

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

Date: February 17, 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

Stephen Miller

Suffolk County District Court

Andrea Neubauer

Suffolk County Probation Department

Frank Pearson, P.E.

Regional Traffic Engineer, NYSDOT

Michael J. Salatti

Vice President, Greenman-Pedersen

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 (20)

Jim Barr, ABATE
Manna Cali, ABATE
Kimmarie Carson, SCDA
Denna Cohen, ABATE
Lou Dini, SCPD
Robert Dubester, IGHL
Sarah E. Furey, SCPD
Jennifer Hogan, GTSC
David S. Jones, Big Apple Motorcycle School
Audrey Kirwin, Met Life
Theodore Klein, SC Planning
Joseph Kruk, 106 Rescue Wing
Dan Montimurro, NYSDMV
Diane Ortiz, Big Apple Motorcycle School
Gina Otis, ABATE
Paul Overbaugh, GTSC
Maria Perez-Lent, STOP DWI
Michael A. Petronzio, State Police
Margaret Rebholz, MADD
George Tranos, Big Apple Motorcycle School

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of February 17, 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 January 2010 minutes.

A motion to approve the January minutes as presented was made by John Saraceno and seconded by Michael Salatti. The motion passed (10-0-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

Arvind Vora reported that there were five pieces of correspondence, two newspaper articles, and one miscellaneous item (see Attachment A). He reported that the Safe Pedestrian Mobility Assessment for Smithtown schools grant was denied by GTSC. He also reported about four upcoming events:

- Power and duties of local highway officials workshops series,
- **Walk-Bike New York** on June 7, 2010,

- Nassau County Traffic Safety Board Meeting on February 18, 2010, and
- NYS Truck Safety and Education Symposium, March 30 and 31, 2010.

He reported that two newspaper articles detailed proposed safety measures for pedestrians in the Smithtown CBD.

He also reported that the Top Cop Awards ceremony was held on February 11, 2010.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY PROGRAMS

Lynn Weyant, the Chair, reported that the three presenters were here from Albany and they would like to leave early as such, order of the meeting agenda was modified and she introduced Jennifer Hogan, a NYS GTSC Highway Safety Program Representative for the Suffolk County and requested her that she introduces her colleagues. Jennifer Hogan introduced Paul Overbaugh of NYS GTSC and Daniel Montimurro of NYSDMV.

Mr. Montimurro, who is currently a manager of the Motorcycle Safety Program at NYSDMV, is himself a long time motorcyclist who became a motorcycle safety advocate after losing a brother to a motorcycle crash. He provided detailed information on what DMV is doing in the area of motorcycle safety, including programs that are intended to reduce injuries and fatalities associated with motorcycle crashes. Discussion also focused on motorcycle law enforcements, DWI rules and regulations, public awareness of motorcyclists, motorcycle training, rider courses, reaching out to motorcyclists whether at home and/or at festivals or concerts to provide safety information via bumper stickers, key chains, kick stand pads, etc. He brought with him public information and education materials available from various sources in various forms and passed them around for everyone to see. Attachment B lists the available materials to promote motorcycle safety.

Paul Overbaugh of NYS GTSC informed about available training for law enforcement officers and various programs undertaken by other counties and their experiences. He indicated that the Suffolk County law enforcement is in the forefront and others are taking leads from Suffolk.

As part of the open discussion as well as question-answer, all of them listened to the safety needs of Suffolk County from ABATE President Jim Barr as well as Big Apple Motorcycle School President Diane Ortiz. Gina Otis of ABATE emphasized the need for safety measures to prevent needless deaths like her husband on a motorcycle, who was hit by a motorist making an illegal left turn.

Lynn Weyant thanked the presenters for their time, efforts, and presentations.

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

- Lou Dini of SCPD distributed one page of Enforcement Statistics (see Attachment C) for January 1, 2010 through January 31, 2010.

- There was no report from the Sheriff's Office.
- There was no report from NYS Police.
- There was no report from the East Hampton Village Police.

ENGINEERING PROGRAMS

- John Saraceno of Smithtown reported that one of the proposed improvements on Main Street in Smithtown CBD for pedestrian safety under consideration is to place decorative planters to prevent people crossing mid-block from big parking lots on the south side to the north side.
- Frank Pearson of NYSDOT reported that there is a big shopping center on the south side of the Main Street between Lawrence and Landing Avenues and stores are on the north side in the heart of Smithtown. Traffic signals at these two intersections are 500 feet apart, and as such pedestrians need to walk no more than 250 feet to safely cross the Main Street at a safer signalized location. One way to discourage pedestrians from crossing mid-block is to install ornamental fencing between the sidewalk and the roadway. He reported on a series of pedestrian safety measures that are likely to be implemented such as pedestrian count-down timers at several signalized intersections along the Main Street, advance pedestrian walk, right turn on red restrictions, signs to direct the use of the cross walk, and other signs as well as a new sign recently made a part of NYS MUTCD, "Turning Vehicles Must Yield to Pedestrians."

As to the John Saraceno's question of narrowing Main Street to three lanes with the middle lane for left turns from existing four lanes, he reported that as it is, three lanes (two from Rt. 25 and one from Rt. 25A) in each direction are reduced to two, and considering the high volume, it is not practical.

As to the Michael Salatti's question, he reported that the count-down timer is activated by a pedestrian push button and not run on recall simply because at the middle of the night routine display of "walk" indication would be unacceptable.

- No report from the Suffolk County.
- No report from the Town of Brookhaven.
- No report from Michael Salatti.

HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS

- Denna Cohen of MADD reported that the Recognition of Law Enforcement Officials luncheon is on Thursday, March 25, 2010 and MADD Awareness Week at Farmingdale University is on Sunday, April 18, 2010.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

None

STOP DWI

- Maria Perez-Lent of STOP-DWI reported that the Top Cop Award presentation event last Thursday went very well. She reported that in 2009 the Police Officers Robert Scudellari from SCPD Highway Patrol made the highest number of arrests of 93 motorists.
- Douglas Death distributed three pages of the Suffolk County DWI Highway Fatality Report (Attachment D), and four pages of the Suffolk County DWI Arrest Report (see Attachment E). He reported that these statistics are final for the year 2009. He also distributed four pages of the Suffolk County DWI Arrests (see Attachment F) from 1980 top 2009, a thirty-year history.

OLD BUSINESS

- Lynn Weyant, in response to a question, reported that a meeting with Doug Miller of Information Technology is needed to proceed with the SCTSB website.

NEW BUSINESS

- Diane Ortiz of Big Apple Motorcycle School distributed one page each of the following (see Attachment G):
 - Red Light Cameras – Friend or Foe
 - The Outside Edge by George Tranos
 - Nassau Fixing Vehicle Detector Glitch for Motorcycles

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Lynn Weyant asked for a motion to adjourn the February meeting. The motion was made by Michael Salatti and seconded by John Saraceno, and passed unanimously (10-0-0).