

Members Present

Richard Klepner, Chair	Office of Highway Safety
Peter Haag, Co-chair	DelDOT
Tracy Condon	DE State Police
Lauren Devore	DNREC
Linda Osiecki	DelDOT
Todd Webb	DelDOT

DelDOT Support Staff

Maria Andaya	DelDOT
Paul Moser	DelDOT

Members Absent

Brian Clarke	DelDOT
Darlene Cole	DHSS
Mike Wagner	DOE

Guests

Lloyd Schmitz

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 am by Chair Richard Klepner.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

All members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

III. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Lauren Devore made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Peter Haag and approved by all members present.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Enforcement: Lt. Condon reported about her findings that the Academy teaches pedestrian safety under Title 21.4150 to new recruits. She also sent out an email to traffic lieutenants providing them information about pedestrian safety and crashes among other things to make sure that they stop people and educate them.

Mr. Klepner reported they just completed an overtime enforcement with a variety of troops. They tried a new approach where instead of the officers working within their jurisdiction, they worked in specific locations. The results were encouraging. Next one is in July where they will be down at the beach and also on Kirkwood Highway, Route 40 and Wilmington.

Mr. Schmitz passed around some reflective items. He suggested the development of reflective items on their cellphone. Those reflective items are very important especially over the winter months when it gets dark early.

Mr. Klepner said that the Pedestrian Council recently bought reflective clip-ons for distribution. He also said they also have left-over items from their last enforcement project. Lt. Condon will find out what the troops need and what they still have - specifically Troops 7, 6, 2, 1 where they did

the enforcement project.

Mr. Moser will send information to Mr. Klepner regarding reflective tape.

Video: Lt. Condon said she reached out to all CRU supervisors in the hope of finding a family of a pedestrian fatally struck by a vehicle to talk on videos. The effort to find one was unsuccessful. However she happens to know of a family and she can try to reach out to them. Mr. Schmitz said there's a young lady in Rehoboth whose brother died in the forgotten mile and has spoken publicly before. Rep. Peter Schwartzkopf knows her well. Lt. Condon will try to look for her.

Mr. Klepner said they are doing two videos. One is with DelDOT's help and is going to be a testimonial video - somebody with a family member or friend that was killed in a pedestrian crash but there was just no luck finding someone willing to talk about it.

Mr. Schmitz suggested doing a video with a pedestrian wearing reflective gear at night versus someone who's not. The other video is going to be promoting safety on the roadway. It will require finding pedestrians using crosswalks and do an interview with them. Ms. Osiecki requested that captioning be made available in the videos.

White Cane Law: Ms. Osiecki will do some research as to what other states are doing as far as the White Cane Law is concerned.

Lt. Condon found out recently that the White Cane Law is in two places in the code - under Title 16.9503 and Title 21.4150. Mr. Klepner said that they had been looking in the code and the only place they could find it was under the Health and Services. We should keep the Legislative and Policy Subcommittee in the loop regarding these findings.

V. NEW BUSINESS

GHSA 2016 Pedestrian Fatality Report: The Governors Highway Safety Association published their annual report and it's not good for Delaware as we were the worst state in pedestrian fatality per capita. The report is available at <http://www.ghsa.org/resources/spotlight-peds17>. It can be gleaned from the report that they are looking at distracted pedestrians on the roadways like people crossing the streets while using their cellphone. In Rexburg, Idaho, they passed a law that prohibits using cellphones while walking. It is punishable with a \$50 fine for the first offense and goes up to \$150 after that.

The NHTSA has speed campaign tool kit available for public information and education outreach as per the report.

Lt. Condon raised the question as to when we can say with certainty that distracted walking and intoxication are the real culprits in pedestrian crashes so we can figure out how to target them. She expressed concern if we are missing a group of pedestrians who don't seem to have a care with their safety.

Mr. Klepner said that there's no information yet on distracted walking because of the way the crash reports are structured and we need a couple of years of data to see a trend.

Mr. Schmitz asked if we could target areas that have already been identified as high crash areas such as Route 13 and 40. Mr. Klepner said that we have been working on those areas through

education, campaign and enforcement. We did pedestrian safety audits on those areas.

We need to incorporate pedestrian safety in school curriculum similar to health education and driver education. Get the parents and school on board. This however requires legislation and will be needed to be brought up to the legislative and policy committee. Mr. Haag suggested waiting for our DOE representative to see if he sees any roadblocks. He will reach out to Mike Wagner to see if he can talk about this.

National Walk to School Day: Mr. Klepner attended Life Savers Conference in Charlotte and attended some bike-ped workshops. One of the big drivers was National Walk to School Day and there were over 300 schools participating. Delaware unfortunately only has one participating. This would have been a good opportunity to educate parents and students about pedestrian safety.

Todd Webb said they had a job fair last month at the Rose Hill community center (south of Wilmington and Route 9). The center serves everyone in the community from headstart to seniors. They said that in the beginning of the school year, they have a program where they teach the children and their parents how to cross the street safely, and get to the facility. They do this for a week and then they do it again when the weather gets warmer. This might be a good model since it serves everyone in the community.

Mr. Klepner asked what the subcommittee can do to help SRTS Program get the word out and encourage participation. Lt. Condon suggested getting the SROs to greet the walkers on that day and congratulate them. We do not have enough SROs to cover all the schools in the state but at least we would be able to cover several.

Mr. Haag asked how we get more schools to participate in the SRTS Program and also the National Walk to School Day. That it goes back again to DOE and this being mandatory. He also suggested a week-long celebration and to reach out to municipalities. Even start with even just one municipality as a pilot program.

VI. Action Item

Delaware Pedestrian Safety Month: Target month is October. Draft statement: “We recommend that the Governor establish October as Delaware Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month and that DelDOT work with the Office of Highway Safety and others to encourage all state departments to acknowledge and support pedestrian safety awareness during that month.”

There was a suggestion to use the word “stakeholders” instead of “others”. The group agreed to keep working on the statement via email.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Schmitz reiterated his comment not to wait until the next fiscal year to buy reflective materials but rather use any

VIII. ADJOURN

Ms. Osiecki made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Devore seconded.

Meetings Minutes reported by:
Maria Andaya, Via meeting audio recording