



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:
 - It is municipal based
 - Violations carries no points
 - Owner and operator of vehicles are jointly liable for violation
 - DOT will consider intersections that are submitted from the municipalities
 - Photos taken will display license plates not frontal views
 - Law enforcement officials review recorded images
 - 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	Chester County Planning Commission
Anderson, Rosemarie	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Arcaro, Tina, Lt.	New Jersey State Police
Bickel, Rich	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Bartels, Stacy	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Beans, William	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Belmonte, Lou	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Brahler, Richard	Bucks County Planning Commission
Branco, Stephen, Sgt.	Washington Township Police
Burke, Erin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Cole, Verna	Young Driver Research Initiative – CHOP
Daly, Jim, SFC	New Jersey State Police
Dula, Justin	Delaware County Planning Department
Fullerton, Dave	PATCO
Goguts, Natasha	Chester County Planning Commission
Green, Bonnie	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Hacker, Joseph	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Hill, Suzanne	Young Driver Research Initiative – CHOP
Hoffman, Bill	Federal Highway Administration – NJ
Klejst, Stephen	New Jersey Transit
Kozak, Diana	Camden County Highway Safety
Lorentson, Theresa	Streets Smart – Delaware County
Margaretta, Bill	New Jersey State Safety Council
Mason, Wayne, Sgt.	Pennsylvania State Police
Miller, William	PA Senator Leanna Washington’s Office
Moore, Regina	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Moran, Brooke	Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
Moyo, Jabulani	Philadelphia Streets Department
Murphy, Kevin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Ondusko, Jeanne	Burlington County Sheriff’s Department
Ott, Patricia	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Patel, Ashwin	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Puleo, Jillian	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Quick, Susan	Brain Injury Association of New Jersey
Rader, Lou	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Reeve, Ray	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Reeves, Matthew, PHM	Camden City Police
Reinhart, C.	New Jersey State Police
Schmidt, Mark, Chief	Upper Makefield Township Police
Sexton, Derrick	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Spino, Sam	Camden County Highway Safety
Taubenberger, Matt	PA Representative George Kenney’s Office
Trimbell, Shayne	Greater Valley Forge TMA
Tyler, Robert, Sgt.	Pennsylvania State Police
Van Iderstine, Peter, Undersheriff	Burlington County Sheriff’s Department
Walton, Carolyn, Undersheriff	Mercer County Sheriff’s Department
Ward, John	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Weincyzyk, Melissa	Burlington County Sheriff’s Department
Weiner, Bonnie	MADD Southeast PA
Weissman, Sarah	Transportation Safety Resource Center
Weinstein, David	AAA Mid-Atlantic
Wishart, Scott, Sgt.	New Jersey State Police
Wolcott, Stephen, Capt.	New Jersey State Police
Zito, Joe, Sgt.	Delaware River Port Authority