

**SUFFOLK COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

Date: May 20, 2009

Place: Work Session Room at Brookhaven Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT (11)

Robert J. Behrle

Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

William A. DeVore

Office of the District Attorney

Steven Kamvakis

Suffolk County Department of FRES

Susan Katz

Safe Kids Suffolk

Stephen Miller

Suffolk County District Court

Robert Pearce

Southampton Town Police Department

John Saraceno

Traffic Engineer III, Town of Smithtown

Richard H. Schneider

East Hampton Village Police Department

Stephen Shadbolt

Transportation Supervisor, Sachem Central School District

Arvind Vora

Traffic Engineer II
Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Lynn Weyant

Director of Traffic Safety
Town of Brookhaven

GUESTS PRESENT (12)

Booker Brown, GTSC
Manna Cali, ABATE
Denna Cohen, MADD
Sarah E. Furey, SCPD
Stephen Hernandez, SCPD
Jennifer Hogan, GTSC
Audrey Kirwin, Met Life
Rachel Lugo, EAC
Tom McCoy, MADD
Maria Perez-Lent, STOP DWI
Margaret Rebholz, MADD
Russ Ritchie, NYSDOT

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of April 15, 2009 was called to order by Lynn Weyant, the Chair, at 2:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lynn Weyant, the Chair, asked for additions, corrections to the April 2009 minutes.

Lynn Weyant reported that on Page 3 under Engineering Programs, SAFETY LUW should be SAFETY LU.

A motion to approve the April minutes, as corrected, was made by Stephen Shadbolt and seconded by Robert Pearce. The motion passed (11-0-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

Arvind Vora reported that there were seven pieces of correspondence and five pieces of published articles (see Attachment A). He reported on each item of correspondence one by one and highlighted the significant points for each item.

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

- Robert J. Behrle of the Sheriff's Office distributed one page of Enforcement Division Statistics (see Attachment B) for January 1, 2009 through April 30, 2009. He reported that every category – seatbelt summonses, speeding summonses, total summonses, DWI arrests, and traffic arrests other than DWI – were substantially up for the four-month period.

- Stephen Hernandez of the Suffolk County Police Department distributed one page of Enforcement Statistics (see Attachment C) for January 1, 2009 through April 30, 2009. He reported that the summonses issued in every category have declined substantially.
- Jennifer Hogan of GTSC reported that the BUNY mobilization is May 18-31, 2009. Reports are due by June 15, 2009 and vouchers must be received no later than July 31, 2009.
- Robert Pearce of the Southampton Police Department reported that in 2008, DWI arrests were up 30 percent from 2007, while for 2009 it is 30 percent down from 2008. He also reported that there were seven traffic fatalities, so far, compared to five fatalities for all of 2008. He reported that the department issued a press release that a number of these fatalities involved individuals not utilizing their seat belts and was a contributing factor in their loss of life to tie in with the Click It or Ticket campaign.

Robert Pearce reported that as part of the CLICK or TICKET campaign in May; so far 325 seatbelt law violation summonses have been issued.

- Richard H. Schneider of the East Hampton Police Department had no report to present.

ENGINEERING PROGRAMS

- John Saraceno reported that Smithtown, as part of “Green Lighting,” converted half of the incandescent lights in traffic signals to LED (Light Emitting Diodes) to reduce energy costs. This work is done by town employees.

He reported that the Town has received a Federal Grant for traffic signal pre-emption purposes, but what equipment to use cannot be decided until pending litigation involving pre-empt equipment manufacturers is resolved.

He also reported that the GTSC grant has been extended for the traffic signal timing under which the GPI consulting firm is working on three town roadways.

- Lynn Weyant reported that a very old grant of \$3 million for congestion mitigation will be used entirely for funding the replacement of the Opticom pre-emption system with GPS-based pre-emption. Every emergency vehicle will get new responders. In addition, the system has the ability to accommodate future potential users such as transit buses, funeral processions, etc. It is expected that the savings will be approximately \$100,000 per year. Upon a question from John Saraceno as to transition, she reported that during a three month period both programs will work.

Lynn Weyant also reported that the building construction is complete for Safety Town. She reported that during the summer the Employees' Day Kick-Off Event will take place, while elementary schools will have a start-up in October. There will be two Bike Rodeos in the summer and two in the fall. The COPE unit of SCPD will provide help. She said she would bring flyers to the next meeting. She also reported that CBS has drafted a proposal where announcements/comments will be broadcast free of charge. However, funding is needed to pay for the production cost. Upon a question from Susan Katz, Lynn Weyant reported that Safety Town is initially for Town of Brookhaven-based organizations.

- Arvind Vora of Suffolk County reported on the following 2009-2010 county road projects:
 - CR 19 at Furrows
 - CR 19 at Waverly
 - CR 57 from Route 27 to Route 231
 - CR 58 from LIE to Ostrander
 - CR 67 from Calebs Path to CR 17
 - Various county roads – resurfacing and thermoplastic pavement markings work approximately \$6 million.
- Russ Richie of NYSDOT reported that the aggressive driving campaign will be on Southern Parkway and Robert Moses Causeway. He also reported that the new pavement markings plan is at a preliminary stage for Rt 25 from CR97, Nicolls Road, to CR83, North Ocean Avenue and calls for the provision of a bike lane, etc. Most likely it will be implemented in Spring of 2010.

HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS

- Denna Cohen of MADD reported that the MADD Advocacy Day on May 5, 2009 at the State Assembly in Albany to support the Interlock Law was successful, and she hopes the bill passes. She also reported on and distributed information about the 5K Walk Like MADD 2009 (see Attachment D) scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 31, 2009 from 10 am to pm at Farmingdale State College.
- Rachel Lugo of EAC reported that their grant of \$220,000 to provide education to low income families in Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens has been extended to cover Brooklyn. She reported that as part of the Teen Driving Program, "License to Drive," low income teenagers qualify for free driving classes from DDC to road test. However, both parents and the child have to attend programs of "Teen Driving" and "Teen Risk."

- Susan Katz of Safe Kids Suffolk reported that the NHTSA Teen Driving / Parental Control Grant application was not submitted, but she thanked everyone for their support. While the grant application was not submitted, the intent to carry out the work of the project is still underway. The need for parents to understand their roles and responsibilities with teen drivers must be stressed. She also reported that the GTSC - DMV website information about teen driving is confusing, to which Jennifer Hogan of GTSC reported that the new website will be better.
- Manna Cali of ABATE reported that ABATE would like to apply for a grant to promote motorcycle safety to the tune of \$46,000, and Lynn Weyant reported that she will e-mail the necessary information to Manna Cali.
- Jennifer Hogan of GTSC reported that GTSC would like the opinion and reaction of the new e-Grant application process. She reported that reporting and vouchering will continue as is and beginning October 2009 everything will be done through the website.

Richard H. Schneider of the EHVPD reported that his subordinate had problems in having everything getting lost. Perhaps a big "SAVE" sign should be provided.

- Susan Katz of Safe Kids Suffolk reported that she was in and out a lot with applications.
- Robert Pearce of Southampton Police reported that the Endorsement page is not printed as a whole package. You need to print it separately.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- NONE.

STOP DWI

- Maria Perez-Lent reported that the County Executive's office had a STOP-DWI art contest award ceremony and issued a press release (see Attachment E.)
- Maria Perez-Lent reported that a DWI panel presentation was made at the Sag Harbor High School with Margaret Rebholz of MADD; one is also scheduled at Kings Park High School, and one in the community of Patchogue.
- Maria Perez-Lent reported that she and Douglas Death will work on an as-needed basis on DWI prevention and education for Spanish speaking communities. MADD National has phased out its "Pass The Keys" campaign (see Attachment F – one page provided of four pages in Spanish), which was an education campaign specifically tailored for Hispanic communities. STOP-DWI, with permission from MADD, will use some of the "Pass the Keys" literature until new materials are developed. MADD expects to have a new campaign with new literature in the months to come. Stephen Shadbolt reported that it would be good for lessons if the brochure is published both in English and Spanish. Additionally, he suggested that BOCES ESL might be interested in working with STOP- DWI on outreach.

- Maria Perez-Lent had no statistics to present.
- Jennifer Hogan of GTSC reported that on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 5 PM, the GTSC, Division of Field Investigations (DFI) and the FOP are sponsoring a STOP-DWI night: "STOP-DWI" - Over the Limit – under Arrest." Jennifer Hogan invited law enforcement officials to participate in the evening's activities.

OLD BUSINESS

- Lynn Weyant reported that there were 40 grants submitted through SCTSB this year compared to 43 in 2008 and 48 in 2007, indicating that the new process of e-Grant has not dampened the numbers or dollar amounts.

NEW BUSINESS

- Arvind Vora reported that Suffolk County is working on narrowing the signalized locations list to 50 for Red Light Camera Program.
- John Saraceno reported that the Guest Speaker for the next meeting on June 17, 2009 is Mr. John Tipaldo of NYCDOT.
- Manna Cali of ABATE reported a safety concern that at many traffic signal locations a motorcycle presence is not detected, and as per Lynn Weyant's and Arvind Vora's requests, she will provide locations to address this safety issue.
- Lynn Weyant reported that the June 17 meeting is the last one before a summer break. We will have a guest speaker and refreshments.
- Audrey Kirwin reported that Senator Brian X. Foley's office is studying a list of dream projects about traffic safety education submitted at a meeting on April 23, 2009.
- Jennifer Hogan of GTSC reported that the annual GTSC training seminar will take place at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs on October 18, 19, and 20, 2009 and on Grand Island (near Buffalo) in 2010. Negotiations are on-going to have it downstate in Hauppauge at the Wind Watch in 2011. Information is available at www.itsmr.org
- Lynn Weyant introduced Mr. Booker Brown of the GTSC Multi-Cultural Sub-committee who made a presentation about the activities and publications that came about as a result of the sub-committee's efforts. He reported that the first conference was held in Albany on June 12, 2008 and will be in downstate next year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Lynn Weyant asked for a motion to adjourn the May meeting. The motion was made by John Saraceno and seconded by Robert Pearce, and passed unanimously (11-0-0).