

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

Date: February 16, 2011

Place: Brookhaven Town Hall – Work Session Room

MEMBERS PRESENT (7)

Robert J. Behrle

Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

William Devore

Office of the District Attorney

Robert Pearce

Southampton Town Police

John Saraceno

Town of Smithtown

Richard H. Schneider

East Hampton Village Police Department

Arvind Vora

Retired – Formally of SCDPW

Lynn Weyant

Town of Brookhaven

GUESTS PRESENT (13)

Brad Berson, NY Motorcycle & Scooter Task Force (NYMSTF)

Deena Cohen, MADD

Terry Flanagan, ABATE

Theodore Klein, Suffolk County Planning

Rachel Lugo, EAC

Michael Mallin, SCPD Highway Patrol

Christopher S. McBride, AAA

Diane Ortiz, Big Apple Motorcycle School

Alexander Prego, SCDPW

Patricia Ralph, SCDPW

Margaret Rebholz, MADD

Michael S. Ross, Office of the District Attorney

Tom Temistokle, NYSDOT

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of February 16, 2011 was called to order by Richard Schneider, Chair, at 2:15pm. Richard reported that today's meeting was not official due to a quorum not being present. Richard expressed his thanks to Lynn Weyant for previously chairing the Traffic Safety Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Richard Schneider, Chair, asked for additions or corrections to the January 2011 minutes; indicating those and February's minutes will need to be approved at the March meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Alexander Prego, SCDPW, reported he has reapplied to the NYS Association of Traffic Safety Board.

Alexander provided the following:

- Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, News Release, dated 2/1/11, "Camera Equipment in 14 Large Cities Reduces Rate of Fatal Red Light Running Crashes by 24%."
- SCPD Newsletter, dated February 2011, regarding the "move over law" and new regulations for texting or cell phone use while driving.
- American City & County article, dated January 2011, "Shinier Street Signs Stir Up Controversy."

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

- East Hampton Village PD reported nothing new with enforcement programs
- Southampton PD reported 23 arrests for DWI in January.
- Mike Mallin, SCPD, commented that, currently, "texting" is a secondary offense to being pulled over; ultimately, it may become a primary offense. Mike provided enforcement statistics for 1/1/11 through 1/31/11.

ENGINEERING PROGRAMS

- Tom Temistokle, NYSDOT, commented on the "wrong way driving" issue. He indicated NYS is conducting ramp surveys, i.e. checking signs and markings for deficiencies or the need for improvements.
- Tom reported a Newsday article named Hempstead Turnpike & Sunrise Highway (SR27), two of the deadliest roadways. NYS is reviewing 2009 and 2010 accident reports for any possible improvements.
- Tom reported NYS has received many "FOIL" requests from red light camera ticket recipients.

- John Saraceno, Town of Smithtown, reported he is continuing to install LED street lights on arterial roadways; residential roads are next in line. He is looking into something which would be compatible for their colonial post tops.
- John reported the existing signal at Old Willets Path and Oser Avenue is going to be replaced with a new signal with left turn phases.
- John reported the existing all-way STOPS on Woodlawn Avenue at Cambon Avenue, St. James, will be changed to a signalized intersection.
- Lynn Weyant, Town of Brookhaven, reported their maintenance/installation traffic signal bid has been awarded to Hinck Electric.
- Lynn reported, throughout the Town, the signal pre-emption is going to be replaced with a new emergency vehicle pre-emption system as per the advertised specifications.
- Lynn questioned Tom Temistokle, NYSDOT, if the address #'s may be placed underneath the street name signs as the Town replaces/maintains them. Tom will research.
- Lynn questioned Alexander Prego, SCDPW, if the County has a "wrong-way" driving program and specifically mentioned the intersections of CR31 at CR104 and CR111 at Halsey Manor.
- Tom Temistokle, NYSDOT, further commented on the "wrong-way driving" issue:
 - From 11/15/10 to 1/15/11 – there were 18 "wrong-way" incidents, all of which involved intoxication.
 - A 10 year study was conducted showing 35-40% of the "wrong-way" incidents involved intoxication.
- Alexander Prego, SCDPW, reported the County's spring construction season is due to start and it will be another large one.

HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS

- Denna Cohen, MADD, reported a Law Enforcement Recognition Luncheon is scheduled for 3/12/11, at Chateau La Mer; all are welcome. Approximately, April 11th, the Annual Crime Victims Awareness Week begins. At the memorial wall in Farmingdale, people gather to read the names of victims, remember them, and give carnations to the families.
- Terry Flanagan, ABATE, reported April 11th is Share the Road Awareness event from Babylon Town Hall to Main Street, Patchogue. Jack Eddington to chair the event.
- Diane Ortiz, President of the Big Apple Motorcycle School, reported June is the official Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

- Brad Berson, NYMSTF, introduced himself and commented that NY Motorcycle & Scooter Task Force's concerns parallel ABATE's.
- Alexander Prego, SCDW, reported "Top Cop" is scheduled for 2/22/11, 10am, Dennison Building, Hauppauge.
- Rachel Lugo, EAC, provided a handout for signing up for a training course scheduled for April 6th & 7th, 2011. The course is for safety technicians interested in learning more about "special needs transportation." In addition, May 11th & 13th is the Child Passenger Safety Conference (CPS) in Lake Placid; the ITSMR symposium is scheduled for October 16th, 17th, 18th at the Hyatt Regency in Hauppauge.
- Rachel reported she is working on legislation that all occupants in a vehicle, no matter what age, must be seat belted.
- Christopher McBride, AAA, reported a lane marking survey will be conducted in the five (5) boroughs and on the Expressway with recommendations to follow. Alexander Prego, SCDPW, commented that the 2009 National MUTCD has section reserved for lane markings.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Alexander Prego, SCDPW, provided two (2) handouts:
 - Resolution #531 -2010, creating a "Share the Road" signage program in Suffolk County. The resolution directs SCDPW to work with NYSDOT, various towns and villages through the Town of Brookhaven to develop a "Share The Road" program. Richard Schneider suggests forming a committee – Alexander would Chair – to comply with the resolution.
 - Resolution # 308 -2010, expanding the functions of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to include advising Suffolk County on bicycle routes. The CEQ has been directed to work with the Traffic Safety Board to identify County roadways and develop two maps for bicycle routes. Per Alexander Prego, SCDPW, the NYSDOT has an existing "Long Island Bikeway & Trailway" map. Lynn Weyant, Town of Brookhaven, indicated the Town has a Bicycle Advisory Board which may be a good resource. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 17th.

STOP DWI

- No one present for comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- Richard Schneider and Alexander Prego reported nothing new regarding the website.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Richard Schneider, Chair, asked for a motion to adjourn the unofficial meeting of February and to hold the next meeting on March 16, 2011. The motion was made by Robert Pearce, second by Robert Behrle and passed unanimously.