donald Barrett  
Mike Davison  
Ted Finlayson-Schueler  
Lyman Gray  
John Hayes  
Debbie Kogut  
Linda McKinnon  
Glenn Murdock  
Mike Orso  
Lloyd Perkins  
Phil Politano  
Mary Rowlands  
Shannon Trice

**Organization:**

Avid  
Think First  
Pupil Transportation Safety Institute  
Syracuse Fire Department  
P&C  
Onondaga County Health Department  
Ross Limousine  
Syracuse Utilities Inc.  
Nick Orso's  
Camillus Police Department  
Rural Metro  
SMTC  
Syracuse Police Department

**Stakeholders Attending:**

Ann Barnett  
William Loucks  
John Harvey  
William Mulroy  
Patricia Stasco  
Barry Stevens  
Pat Wortley

**Organization**

Onondaga County Health Department  
West Genesee Central School District  
City of Syracuse  
NYS Thruway Authority  
Syracuse University  
NYS Department of Transportation  
SMTC

**Excused:**

Kay Staley-Smith, DMV; Liz Morgan, Stop DWI; Ted Botsford, Onondaga County Sheriff's Dept.; Gerry Deitz, CNYRTA; Diana Dibble, AAA; John Leo, Onondaga County; Laura Madelone, Syracuse University; Bill McAnelly, Syracuse Supply; Linda McKinnon, Ross Limousine.

**1. Welcome**

Mary Rowlands, Secretary, opened the meeting at 9:39 a.m. Ms. Rowlands stated that there were not enough members present at the meeting to constitute a quorum. Therefore, the Board would not be able to vote on the By-Laws. Ms. Rowlands inquired if there were any additions to the day's agenda. Being none, the meeting proceeded.

## **2. Acceptance of Minutes**

Ms. Rowlands asked if there were any changes/corrections to the minutes of July 9, 2002. There were no corrections noted. Due to the fact there were not enough members present the minutes were not voted upon.

## **3. Committee Updates**

Youth: Shannon Trice reported that the Syracuse Police had been conducting presentations at Manlius Pebble Hill and Corcoran recently. Lt. Trice was informed by the State that the department would be receiving a grant for alcohol education. Debbie Kogut informed the committee that she had further information relative to alcohol grants.

Grant: Ms. Kogut stated that the 2002-2003 Traffic Safety Grant has been approved in the amount of \$126,202. Ms. Kogut noted that no law enforcement agency in Onondaga County received alcohol money for this coming year. Ms. Kogut encouraged law enforcement agencies to contact the state about not receiving the funding. Ms. Kogut also indicated that she would be speaking with Lt. Trice.

Onondaga County Heath Department Update: Ms. Kogut provided those present with copies of her report. Ms. Kogut highlighted recent events, including: car seat events, fitting stations, helmet sales, Greater Syracuse Safe Kids, and Walk Your Child to School on October 2nd. Ms. Kogut stated that the Technician Class has been rescheduled for November 5-8. Further, Ms. Kogut noted that over 450 helmets were sold during the Fair.

## **4. Round Table Discussions**

Ted Finlayson-Schueler stated that it was good to be back at the meeting. He stated that school bus safety is alive and well. Further, statewide training for bus attendants will be required. Mr. Finlayson-Schueler also spoke about the anticipated trainer program for car seats teaching people within the school district to be trainers. He noted the Head Start Program car seat requirements.

Mike Orso stated that Nick Orso's had used 11 cars for high school and education events. He thanked everyone for their participation. Mr. Orso stated that if someone would draft a few lines regarding bus safety and tips he would incorporate them into a commercial. Discussion regarding bus safety and state laws followed. Mr. Finlayson-Schueler stated that stopping a bus near an intersection is discouraged. Chief Lloyd Perkins stated that highways are a big problem since people do not know whether they have to stop or not. Chief Perkins stated that having officers follow buses has not led more tickets being issued. John Harvey inquired if having cameras on buses would help in ticketing violators. Chief Perkins stated that the use of cameras for traffic infractions requires special legislation.

Phil Politano stated that a few years ago he made a Sammy Seat Belt presentation to the Board. This year they received a grant to continue the program, however, they will not

be getting the funding due to their not-for-profit status. At this point they do not know if they are going to run the program this year. Thank you to all that helped out at the Fair. Recently Rural Metro conducted first aid training for school bus drivers. Also, there has been quite a bit of media regarding car/pedestrian accidents. Chief Perkins stated it was his belief that New York State had one of the highest ratings for seat belt compliance. The Chief stated that in Camillus they have begun towing vehicles of those who do not abide by the law after they have been issued a ticket.

