

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

Date: March 17, 2010

Place: Brookhaven Town Hall – Work Session Room

MEMBERS PRESENT (11)

William A. DeVore

Office of the District Attorney

Steven Kamvakis

Suffolk County Dept. of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services

Susan Katz

Safe Kids Suffolk

Karl Klug

Suffolk County Dept. of Health, EMS Division

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

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 (18)

John Andrejack, Sheriff's Office
Jim Barr, ABATE
Bob Calarco, Leg. Eddington's Office
Denna Cohen, MADD
Daniel Dresch, SCDPW
Robert Dubester, IGHL
Thomas Hampton, Cox Radio, L.I.
Stephen Hernandez, SCPD
Audrey Kirwin, MetLife
Theodore Klein, SC Planning
Joseph Kruk, 106 Rescue Wing
Bradley Kusko, Town of Huntington
Rachel Lugo, EAC
Christopher McBride, AAA
Diane Ortiz, Big Apple Motorcycle School
Russ Ritchie, NYSDOT
Bill Shilling, Suffolk County Legislature, Offices of P.O.
Kate Zavetsky, WBAB/WBLI

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of March 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 February 2010 minutes.

Arvind Vora reported one correction, on Page 2, Guests Present, Denna Cohen represents MADD, not ABATE.

A motion to approve the February minutes as corrected was made by John Saraceno and seconded by Karl Klug. The motion passed (11-0-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

Arvind Vora reported that there were two pieces of correspondence, two e-mail items forwarded to each board member, and one miscellaneous item (see Attachment A). He reported that the Daniel Montimurro e-mail of March 3, 2010 lists the availability of safety literature to promote motorcycle safety. The other correspondence was between Chief Engineer William Hillman, Legislator Jack Eddington, and Commissioner Gilbert Anderson regarding “Share the Road” signage to promote motorcycle safety. The miscellaneous item is a registration form for World Traffic Safety Symposium where the main topic of presentation will be “Dangers of Distracted Driving.” Those who are interested in attending please contact Arvind Vora. Admission charges are waived for members and guests of Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Lynn Weyant, the Chair, reported that the Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington’s Chief of Staff, Rob Calarco, is here to present his views on how to promote motorcycle safety, and as such our meeting agenda has been slightly modified to accommodate him.

She invited Mr. Calarco to address the members and guests present.

Mr. Calarco thanked the Chair for the opportunity and made the following points:

- Legislator Eddington is a member of the ABATE organization.
- He has taken a look at nationwide trends as well as locally motorcycle issues in the Town of Brookhaven as described in a consultant’s report.
- He believes education and better information are key to promoting motorcycle safety.
- Suffolk County has heavy motorcycle volume, particularly during April to October.
- Some of the high speed busy roads like CR99, Woodside Avenue; CR83, North Ocean Avenue has lots of motorcycle traffic.
- He requested assistance of the SCTSB in securing a Federal Approval of the use of seasonal signs (April to October use) by developing standards and preparing an application for a trial program to secure approval from the FHWA.

Some of the comments, points/counterpoints by those in attendance are:

- Education is key. It should be the first step. Develop optional topics as part of DDC 10 hour course. Include them on on-line DDC. Canada has four different signs with different animals.

- Most of the motorcycle accidents involve sideswipe or rear-ends. Many motorcycle fatalities are caused by alcohol, drugs, or DWI.
- Variable message signs, such as on expressways/parkways should provide Watch for Motorcycle, Look for Motorcycle messages.
- Modification in NYSDMV laws regarding motorcycle and motor vehicle speed.
- Need to look for proposed signs in Federal Manual.
- Make safety message part of “Sponsor the Highway” signs.
- Promote Motorcycle Safety Messages via big billboards one sees in New York City.
- Need for awareness and more awareness by emphasizing education, education, education.
- Need for systematic media campaign.
- Need for refresher course like existing one for school bus drivers.
- Radio stations representatives in attendance are willing to help and support bicycle and motorcycle safety and are soliciting ideas for 30 second, 60 second spots in addition to obligatory PSA on Sundays.
- Select winners as part of “spot the bumper sticker” campaign promoted by local radio stations.

Jim Barr, President of ABATE, reported that ABATE will host the First Annual Share the Road Ride on Sunday, April 11, 2010 (see Attachment B) to bring public awareness to motorcycle safety. He reported on several programs to be undertaken by ABATE to promote motorcycle safety via Sponsor the Highway Program, Media Outreach, etc.

Lynn Weyant, the Chair, thanked Rob Calarco and all who provided suggestions to improve traffic safety in general and motorcycle safety in particular and requested the Vice Chair, Richard H. Schneider, to conduct the rest of the meeting.

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

- Richard H. Schneider of the East Hampton Village Police Department reported that there were seven DWI arrests this year. He reported as per the Offense Analysis Report (see Attachment C) for 1/1/2010 to 3/17/2010 that there were a total of 1,596 summonses including 28 for cell phone violations, 22 for no seat belt to driver, and 46 for unlicensed operator.

