

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

**Date:** January 20, 2010

**Place:** Brookhaven Town Hall – Work Session Room

**MEMBERS PRESENT (10)**

**Robert J. Behrle**

Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

**Douglas Death**

Office of the County Executive

**Karl Klug**

Suffolk County Department of Health, EMS Division

**Stephen Miller**

Suffolk County District Court

**Andrea Neubauer**

Suffolk County Probation Department

**Robert Pearce**

Southampton Town Police Department

**John Saraceno**

Traffic Engineer III, Town of Smithtown

**Richard H. Schneider**

East Hampton Village Police Department

**Arvind Vora**

Traffic Engineer II  
Suffolk County Department of Public Works

**Lynn Weyant**

Director of Traffic Safety  
Town of Brookhaven

**GUESTS PRESENT (13)**

Denna Cohen  
Sarah E. Furey, SCPD  
Stephen Hernandez, SCPD  
David S. Jones, Big Apple Motorcycle School  
Theodore Klein, SC Planning  
Joseph Kruk, 106 Rescue Wing  
Rachel Lugo, EAC  
Christopher McBride, AAA  
Diane Ortiz, Big Apple Motorcycle School  
Michael A. Petronzio, State Police  
Margaret Rebholz, MADD  
Russ Ritchie, NYSDOT  
Bill Shilling, Office of the Presiding Officer.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of January 20, 2010 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 December 2009 minutes.

Arvind Vora reported that there is a typing error on Page 5 where EVAC should be EVOC (originally **E**mergency **V**ehicle **O**perations **C**linic, now also for **E**mergency **V**ehicle **O**perators **C**ourse).

A motion to approve the corrected December minutes was made by Douglas Death and seconded by Robert Pearce. The motion passed (10-0-0).

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Arvind Vora reported that there were four pieces of correspondence; three e-mails which were forwarded to each Board member, two newspaper articles, and one miscellaneous item (see Attachment A). He reported that Proposed Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) provide a broad overview of transportation-related projects covering safety, bridges, pavement improvements, mobility improvements, environment/quality of life, and transit. He reported on newspaper coverage of the Transportation Study within the Hauppauge Industrial Area which John Saraceno will report on later in this meeting. He reported that the 2010 Meeting Schedule of the Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board is the last page in the attachment distributed to everyone. He reported that all ten meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Brookhaven Town Hall, while no meetings are held during July and August.

**ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS**

- Stephen Hernandez of SCPD distributed one page of Enforcement Statistics for January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 (see Attachment B).
- Robert Pearce of the Southampton Town Police Department reported that there were 16 DWI arrests in December and a yearly total of 283. He reported that this is above average on a long-term basis even though in 2008 the total DWI arrests were 329, which he reported as anomalous.
- Richard H. Schneider of the East Hampton Village Police Department distributed six pages of the Offense Analysis Report for January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 (see Attachment C). He reported that there were three DWI arrests each in November and December, bringing the total to 24 for the year 2009.

He reported that for the year, there were 744 speeding summonses, 249 cell phone violations, 727 seat belt violations, and 137 summonses for unlicensed operation.

- Sarah Furey of the SCPD reported that the November Buckle Up enforcement was conducted from November 16 through November 29, and provided the following statistics:

Seat Belt Summonses	390
Child Restraint Summonses	24
Other Violations	470
Total Summonses	884
Arrests	21
Grant Funds Expended	\$30,190.21

She also reported that the Department is spending more funding for expanded enforcement through March 13. However, the funding allocated for this period is about half of what was expended in November 2009.

- New York State Police – no report to present.
- Sheriff's Office – no report to present.

**ENGINEERING PROGRAMS**

- John Saraceno of Smithtown reported that the County of Suffolk hired the consulting firm of Nelson & Pope to do a Transportation Planning Study in the Hauppauge Industrial Park. He gave to Arvind Vora copy of 14 pages from the report, including the cover page of the report, the table of contents, the Executive Summary, and the summary of the proposed improvements. (To obtain a 14 page copy, please contact *Arvind Vora, 631-852-4084.*)

- John Saraceno also reported on a fatal accident involving a young girl on Main Street in Smithtown and the need for safety improvements for pedestrians.
- Christopher McBride of AAA reported that AAA has received complaints about improper traffic signal timing at Red Light Camera locations in Nassau County. He reported that timings are correct and the fine for the violation is \$50 – no point; he added that each locations has a warning sign indicating presence of Red Light Camera and violation is Photo Enforced.
- Russ Ritchie of NYSDOT reported that the DOT officials will be meeting this Friday with local officials and others to discuss traffic safety measures in downtown Smithtown. He reported that during the evening peak hour (4-6 pm) the speed on Rt.25/25A Main Street is 10 to 15 mph and opens up after 7 pm. He reported that two pedestrians were hit a couple of weeks ago on the south side of Rt. 25/25A while crossing it near the theater by Bank Street and Lawrence Avenue around 8 pm during darkness, but the roadway has street lights. He added that the fatality involving a young girl occurred only a block away from this incidence.
- Arvind Vora of Suffolk County reported that the update on Red Light Camera will be provided by Bill Shilling.
- Lynn Weyant of Brookhaven had no report to present.

