



## HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 MEETING

### NOTE:

- All presentations and related meeting handouts are located on the RSTF website.  
<http://www.dvrpc.org/transportation/safety/presentations/>

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Sgt. Michael Rann, Cherry Hill Township Police Department and RSTF Co-chair, welcomed everyone. Introductions followed. The following are a few items discussed.

- John Ward, Associate Director of Planning at DVRPC, announced that this was Sgt. Rann's last meeting as RSTF Co-chair and thanked him for his two-year tenure. Mr. Ward asked if members from any New Jersey organizations who were interested in the Co-chair position to contact a DVRPC staff person. One person has shown interest.
- Mr. Ward raised the issue of not printing handouts for future RSTF meetings and asked for thoughts from members. Members were satisfied with receiving handouts via email.
- Mr. Ward mentioned the idea of forming an RSTF steering committee. This group comprised of a maximum of eight members (representatives from each of the 4E's, plus police, DOTs, and DVRPC) would meet prior to each RSTF meeting to provide insight and guidance in support of the RSTF mission.

### **2. November 2011 Meeting Recap**

The meeting highlights from November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 were approved. Regina Moore, Transportation Engineer at DVRPC, provided a brief summary on RSTF-related activities since the last meeting. They include the following highlights:

- *Status of Measures* – Higher attendance at the last meeting (45 people); Continued need to reach the EMS community to attend meetings – help is requested from participants.
- *Volunteer Updates on Action Items Involving Increasing Seat Belt Use* – Two of the three commitments were performed and one will be reported on at the June meeting. Information was shared with county and state policy makers on increasing seat belt usage; Information was forwarded to the NJDOT Assistant Commissioner to review and consider a “Buckle Up” stencil roadway program and seat belt survey for NJDOT employees.
- *Progress on Member Recommendations* – Since November, the RSTF had completed nine actions that were recommended by the RSTF to advance the effectiveness of the group. See handout for full list of actions.
- *Quarterly Crash Trends* – A data comparison of state and county data from October to December 2010 and 2011 revealed fatalities in the five-county Pennsylvania region rose by 52 percent; however the four-county New Jersey region had a 44 percent drop in fatalities.

### **3. Update from the Enforcement Community**

Members of the enforcement community shared the following information:

- Cherry Hill Township Police received a federal grant for pedestrian safety.
- For the fourth year in a row, Route 130 in Burlington County was declared the most dangerous roadway for pedestrians.
- The New Jersey State Police (NJSP) is partnering with local police departments to help enforce roadways and has received an aggressive driving grant to enforce and educate motorists on the “Move Over Law”.
- Ray Rauanheimo, Montgomery County Volunteer Coordinator, AARP, mentioned the Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS) as a resource to help with police enforcement.
- On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the New Jersey Remembers ceremony was held to commemorate the lives lost as a result of impaired drivers.
- This year four pedestrian decoy trainings will be held in New Jersey.

### **4. Legislative Update**

Jenny Robinson, Public and Government Affairs Manager, AAA Mid-Atlantic, and Tracy Noble, Public Affairs Specialist, AAA Mid-Atlantic, provided the following updates on recent legislative activities in the region:

#### **New Jersey**

- AAA Mid-Atlantic New Jersey Office recently conducted a biannual transportation poll. Results from the poll are currently being tabulated.
- In New Jersey the parent orientation portion of the Graduated Driver License (GDL) law was vetoed by Governor Christie. Legislators plan to reintroduce the bill at a later legislative session. AAA Mid-Atlantic met with the Governor’s Policy Office to work out an agreement.
- A bill (A2199) is moving forward to establish cellphone use as a more severe violation. AAA Mid-Atlantic supports a bill to toughen penalties for motorists who fail to keep right while driving slowly in left lanes on the highway.

#### **Pennsylvania**

- In Pennsylvania the anti-texting law went into effect on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Billboards and signs will be posted to educate motorists on the new law. Enforcement efforts on the new law need to be determined.
- AAA Mid-Atlantic recently launched a new seniors driving website. – [www.aaa.com/seniordriving](http://www.aaa.com/seniordriving)

### **5. DVRPC Pedestrian Safety Analysis**

Ms. Regina Moore presented findings from a regional pedestrian crash analysis from 2006 to 2010. The following are highlights from the analysis:

- Consistent with national statistics, pedestrian crashes and fatalities in the DVRPC region continue to fall. The number of pedestrian crashes fell from 3,337 in 2006 to 3,005 crashes in 2010, a nine percent decrease. Pedestrian fatalities also decreased, from 94 in 2006 to 72 fatalities in 2010.
- Nearly 77 percent of the pedestrian crashes occurred in the Pennsylvania five-county region.