Mike Davison stated he wants to look at schools as a community for seat belt usage. He stated that judges have been dismissing tickets and that a message needs to be sent to the judges. The kids' behavior needs to change. Mr. Politano inquired if a judge had ever served on the Board. Ms. Kogut stated that in the past two judges had served on the Board. Ms. Rowlands inquired if we could get the statistics for number of tickets written in comparison to fines and dismissals. Lt. Trice stated that it is possible to get the numbers. Mr. Davison stated that kids think that the leading cause of traffic deaths is alcohol use. Chief Perkins stated that if an officer writes more than one ticket on a traffic stop, the judge would usually throw the seat belt ticket out. Camillus Police now issues warning tickets to motorists.

Ms. Rowlands inquired if the Board should hold a meeting and invite local magistrates to educate them. It was noted that Don Barrett has experience in this field. Mr. Barrett stated that you can talk all you want, but they need to be shown something. Mr. Orso inquired if ticket disposition went through the District Attorney's office. Lt. Trice stated that the judge has the final say. It was suggested that the Board give local judges "report cards" – tracking the court dispositions in a report that would be made public. Chief Perkins stated that the information should be available through the State Police. A sign up sheet was distributed to those wishing to form a special committee. Chief Perkins suggested that law enforcement officials not serve on the committee. Mr. Murdock will chair the committee and Ms. Kogut and Ms. Barnett will serve as co-chairs. He further stated, that for now, the committee should only look at seat belt tickets/dispositions for Onondaga County.

Mr. Harvey inquired if the data would be available in digital form. If it were, he would be willing to write a computer program to study the data. Ms. Barnett stated that the local State Police should be informed before we consult with Albany about obtaining the data. Chief Perkins stated that he would notify Jim McMann about the Board's upcoming request. It was agreed that the committee would look at data from this grant period as well as the previous grant period. The committee members will discuss a meeting date after the regular meeting is adjourned.

Mr. Murdock stated that he is currently looking for the OCTSAB logo for the stickers previously discussed having made. He is currently trying to get more people involved with the Board and is planning a training session. Mr. Murdock stated that he still has questions about who he needs to report to regarding construction sites. Mr. Murdock stated that to the best of his knowledge there is no established protocol system except within the City of Syracuse. Ms. Rowlands stated that the ITS project that is wrapping up

soon will help with that. However, the implementation of the ITS recommendations/goals will not be immediate. Mr. Finlayson-Schueler inquired about notifying school bus companies of construction as well. Barry Stevens stated that all too often one agency does not know what is going on with another. Mr. Stevens further stated that NYSDOT clears lane closures but that they do not approve them. Ms. Rowlands stated that under the proposed ITS plan a main database will be developed that would track construction activity.

Mr. Murdock provided those present with I'm Smart complimentary passes from Tim Hunt.

Mr. Stevens noted that both houses passed legislation and the Governor signed a bill requiring motorists to stop for pedestrians in a cross walk regardless of where they are. The law will go in to effect in 2003. Ms. Barnett asked that she be provided a copy of the law when it becomes available.

Ms. Barnett, on behalf of Laura Madelone, informed the Board that SU will be holding a Safety Fair on September 12 from 11:00-3:00. Additionally, the Campus Coalition is looking to get a \$15,000 grant to do a regional training. Approximately 25 schools will be involved in the event.

Mr. Barrett stated that seat belt information would be stressed to the Victim Panel. Mr. Barrett reminded the Board that Lights On would be on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Henninger. He noted that the preparation work is going well.

Chief Perkins thanked the NYSDOT for the new emergency signs on 695. The feedback has been positive. The Chief also outlined new officer incentive programs going on in Camillus relative to traffic safety details. This has proved successful so the same type of program will be initiated for DWI details. Mr. Stevens stated it would be nice to know if the judges were upholding the written tickets. The Chief stated he does not have the data at this time. Further, the Chief noted that warning signs would be installed on roads that the police have received a large number of complaints. The signs will state that there will be increased police speed controls in effect.

#### **4. Old Business**

None.

#### **5. New Business**

Ms. Rowlands distributed designee sheets to those in attendance. She asked that they be turned back in. Further, Ms. Rowlands noted that she recently spoke with County Executive Pirro regarding the OCTSAB website idea. She is currently waiting to hear from the County's IT person. She noted that the process has begun.

Ms. Rowlands stated that the By-Laws vote would be tabled until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum. Chief Perkins noted that Camillus has facilities available if sites for future meetings are needed.

**7. Closing**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2002 9:30 AM**  
**at**  
**Department of Motor Vehicles**  
**5801 East Taft Road**  
**North Syracuse, New York**