



## HIGHLIGHTS OF JUNE 19, 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**

Regina Moore, Transportation Engineer, DVRPC, welcomed everyone. Introductions followed. The following are a few items discussed.

- Zoe Neaderland, Manager of the Office of Transportation Safety and Congestion Management at DVRPC, thanked Sgt. Michael Rann, Cherry Hill Township Police, for hosting the meeting.
- Ms. Neaderland introduced Violet Marrero, Manager of Special Projects at New Jersey Division of Highway Safety (NJDHHS), as the new RSTF Co-chair.
- Ms. Neaderland also mentioned Bill Rickett, Executive Director at Bucks County TMA, had to step down as co-chair of the RSTF due to the level of his various commitments. We are looking for a member from a Pennsylvania or regional government agency to fill this position. This opening has since been filled.

### **2. March 2012 Meeting Recap**

The meeting highlights from March 8, 2012 were approved. Ms. Moore provided a brief summary of RSTF-related activities since the last meeting. They include the following highlights:

- *Status of Measures* – Higher attendance at the last meeting (48 people) than the one before (45 people); continued need to reach the emergency service community to attend meetings – help is requested from participants.
- *Volunteer Updates on Action Items* – Follow-up actions from the November 2011 meeting include the following: information about the national seat belt campaign was added to the Delaware County TMA and Rutgers University websites and seat belt surveys were conducted at Chester County high schools. Sgt. Rann provided an update on citations issued to drivers in pedestrian crashes and Brad Rudolph, Press Officer at PennDOT District 6, reported on reaching out to the emergency service community to attend RSTF meetings.
- *Quarterly Crash Trends* – A data comparison of state and county crash data from January to March 2011 and 2012 revealed fatalities in the five-county Pennsylvania region rose by 44 percent. During the same time period, crashes and injuries dropped in the four-county New Jersey region; however fatalities were up in Gloucester and Mercer counties.

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

Members of the enforcement community shared the following information:

- New Jersey State Police is looking at ways to address the recent increase in crashes in Burlington and Camden counties, including seat belt and DUI details.
- *Cherry Hill Township Update* – Sgt. Rann reported Cherry Hill Township has seen a spike in pedestrian injuries and fatalities, specifically along Route 70. Cherry Hill Township is working with NJ Transit to evaluate relocating or removing transit stops along high pedestrian crash corridors. The police currently run educational and enforcement details at least once a week in which they give warnings and tickets. They are keeping records if violators are residents and if they are going to transit stops.
- Washington Township Police recently conducted CDL inspection details.

### **4. Legislative Update**

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

#### New Jersey

- In New Jersey a bill (A1571), expanding requirements for younger drivers passed the House with some minor modifications.
- Another bill (A1074) passed, which provides for charge of vehicular homicide if a death occurs due to a driver's cell phone use.
- Results from a recent survey by AAA-Mid Atlantic New Jersey Office revealed residents believe cell phone laws are working. Results are available via the following link:  
[www.njac.aaa.com/njac/public\\_affairs/media/docs/distracteddriving.pdf](http://www.njac.aaa.com/njac/public_affairs/media/docs/distracteddriving.pdf)

#### Pennsylvania

- In Pennsylvania, Governor Corbett signed SB 743 into law allowing school districts that do not have a certified driver's education teacher the option to contract with private instructors to teach in a classroom setting.

#### Nation-wide

- Ray LaHood, U.S. Transportation Secretary, released a "Blueprint for Ending Distracted Driving" that offers a comprehensive strategy to address the growing and dangerous practice of using handheld cell phones behind the wheel.

### **5. DVRPC Follow-up on Road Safety Audit (RSA) and Congestion and Crash Analysis Program (CCSAP)**

Ms. Moore presented findings from a recent survey conducted to understand the effectiveness of RSAs and CCSAPs and to help improve the programs. The following are highlights from the survey:

- Respondents of the survey included local, county, and state agency partners who participated in two RSAs and two CCSAPs performed in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.
- Respondents were asked three questions related to implementation of recommendations, thoughts about the RSA and CCSAP processes, and suggestions to improve these processes.

- The responses were the same among survey respondents. Many of the recommendations were implemented from both programs; however lack of funding was a common reason as to why some recommendations were not completed.
- Survey participants gave positive feedback on both programs' processes.
- Respondents suggested more information about funding improvements as a way to improve both programs.