- Despite having the largest pedestrian population, Philadelphia had a significant drop in pedestrian crashes and fatalities.
- Chester County recorded the least number of pedestrian incidents and fatalities.
- The suburban counties (bordering Philadelphia) ranked high in the number of pedestrian crashes (Camden, Montgomery, Mercer, and Delaware).
- In Philadelphia, most of the pedestrian fatalities occurred within the north-central section of the city.

## **6. Emphasis Area Focus – Ensuring Pedestrian Safety**

Zoe Neaderland, Manager of the Office of Transportation Safety and Congestion Management at DVRPC, gave a quick review of the DVRPC Safety Action Plan (SAP) and its products, including analysis and priority strategies for the emphasis area, Ensuring Pedestrian Safety. The main points presented were:

- A pedestrian crash may represent any of a variety of situations. Charles Carmalt, Pedestrian and Bicyclist Coordinator for the City of Philadelphia – Mayor’s Office of Transportation and Utilities, stated that pedestrian crashes involving a vehicle is what is commonly recorded as a pedestrian crash. However, no data is provided involving a non-vehicle and pedestrian related type of crash (e.g. pedestrian hit by a bicyclist).
- While bicyclist safety is important, the numbers are approximately 10 percent of those for pedestrians. The SAP pedestrian focus area does, however, address where improvements would also improve bicyclist safety.
- Philadelphia in the regional context – It has the largest population, and more pedestrians than other parts of the region. Between 35 to 42 percent of pedestrian crashes occur in Philadelphia.

Caroline Trueman, Safety Engineer, FHWA – New Jersey Division, provided information on various federal programs useful in increasing pedestrian safety. Below are some highlights from her presentation:

- In 2009, pedestrian fatalities in New Jersey represented 27 percent of the state’s total fatalities.
- New Jersey has seen a decline in automobile fatalities; however pedestrian fatalities statewide are still rising.
- Nationally, FHWA is promoting the following three pedestrian specific initiatives: Complete Streets, Pedestrian Focus States and Cities, and Funding Resources for Safety (Highway Safety Improvement Plans (HSIP) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS)). Complete Streets ensures that transportation planners and engineers consistently design and operate the entire roadway with all users in mind including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.
- New Jersey has a Complete Street Policy and pedestrian focus state. The City of Newark is the pedestrian focus city.
- Medians and pedestrian crossings islands in urban and suburban areas, pedestrian hybrid beacon, and road diets are three of nine proven safety countermeasures supported by FHWA in improving pedestrian safety.

Remarks made by Mr. Charles Carmalt are summarized below:

- The City of Philadelphia has two goals related to improving safety for pedestrians and bicyclists:
  - Goal 1 – to reduce the risk of crashes for bicyclists and pedestrians in the City by ten percent.
  - Goal 2 – to increase participation in walking and biking to encourage healthy living. Philadelphia has a “Get Healthy Philly Program”.
- As mentioned earlier, Mr. Carmalt emphasized the gaps in reporting pedestrian crashes that do not include a car or truck.
- Pennsylvania is a pedestrian focus state and Philadelphia is a federal pedestrian focus city.
- Overall there is a decline in pedestrian crashes, especially among the child population.
- There was a citywide map created that indicates the levels of pedestrian activities; the highest areas of pedestrian concentration are in center city and along subway lines.
- Philadelphia has a “Give Respect/Get Respect” education and enforcement program (Edu-Forcement) developed for walkers, bicyclists, and motorists.
- There is no law against texting and walking in Philadelphia.
- It is very difficult to enforce laws among pedestrians.

Debbie Schaaf, Senior Transportation Planner at the City of Philadelphia Planning Commission, shared the following information:

- Philadelphia is currently working on a pedestrian and bicyclist plan. The data collected for the plan revealed the following:
  - 10 percent of residents walk to work.
  - 26 percent of residents walk to non-work related venues (restaurants, parks, museums, stores, etc.).
  - 40 locations were identified for pedestrian and bicyclist improvements.Traffic safety improvements were recently made to the Ben Franklin Parkway between the Art Museum and Logan Square. The improvement made include a new alignment to widen the center median, the relocation of bike lanes to outer sections of the Parkway, and restriction of traffic on the outer traffic lane (except during peak hours).

Charles Denny, Assistant Chief Traffic Engineer, Philadelphia Streets Department, mentioned some recent traffic signal enhancements for improving pedestrian safety. His comments included:

- The program to replace conventional bulbs in traffic signals with LED bulbs was completed. This program saves the city \$1 million per year.
- The Department recently added numerous pedestrian countdown signals at intersections. This effort is ongoing.
- Studies have showed a reduction in red-light running at intersections with pedestrian countdown signals.

