

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



Highlights of December 12, 2005 Education Subcommittee Meeting

Attendees

Ela Alkalaj
Rosemarie Anderson
Stacy Bartels
Lugene Bastian
John Boyle
Erin Burke
Charles Feggans
Sarah Friedman
Joseph Grinkewicz
Rick Guenther
Peter Hecht
Suzanne Hill
Barry Keppard
Dan Lockwood
Carmella Monteleone
Regina Moore
Jenny Robinson
Cathy Rossi
Joe Stafford
Brenda Zeller

Organization

AAA Mid-Atlantic
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
University of Pennsylvania
School District of Philadelphia
PATCO Safety
PPAC/Philly Walks
Philadelphia Children's Hospital
Greater Mercer TMA
AAA South Jersey
Port Authority Transit Corporation
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
AAA Mid-Atlantic
Bicycle Access Council
Partnership TMA

Introduction & Overview

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and briefly mentioned their relationship to the transportation safety community.

Stacy Bartels, Marketing Manager, Commuter Services, chaired the meeting and began with opening remarks. The purpose and focus of the subcommittee was reiterated which is to identify existing educational projects and programs in the region which address transportation safety and develop new strategies for the development of the regional safety plan.

The discussions from the last meeting were reviewed during which subcommittee members provided additional comments on the emphasis/focus areas already

discussed. The remaining emphasis/focus areas were also discussed. The tables below represent a summary of the discussions

Review of Emphasis Areas

Improve Younger Driver Safety.

| | |
|--|--|
| General Comment(s): | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PA – House Transportation Subcommittee was conducting hearings regarding graduated driving licensing • In 85 days – Ban on cell phone use will become a primary law in NJ • Tap into research done on brain development in young drivers and how it affects their driving habits/abilities | |

Curb Aggressive Driving.

| Strategies | Description |
|---|---|
| Promote and highlight existing statutes in vehicle code | Provide inserts in mailings (difficult in PA, might coordinate with NJDMVC); target younger male population |
| Define aggressive driving | Add more specific details to driver’s test; may need legislative action |
| GPS technology | Use GPS to report the location of aggressive driving behavior |
| General Comment(s): | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In PA a vehicle can be impounded with suspended license; not done in NJ | |

Increase Driver Safety Awareness

| Existing program(s) | Description |
|--|---|
| Operation Life Saver | Day with the Phillies in 2006 Spring that promotes RR safety around the Stadium area; participation by PennDOT, Amtrak, and SEPTA |
| Philadelphia School System – Bicycle Education and Enhancement Program (BEEP) | Bicycle coalition that works to promote bicycle safety and education within the Philadelphia school system |
| TMA’s and AAA tips for winter driving | Tips for winter driving are distributed to the public through a number of different media sources |
| Strategies | Description |
| Frequent retesting of law and statutes | Legislation to allow random and/or mandatory re-testing at certain age(s) and/or under certain conditions |
| General Comment(s): | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike and Pedestrian should be addressed in all emphasis area and not separately • Bicycle laws needs more enforcement | |

Minimize Run-Off the Road Crashes & Hit Fixed Object Crashes

General Comments:

- There is some controversy over the “proper/standard” width of rumble strips for effectiveness

Drive More Safely in Inclement Weather

| Existing program(s) | Description |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| AAA & TMA's – Tips for winter driving | Tips for winter driving are distributed to the public through a number of different media sources |

Driving while impaired

| Existing program(s) | Description |
|---|--|
| NJ – Project Graduation | Done during prom season; seniors are educated on the consequences of drinking and driving |
| NJ – Fatal Vision Goggle | Done in the school system – use of special goggles to simulate impairment |
| NJ – CDL license | The blood alcohol level 0.04; 1 st offense lose license for 1 year; 2 nd offense license is revoked |
| PA legislation | Regulation of certain types of over counter drugs |
| PA legislation | Under age 21 blood alcohol level is 0.02; over 21 level is 0.08 |
| PA and NJ legislation | In PA and NJ if under 18 then seatbelt is required; In PA over 18 then seatbelt is required only in the front seat |
| NHTSA promotional ads | National Campaign – ‘You Drink, You Drive, You Lose’ |
| NJDHTS | Encourages seniors NOT to drive between 10PM -6AM |
| AAA Drowsy Driver Brochure | Available year-round |
| NTSB Drowsy Operators Educational Program | Transit industry regulates what is done w/ drowsy operators specifically during 2 nd and 3 rd shifts |
| PATCO | Educate train operators on drowsy driving |
| Stamford VA – Drowsy driving research | Research is currently being conducted in Stamford, VA |
| Safe Routes to School | Funding through SAFETEA-LU, incorporates an educational component |
| Strategies | Description |
| Community volunteers | |
| Partner with hardware stores and pharmacies | Huffing is a new form of drug abuse (household cleaners, medication) that may impair drivers (mainly young driver) |
| Promote more mobility opportunities | Longer hours for transit services |
| Bar shuttle service | Make it mandatory for bars to offer this type of service or suffer liabilities with insurance |
| Non-conventional ways | More emphasis should be on parking lots; accommodations for bicyclists at transit stations (stairways and platform) |

General Comments:

- It is difficult to test for someone who is impaired by medication and household cleaners (huffing)
- Driving while drowsy accounts for a high % of incidents; very few strategies available
- DUI on bicycles is enforced but no points or penalties, difficult to enforce
- Difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of NTHSA ad on drunk driving

Seatbelt Usage/Occupant Restraints

| Existing program(s) | Description |
|---|---|
| National - Click It or Ticket Campaign | Has shown increase in seatbelt usage. Easier to enforce if it is a primary state law |
| CHOP – Safe Kids | Offer child seat checks |
| PennDOT – 1 800 Car belt toll free number | Find out if car seat is installed properly. Check seat belts |
| Some large employers have car seat programs | |
| Traffic Safety Center – 402 funding | Bike education in elementary schools, car seat installation training, DUI |
| NJ - 32 hour training program for child seat installation | Individuals are trained as child seat installation technicians. Not all police or emergency departments can spare a person (staff hours) to attend all 32 hours |
| Strategies | Description |
| Promote the message to encourage child seat restraints | Target churches, daycare centers, body shops, partner with Baby-R-U's (other baby stores), Departments of Educations, CHOP website (reach those who might not go to police) |
| Visit schools | Checkpoint for seatbelt usage; Dept of Education could help facilitate |
| Law enforcement | Educate on best practices, not just law |
| General Comments: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helmets are considered as a restraint • There is a shift in priority from child seat restraints to adult seatbelt use • There are no full time positions that only cater to child safety restraints • There are certified child safety trainers but manpower is low (see above) • Local law may not be best practices (i.e. backseat passengers and seat belt use) • The education of the importance of seatbelt use should extend to legislators and not only the general public. • BHTSE comprehensive highway safety program makes 402 funding available for several highway safety programs | |

Members were asked to consider establishing a goal for the subcommittee. It was suggested that seatbelt use be made a priority. Other suggestions discussed were the inclusion of highway grade crossing as its own emphasis area and taking a grass roots approach to education of transportation safety.

Next Steps

At the request of committee DVRPC staff will be doing data analysis and mapping to show accident locations. Staff will also look at the use of Haddon's Matrix as a tool to identify and prioritize emphasis/focus areas and strategies.

The sub-committee would not meet again until after the January 31 meeting.

Please mark your calendars

The next meeting of the **Regional Safety Task Force** will be held on Tuesday, January 31st at 9:00 AM at DVRPC. More information will be forthcoming.