## **6. Emphasis Area Focus – Reduce Impaired and Distracted Driving**

Ms. Neaderland gave a quick review of the DVRPC *Transportation Safety Action Plan* and its products, including analysis and priority strategies for the emphasis area, Reducing Impaired and Distracted Driving. The main points presented were:

- Impairment can be caused by illegal or legal drugs or even tiredness; however alcohol use is most commonly measured.
- Impaired driving, walking, or bicycling due to alcohol was a contributing factor for 28 percent of the annual traffic fatalities in the region, on average, for years 2008 to 2010.
- The highest number of fatalities in which impaired driving was a factor occurred in Philadelphia, where 29 people died per year on average. In Chester County, approximately 13 people died per year, but that was over 39 percent of its traffic fatalities.
- Distracted driving includes:
  - Cognitive distractions – speaking hands-free on a cell phone, focusing on a conversation or others in the vehicle.
  - Physical distractions – looking for a phone, drinking, eating.
  - Cognitive and physical – texting, using a navigation system, watching a movie.

Troy Love, Manager of Impaired and Driver Program, PennDOT – Bureau of Maintenance and Operations, discussed PennDOT's Impaired Driver Program, including information on alcohol-related crash statistics, impaired driving enforcement, and outreach efforts to judges and prosecutors. He also spoke about PennDOT's efforts to reduce distracted driving. Below are some highlights from his presentation:

- Comparing data from years 2007 to 2011, in the five-county Pennsylvania region, alcohol-related crashes are down; however drug crashes are up.
- Police officers risk their lives enforcing sober driving laws, however many tickets are reduced by plea bargaining to less meaningful charges.
- In Pennsylvania, while first-time offenders may appropriately be diverted to educational programs, the numbers that follow paint a startling picture:
  - In 2011, there were 56,774 DUI cases, up from 45,656 arrests in 2007.
  - In 2011, there were 28,491 DUI convictions, of which 15,875 were for repeat offenders.
- PennDOT's Magisterial District Judicial Outreach Program shares information with magisterial judges about crash statistics and enforcement efforts. This program reaches over 500 magisterial district judges.
- PennDOT received a grant from NHTSA to secure a state-sanctioned Judicial Outreach Liaison.
  - As part of this grant, the peer-to-peer outreach program was developed to communicate PennDOT's highway safety plan and enforcement efforts to the judicial

community. It also allows judges to share information on issues and successes they've experienced.

- Pennsylvania's distracted driving efforts include:
  - Focus on younger drivers ("16 Minutes" and "Survival 101" traffic safety programs).
  - Distribution of distracted driving materials to driver education classes.
  - Work with groups to promote "no phone zones".
  - Pennsylvania recently enacted a law against texting while driving.
- Pennsylvania is hoping to expand training opportunities for municipal police officers to understand and detect drug and alcohol impairments. This is similar to the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program in New Jersey.
- Ms. Robyn Mitchell, Deputy Attorney General with the New Jersey Department of Criminal Justice, mentioned that her office works to provide legal advice to members of the law enforcement community on a variety of administrative and prosecutorial issues.
- Trooper Jay Wolf, New Jersey State Police, suggested providing guidance to police officers in New Jersey on regulations and legislation to determine level of impairment to get a conviction.

### **7. Tracking Strategies**

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

- Publicize other agencies' impaired and distracted driving programs on agency's website to have more effect.
- Provide a summary from a study entitled *The Effects of New Jersey's Cell Phone/Text Ban Law*. This study was conducted to determine the effectiveness of New Jersey's cell phone and texting laws.
- Look for opportunities to collaborate on existing messaging campaigns for reducing impaired and distracted driving, to result in more effective communication.
- Prepare a two-page summary of what happens after a police officer writes an impaired driving ticket in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

### **8. Endorsement of the 2012 Transportation Safety Action Plan**

The RSTF unanimously endorsed the Plan. The next step will be to present it for the DVRPC Board to accept.

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

- Sgt. Rann mentioned that Wegman's, a major sponsor of the Low Speed Vehicle Program, is working to bring Verizon on as another sponsor of the program.
- Sue Quick, Public Education Coordinator at Brain Injury Alliance New Jersey, shared information about the New Jersey Smart Riders Ride2Win Program. The program runs from May 1 to October 31 – coinciding with the kick-off of motorcycle safety month. For more information visit: [www.njmartriders.org/ride2win](http://www.njmartriders.org/ride2win)
- Janet Hansen, Program Coordinator at Rutgers University – CAIT, announced the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Forum will be held on October 24, 2012 at the Mercer County College. For more information visit: <http://cait.rutgers.edu/tsrc/safety-forum-2012>

### **Afternoon Tour and Demonstration of Impaired Driver Simulated Program**

While wearing fatal vision goggles and/or texting, 20 attendees operated a low-speed vehicle through a designated driving course run by the Cherry Hill Township Police Traffic Safety Unit. This allowed each participant to experience simulated impaired and/or distracted driving and how it affects their decision-making, depth perception, and reaction time. See attached photo log.

