



DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY 29, 2008 MEETING

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting began with Sgt. Robert Tyler, Chairman of the Regional Safety Task Force, welcoming everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and mentioned the organization they represented.

2. Summary of October 2007 Meeting

Sgt. Tyler asked for a motion to approve the Highlights from the October 2007 Regional Safety Task Force meeting. The meeting highlights were approved.

3. Update on Regional Safety Initiatives

- Pat Ott, Director, Division of Traffic Engineering and Safety, NJDOT gave a brief overview of the new legislation on New Jersey's red light running cameras. The program is a 5 year pilot program. Some of the key highlights of the program are:
 - o It is municipal based
 - o Violations carries no points
 - o Owner and operator of vehicles are jointly liable for violation
 - o DOT will consider intersections that are submitted from the municipalities
 - o Photos taken will display license plates not frontal views
 - o Law enforcement officials review recorded images
 - o Issue summons as appropriate and systems are to be inspected every 6 months

Ms. Ott explained that this program is highly data driven and that the DOT is currently developing an application process for implementation of the program. The DOT will also be working with Rutgers Transportation Safety Resource Center (TSRC) to assist with data collection and will form a subcommittee through Safe Passage Committee to provide guidance of the program.

- Joseph Hacker, Manager of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Planning provided information on the DVRPC Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. This program seeks to improve childhood health, increase pedestrian and bicycle traffic safety, and enhance accessibility among school age children. A brochure was created by

staff which promotes and educates municipalities on SRTS programs. DVRPC will expand its role and provide outreach services to municipalities and schools to seek safer and healthier choices for school children. This brochure will be published soon and distributed to all planning partners and municipalities and will also be available online. Mr. Hacker also mentioned that Pedestrian Road Safety Audits (RSA) will be conducted for select schools. Under this program, stakeholders (DVRPC, school, municipalities, and police) meet to discuss issues pertaining to areas around a school, perform the field view, identify improvements, and develop strategies. Mr. Hacker said this is a good program for selection of projects for future funding under the DOT's SRTS program. He solicited the Task Force help in identifying candidate locations for performing audits. For more information on the Pedestrian RSA or other SRTS programs please contact, Joseph Hacker at 215.238.2935 (jhacker@dvrpc.org) or Dan Nemiroff, Transportation Planner at 215.238.2879 (dnemiroff@dvrpc.org).

Guest presentation
“Reducing Young Driver Injuries and Fatalities”

Listed below are highlights from the presentation. All presentations and videos can be referenced on the DVRPC Safety webpage

www.dvrpc.org/transportation/safety/regionalsafety.htm

Bill Margaretta, President, New Jersey State Safety Council delivered a thought provoking presentation on tools and programs developed to reduce injury and fatal crashes among young drivers. Created in 1924, the New Jersey State Safety Council, is one of the oldest state safety organizations which focuses on accidental deaths, involving motor vehicles. Mr. Margaretta presented numerous videos that could be utilized in safety presentations with teens and parents. He said, for a long time, teen fatalities have been made invisible (a blame game among the police, parents, and schools). In recent years a joint effort, involving schools, police, students, and parents has been developed to better promote safer driver habits among young drivers. Nationally, approximately 30 people a day are killed between the ages of 16 to 25. The chances are greater among young drivers to be involved in a crash due to youth and the lack of driver experience. In the U.S. there are 190 million licensed drivers. 14% of licensed drivers are between the ages of 16 to 25 and are involved in 28% of the crashes. Of these crashes, nearly 21% are fatalities, with 33% hitting a fixed object, and 47% involving alcohol. Young driver crashes can be reduced through a combination of driver education, state laws, teaching better driver behavior, and increased exposure to high risk behavior. Driving is a skill that must be learned and practiced. Driver education and behavior is a key factor in many of the crashes. Kids must save other kids through influencing better behavior and parents must also be involved as role models to make an impact in changing behavior of young drivers.