## **7. Tracking Strategies**

A set of actions were generated from the ensuring pedestrian safety discussion to track in the Measurements and Status Table. Several members volunteered to report back at the next meeting on the following strategic action items. See the 2011 Tracking Safety Actions Table for list of volunteers. The actions are:

### **Engineering**

- Conduct an analysis to determine the effectiveness of rapid flashing beacons in Mercer County.
- Conduct an analysis to determine the effectiveness of road diets built in the City of Philadelphia.

### **Enforcement**

- Provide a summary on the Cherry Hill Township Pedestrian Decoy Program including lessons learned from other municipalities.
- Provide an update on citations issued to drivers in pedestrian crashes in Cherry Hill New Jersey.
- Distribute information about the RSTF to other New Jersey state police offices.

### **Emergency Services**

- Reach out to the emergency services community to attend future RSTF meetings.
- Other ideas generated from the meeting that could work, but which there were no volunteers include:
  - Commit to using methods from the Highway Safety Manual (HSM) on a project.
  - Help distribute pedestrian safety information to the schools.
  - Help to educate officials on pedestrian safety related legislation.
  - Adopt Complete Street Policy at the county or municipality level.
  - Participate in the pedestrian decoy program (municipal level only).

## **8. Moving Forward the Development of the 2012 Transportation Safety Action Plan**

Ms. Zoe Neaderland asked for members to provide feedback on the update to the development of the Plan, including new and ongoing safety programs from their respective agencies. At the June 2012 RSTF meeting members will vote to endorse the Plan. The final step will be to present the Plan at the July DVRPC Board for adoption.

## **9. Member Updates and Open Forum**

- Charles Carmalt mentioned that Philadelphia is developing a Complete Streets Policy.
- Jennifer Marandino, Safety Engineer at South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO), offered to assist anyone on using HSM for HSIP.
- George Fallet, Traffic Engineer at Mercer County Engineering Department, mentioned the topic of Complete Streets was covered at a recent municipal engineers meeting.
- Laurie Matkowski, Sr. Transportation Engineer at DVRPC, shared statistics about line of duty deaths for emergency responders and mentioned that DVRPC is coordinating with Burlington County to create an Incident Management Task Force.
- Joseph Powell, Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planner at NJDOT, mentioned NJDOT recently updated its Complete Streets website.

## **10. Upcoming Events**

- 36<sup>th</sup> Annual TransAction Conference, April 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012
  - *RSTF session is on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM*
- Pedestrian RSA Workshop – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012
- Next RSTF will be off-site in Cherry Hill, NJ – June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012
  - *Emphasis Area Focus: Reduce Impaired and Distracted Driving*
  - *Tour and Demonstration of the Low Speed Vehicle Program*

### **Attendees:**

Amway, Lauren	Street Smarts – Delaware County
Arcaro, Chief Tina	New Jersey State Police
Bartels, Stacy	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Brahler, Rich	Bucks County Planning Commission
Bucci, Larry	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – District 6
Buerk, Jesse	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Carmalt, Charles	Phila. Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities
Deguffroy, Bill	Chester County Planning Commission
Dennis, Mike	PROVuncular, LLC
Denny, Charles	Philadelphia Streets Department
Donnelly, Maureen	SafeKids Southern New Jersey – Cooper Hospital
Eklund, Officer Eric	Bristol Township Police Department
Fallat, George	Mercer County Engineering Department
Ferraro, Donna	Public Health Management Corporation
Fiocco, Joe	Fiocco Engineering, LLC
Fulginiti, Cpl. Vince	Washington Township Police Department
Hacker, Joseph	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Hosseini, Zach	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Kaplan, Andy	Rutgers University – TSRC
Lawson, Matt	Mercer County Planning Department
Marandino, Jennifer	South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
Matkowski, Laurie	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Moore, Regina	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Murphy, Kevin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Naderland, Zoe	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Nemiroff, Dan	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Noble, Tracy	AAA Mid-Atlantic
Nuble, Patrice	Philadelphia Streets Department
Olsen, Katherine	Street Smarts – Montgomery County
Ott, Pat	MBO Engineering, LLC
Philbin, Officer James	Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Powell, Joseph	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Powers, Donald	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Ragozine, Bill	Cross County Connection TMA
Rann, Sgt. Michael	Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Ratko, Wes	Montgomery County Planning Commission
Rauanheimo, Ray	AARP – Montgomery County

Reeve, Ray  
Robinson, Jenny  
Rudolph, Brad  
Schaaf, Debby  
Thomas, Carol  
Trimbell, Shayne  
Trueman, Caroline  
Vilotti, Charles  
Ward, John  
Winters, Dennis

New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety  
AAA Mid-Atlantic  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – District 6  
Philadelphia Planning Commission  
Burlington County Engineering Department  
Greater Valley Forge TMA  
Federal Highway Administration – New Jersey  
Chester County Highway Safety Project  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
Sierra Club – Pennsylvania Chapter