#### ***Attendees:***

Amway, Lauren	Street Smarts – Delaware County
Bucci, Larry	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – District 6
Buerk, Jesse	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Burt, Sgt. John	New Jersey State Police – Troop A Traffic Unit
Cahn, Mayor Chuck	Cherry Hill Township
Dennis, Mike	PROVuncular, LLC
Fiocco, Joe	Fiocco Engineering, LLC
Fulginiti, Cpl. Vince	Washington Township Police Department
Gomez, Francisco	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – Region 2
Hansen, Janet	Rutgers University – CAIT
Hearey, Patricia	Camden County Department of Health and Human Services
Holstein, Cpl. James	Pennsylvania State Police
Karasov, Sally	Rutgers University – CAIT
Kozak, Diane	Camden County Highway Traffic Safety
Love, Troy	PennDOT – Bureau of Maintenance and Operations
Madden, Sue	AAA Mid-Atlantic
Marandino, Jennifer	South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
Marrero, Violet	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Matkowski, Laurie	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Mitchell, Robyn	New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice
Moore, Regina	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Neaderland, Zoe	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Noble, Tracy	AAA Mid-Atlantic
O'Brien, Fran	Delaware River Port Authority
Olsen, Katherine	Street Smarts – Montgomery County
Ott, Pat	MBO Engineering, LLC
Pascual Weissman, Sarah	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – Region 2
Philbin, Officer James	Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Powers, Donald	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Quick, Sue	New Jersey Brain Injury Alliance
Ragozine, Bill	Cross County Connection TMA
Rann, Sgt. Michael	Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Reeve, Ray	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Rudolph, Brad	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – District 6
Spino, Sam	Camden County Highway Traffic Safety
Strumpfger, Warren	Citizen
Thomas, Carol	Burlington County Engineering Department
Wolf, Trooper Jay	New Jersey State Police

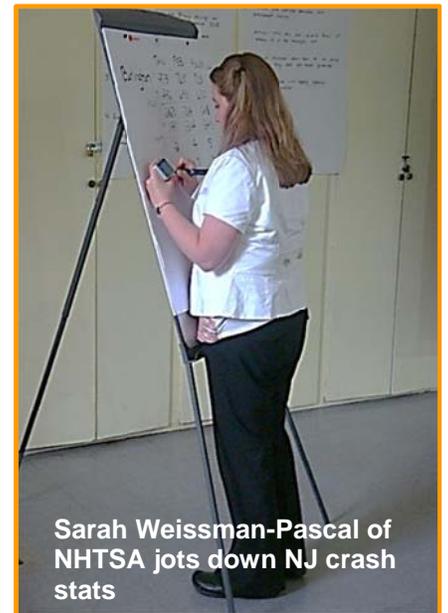
PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTING THE DAY'S EVENTS



Cherry Hill Township welcomes DVRPC and the RSTF



Zoe Neaderland of DVRPC and Troy Love of PennDOT look on as Sgt. Michael Rann of Cherry Hill Township Police provides the enforcement update



Sarah Weissman-Pascal of NHTSA jots down NJ crash stats



Regina Moore of DVRPC shares findings from a survey on DVRPC's safety programs



Ms. Neaderland shares regional crash data on impaired driving



Mr. Love presents information on PennDOT's Impaired Driver Program



RSTF members listen intently to Mr. Love's presentation



Robyn Mitchell of the NJ Division of Criminal Justice, jots down notes



Cherry Hill Mayor Chuck Cahn addresses the RSTF



Ms. Neaderland leads the discussion on strategies for reducing impaired and distracted driving



RSTF members engage in a discussion to develop strategies to reduce impaired and distracted driving



**Cherry Hill Township Impaired Driver Simulation Course**



**Jennifer Marandino of SJTPO maneuvers her way through the course**



**Francisco Gomez of NHTSA prepares to tackle the course**



**New co-chair, Violet Marrero of NJDHTS prepares to enter the course**



**Larry Bucci of PennDOT is gearing up to head out on the course**



**Joe Fiocco of Fiocco Engineering LLC is nearing the end of the course**



**Donald Powers of DVRPC successfully completes the course without knocking down any cones**



**Jesse Buerk of DVRPC had a few mishaps along the course**



**There is interest to try the course driving while distracted (texting)**



**Lauren Amway of Street Smarts – Delaware County is the first to try driving distracted (texting)**



**Kathy Olsen of Street Smarts – Montgomery County is the first brave soul to drive while texting and “drunk”**



**Ms. Neaderland has trouble steering through the course**