The National Alive at 25 Program designed for young drivers between the ages of 15 – 24 teaches teens skills in decision making, attitudes and consequences. It requires a minimum of 4 hour class room instruction facilitated by a trained and certified instructor and is divided into 4 sessions: (1.) icebreaking session where students share personal

driving experiences (2.) video exercise where teens are able to evaluate the actions of other drivers within their age groups (3.) group discussion on contributing factors of crashes including drugs, alcohol, not wearing seatbelts, and tailgating (4.) role play exercise where students put themselves in real life situations. Afterwards students are given the opportunity to make a commitment to change their behavior in making better driving decisions. Mr. Margaretta mentioned several grants were awarded in New Jersey through the Subaru of America, New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, and independent insurance agencies. Mr. Margaretta also showed videos and provided information specifically for parents as part of the Alive at 25 Program. Sixteen year old drivers are most vulnerable for getting into crashes occurring late at night and with other teens in the vehicles. The graduated drivers license (GDL) is designed to phase young drivers into full driving privileges over time; limits exposure to high risk driving behavior when first licensed, such as driving late at night; and limiting number of passengers. Other risk factors shown to parents include information on alcohol, seat belts, cell phone use, and car selection. Protecting young people as they learn to drive is the essence of the restrictions and parents need to impose rules of the state and also supplement rules of their own. Although Mr. Margaretta's works in New Jersey, he is willing to assist in developing a similar program in Pennsylvania. More information on this national program and New Jersey State Safety Council can be found at www.nsc.org, www.njsafety.org or 908.272.7712.

5. Open Forum

An open forum was held for members to share and exchange information. Rosemarie Anderson, Manager of the Office of Safety and Security Planning of DVRPC briefly mentioned that effective March 1st in New Jersey, talking on a hand-held phone or texting while driving will be a primary offense. She also made mention, DVRPC will be conducting a survey for the Task Force members to gain feedback and evaluation of the RSTF. John Ward, Associate Director, Planning Division, mentioned that DVRPC is currently conducting an on-line public opinion survey to solicit input for the development of the 2035 regional long-range plan entitled "*Connections – The Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future*" and asked Task Force members to participate in helping to shape the future of the region. Sgt. Tyler, informed the Task Force that starting March 1st, PA State Police will be patrolling all of I-95 and I-676 within the City of Philadelphia.

Attendees

Anderson, Matthew
Anderson, Rosemarie
Arcaro, Tina, Lt.
Bickel, Rich
Bartels, Stacy
Beans, William
Belmonte, Lou
Brahler, Richard
Branco, Stephen, Sgt.
Burke, Erin

Chester County Planning Commission
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
New Jersey State Police
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
New Jersey Department of Transportation
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bucks County Planning Commission
Washington Township Police
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Cole, Verna
 Daly, Jim, SFC
 Dula, Justin
 Fullerton, Dave
 Goguts, Natasha
 Green, Bonnie
 Hacker, Joseph
 Hill, Suzanne
 Hoffman, Bill
 Klejst, Stephen
 Kozak, Diana
 Lorentson, Theresa
 Margaretta, Bill
 Mason, Wayne, Sgt.
 Miller, William
 Moore, Regina
 Moran, Brooke
 Moyo, Jabulani
 Murphy, Kevin
 Ondusko, Jeanne
 Ott, Patricia
 Patel, Ashwin
 Puleo, Jillian
 Quick, Susan
 Rader, Lou
 Reeve, Ray
 Reeves, Matthew, PHM
 Reinhart, C.
 Schmidt, Mark, Chief
 Sexton, Derrick
 Spino, Sam
 Taubenberger, Matt
 Trimbell, Shayne
 Tyler, Robert, Sgt.
 Van Iderstine, Peter, Undersheriff
 Walton, Carolyn, Undersheriff
 Ward, John
 Weincyzk, Melissa
 Weiner, Bonnie
 Weissman, Sarah
 Weinstein, David
 Wishart, Scott, Sgt.
 Wolcott, Stephen, Capt.
 Zito, Joe, Sgt.

Young Driver Research Initiative – CHOP
 New Jersey State Police
 Delaware County Planning Department
 PATCO
 Chester County Planning Commission
 New Jersey Department of Transportation
 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
 Young Driver Research Initiative – CHOP
 Federal Highway Administration – NJ
 New Jersey Transit
 Camden County Highway Safety
 Streets Smart – Delaware County
 New Jersey State Safety Council
 Pennsylvania State Police
 PA Senator Leanna Washington's Office
 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
 Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
 Philadelphia Streets Department
 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
 Burlington County Sheriff's Department
 New Jersey Department of Transportation
 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
 Brain Injury Association of New Jersey
 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
 New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
 Camden City Police
 New Jersey State Police
 Upper Makefield Township Police
 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
 Camden County Highway Safety
 PA Representative George Kenney's Office
 Greater Valley Forge TMA
 Pennsylvania State Police
 Burlington County Sheriff's Department
 Mercer County Sheriff's Department
 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
 Burlington County Sheriff's Department
 MADD Southeast PA
 Transportation Safety Resource Center
 AAA Mid-Atlantic
 New Jersey State Police
 New Jersey State Police
 Delaware River Port Authority