- Robert Pearce of the Southampton Police Department reported that there were 20 DWI arrests in January and 23 DWI arrests in February, which is approximately 20 percent more than from the same months in 2009. Last years he reported that there were 17 DWI arrests in each of January and February. He reported about an 8-hour course “Elderly Drivers,” the purpose of which is to help elderly drivers and families before a mishap occurs, by reviewing history involving family, field interview by DMV, etc. He reported that he knows difficulties first-hand about his own parents.
- John Andrejack of the Sheriff’s Office reported that the deputies are out on the road doing a very professional job. He reported that under Sheriff DeMarco new technologies have been developed, e.g., Bar Code Scanner helps to quickly write up summonses, TRAC helps to move vehicles involved in accidents off the road by quickly exchanging information. He also reported that summonses are now on-line and citizens can get MVA on-line.
- Stephen Hernandez of SCPD distributed one page of Enforcement Statistics (see Attachment D) for January 1, 2010 through February 28, 2010. He reported that one of the officers of SCPD and the winner of Top Cop award made 92 DWI arrests in 2009.

ENGINEERING PROGRAMS

- John Saraceno of Smithtown reported that due to heavy wind and rain one of the traffic signals in the town at Lincoln Boulevard and Townline Road fell down, and it took two days to put it back. In the interim the intersection was controlled by temporary STOP signs on all approaches.
- Russ Ritchie of NYSDOT reported that the mill and fill contract on Rt 25, Middle Country Road, between CR97, Nicolls Road and CR83, North Ocean Avenue, is out and should be completed this year.
- Daniel Dresch of SCDPW reported that the two big capital projects in the construction phase are on CR 80, Montauk Highway, one is in East Patchogue and the other one is in Mastic, as well as one on CR16, Portion Road, in Ronkonkoma are progressing well.
- Daniel Dresch reported that Red Light Camera (RLC) project is slowly moving to final negotiations and a winning contractor ACS state and County Solutions of Fairfax, Virginia is expected to execute early next week. He reported that the 50 selected locations are all owned and maintained by the NYSDOT, and as such need a work permit. Also, NYS law requires construction project to be let separately so on April 1, 2010 ACS will enter into an agreement with an electrical contractor. Upon a question from Robert Pearce of Southampton as to any plan to install RLC on CR39, he reported that the jurisdictional issues with the ten towns and dealing with ten Town Attorneys plus various police departments made it difficult but to have all locations under single jurisdiction. The selection of all locations under NYSDOT control helps in securing one stop permit plus having all locations within the five western towns and under SCPD jurisdiction obviates the need to establish parking violations bureau. As to the question from Christopher McBride of AAA, he reported that the first location in

operation will be before summer's end and as for a question from John Saraceno on the need of advance warning signs at RLC locations; he reported that it has not been determined yet.

- Bradley Kusko of Huntington reported that a new contract is out for traffic signals on Wolf Hill Road.

HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS

- Denna Cohen of MADD reported that the Recognition of Law Enforcement Officials luncheon is on Thursday, March 25, 2010 and MADD Crime Victims Awareness Week at Farmingdale University is on Sunday, April 18, 2010, where names of victims are read from the Wall of Remembrance. She invited all to join at this touching event. She reported that the Annual Walk Like MADD will be on Saturday, May 22, 2010, also at Farmingdale University. It is getting bigger and better and is really a fun way to spend a day.
- Christopher McBride of AAA reported that the car child passenger seat check will be at the Tanger Mall in Riverhead and expressed concern that they may not have enough Technicians for which John Andrejack of the Sheriff's Office offered possible help once Mr. McBride informs him about which weekend it will be held.
- Rachel Lugo of EAC reported that they continue to certify with the support from Safe Kids Suffolk, new technicians for car child passenger seat in Nassau and Suffolk. In addition, EAC continues to distribute bicycle helmets at the precinct. For more information, please call her at 631-648-7100, X227 or Angela Brockman at Ext. 210 or visit www.eacinc.org.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

None

STOP DWI

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

No update on website.

NEW BUSINESS

Karl Klug reported that he will be making a presentation tomorrow to all Supervisors of School Bus Transportation as to the EMS response to school bus accidents. He asked Stephen Shadbolt of Sachem School District to be critical of his presentation for the benefit of SCTSB. Stephen Shadbolt reported that he wants involved vehicles to be moved from travelled portion and on Long Island Expressway move vehicles to the right since the left side with HOV lanes becomes difficult. He reported that the next week NYAPT (N.Y. Association for Pupil Transportation) will have presentations on legal issues and then following week probably involve the Police Department for law enforcement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Richard H. Schneider, Vice Chair, asked for a motion to adjourn the March meeting. The motion was made by Karl Klug and seconded by John Saraceno, and passed unanimously (11-0-0).