### **HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS**

- Denna Cohen of MADD reported that the Recognition of Law Enforcement Officials luncheon is on Thursday, March 25, 2010 and requested that forms be filled out. She reported that in 2008, there was approximately \$1.6 million of uncollected fines from DWI offenses. She expressed her frustration at there being nobody in charge and would like to undertake research. Douglas Death reported that it is a civil debt as opposed to criminal, and results in a bad credit record.
- Rachel Lugo of EAC reported that she will be representing Suffolk County (Region 13) on the Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Advisory Board and also involved in promoting pedestrian safety. She reported about the UPS program to promote Teen Driving Safety as well as Driving Distractions. She reported that based on AAA and others safety materials EAC will prepare pamphlets for distribution to pedestrians and teenagers. She also reported that the Child Passenger Safety Technician Training courses will be offered in March and June by Susan Katz of Safe Kids Suffolk.
- Joseph Kruk of the 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing had no report to present.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Bill Shilling of the Presiding Officer's Office reported that after narrowing down the Vendors list for the Red Light Camera Project, on last Friday the selection was made of ACS from Fairfax, Virginia. He reported on and made the following points:

- All locations are intersections involving State and County roads.
- Presently 66 intersections are under consideration, of which 50 will be agreed upon.
- Fifty intersections will have 200 approaches, and DPW is calling for 125 cameras.
- Six to seven months for first operational locations, others will be implemented in incremental order, not all at once.
- County Executive will designate the County Attorney's Office who will have the final say on individual tickets.
- Vendor to issue summons to registered vehicle owner or lien holder as provided by DMV.

He reported, upon a question from John Saraceno, that agreements need to be worked out for locations involving town roads, which the towns have expressed an interest for. He reported upon a question from Christopher McBride of AAA that within the next few months the location with the highest priority will be up and running. He reported, upon a question from Lynn Weyant that by State Law there can not be more than 50 locations.

## **STOP DWI**

- Douglas Death reported that on Thursday, February 11, 2010 at the H. Lee Dennison Building, police officers in each jurisdiction with the most arrests will be presented Top Cop Awards. He extended an invitation to all to join in the morning at 9 AM.
- Douglas Death reported that the Poster Contest entry submission deadline is the first week of February, the winners will be selected by the middle of March, and the posters will be displayed in April at the Plaza Level of the H. Lee Dennison Building.
- Douglas Death distributed Host Law flyer to all (see Attachment D) and reported that they are available in bulk quantity for distribution.
- Douglas Death distributed three pages of Suffolk County DWI Highway Fatality Report for the month of December 2009 (see Attachment E), and stated that it is not the official end-of-year report since he is waiting for additional information. He reported that the downward trend is encouraging since there were 147 fatalities/47 alcohol-involved fatalities in 2009 compared to 174 fatalities/54 alcohol-related fatalities in 2008. He reported, upon a question

from Karl Klug about 31.03% in 2008 vs. 31.97% in 2009, that improvement is that a fewer number of people have died involving alcohol. Sarah Furey of SCPD reported, upon a question from Diane Ortiz of Big Apple Motorcycle School, that the age breakdown of motorcycle fatalities is not shown in the attachment, but she keeps track of it and has the latest information for 2008.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Lynn Weyant expressed her thanks to the entire Board for visiting Brookhaven Safety Town and holding the last Board meeting there.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Lynn Weyant reported that we will have several members of NYSGTSC at the next meeting to present Motorcycle Programs.
- Lynn Weyant reported that those who are interested in being a SCTSB member should forward their updated resume to Arvind Vora (arvind.vora@suffolkcountyny.gov).
- Diane Ortiz reported that the International Motorcycle Show, along with the Boat Show, will be this weekend at the Javits Center in New York City.
- Diane Ortiz reported that the NYS DDC will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2010 from noon to 6:30 pm in Hicksville. Those interested should call her at 516-639-9977.
- Diane Ortiz reported that her next column in the January issue of Full Throttle will be on Red Light Camera.
- Lynn Weyant, for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of SCTSC, requested that Arvind Vora conduct the election.

Arvind Vora asked for the nominations for the position of Chair. John Saraceno nominated Lynn Weyant, which was seconded by Douglas Death and voted upon unanimously (10-0-0) in affirmation.

Arvind Vora asked for the nominations for the position of the Vice-Chair. Lynn Weyant nominated Richard H. Schneider, which was seconded by Douglas Death and voted upon unanimously (10-0-0) in affirmation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Lynn Weyant asked for a motion to adjourn the January meeting. The motion was made by Karl Klug and seconded by Douglas Death, and passed unanimously (10-0-0).