



HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH 7, 2013 MEETING

NOTE:

- All presentations and related meeting handouts are located on the RSTF website.
<http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/RSTF/2013-03.pdf>

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jenny Robinson, RSTF Co-chair, and Manager of Governor and Public Affairs at AAA Mid-Atlantic – Philadelphia Office, welcomed everyone. Introductions followed. Ms. Violet Marrero, RSTF Co-chair and Manager of Special Projects at NJDHTS, mentioned the meeting format had been revised to allow more time to focus on the meeting's emphasis area. A new RSTF survey was created to obtain members' feedback on each meeting. Members were encouraged to complete and return the surveys after the meeting. This effort will help make the RSTF more effective and useful to members.

2. Update from the Enforcement Community

Members of the enforcement community shared the following information:

- Officer Jim Philbin, Cherry Hill Township Police Department, mentioned the department is working with all three high schools to promote driver safety, including the "Share the Keys" and "Low-Speed Vehicles" programs. On March 15, 2013, the department will host a pedestrian safety class, sponsored by the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety (NJDHTS).
- National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 13 – 19, 2013. This week brings national attention to motorist and worker safety and mobility issues in work zones.
- Ray Reeve, Senior Highway Safety Specialist, NJDHTS, mentioned the national "Click It or Ticket" enforcement campaign will begin on May 20 and will run until June 3, 2013.
- The RSTF helps share information about events, especially enforcement, so all were encouraged to share and distribute information.

3. Legislative Update

New Jersey:

- AAA Mid-Atlantic is supportive of teen driver legislation (A-1571), which expands education and practice requirements for learner's and examination permits. One New Jersey senator expressed concerns on how practice hours are handled in urban areas for teens without access to cars. Ms. Marrero mentioned there is no strict requirement to verify the hours; it is more of a self-certifying system that is monitored by parents. There are other states with urban areas that have similar mandates.
- George Fallat, P.E., Traffic Engineer, Mercer County Department of Transportation and Infrastructure – Engineering Division, mentioned proposed New Jersey legislation (A-3831 and S-207) to ban jughandles on any public road. Ms. Noble commented that AAA-Mid Atlantic will not be supportive of the ban.
- Chief William Wiegman, Lower Southampton Township Police Department, mentioned a town in New Jersey was complaining of more crashes due to RLRC. Charlie Territo, Vice President of Communications at American Traffic Solutions, cautioned that it is important to

review police reports to determine the real causes of incidents. RLRC may not be the only cause of crashes, other factors should be reviewed.

Pennsylvania:

- March 8, 2013 is the one year anniversary of the Pennsylvania texting ban law. The number of citations written corresponds to higher populated areas; therefore Philadelphia residents received the most.
- In February 2013, Pennsylvania's Governor Corbett proposed a plan to raise additional revenue for transportation. Given today's rates for the wholesale value of gas, Pennsylvanians should benefit by seeing their investment in transportation grow to approximately \$1.8 billion by year five of the Plan. Pennsylvania legislators may offer a proposal that would generate more money.

4. Emphasis Area Focus – IMPROVE THE DESIGN AND OPERATION OF INTERSECTIONS

Kevin Murphy, Principal Planner at DVRPC, provided a quick review of the DVRPC *Transportation Safety Action Plan* and its products, including analysis and priority strategies for the emphasis area, Improve the Design and Operation of Intersections. The main points presented were:

- In 2011, 29 percent of the crashes that resulted in fatalities in the region occurred at intersections.
- Angle crash types (typically T-Bone) account for almost half of all fatal crashes at intersections.
- On average, there are five crashes at intersections every minute, and one person dies every hour of every day at an intersection somewhere in the United States.

Charlie Territo, American Traffic Solutions (ATS), provided information on various RLRC efforts in the region. Below are main points from his presentation:

- RLRC is one method reduce severe accidents at intersections, especially T-Bone collisions.
- In Philadelphia there are 19 intersections where cameras are installed.
- Legislation was passed in July 2012 to allow for the expansion of RLRC enforcement at intersections in Pennsylvania.
- According to Mr. Territo, Philadelphia saw a 24 percent reduction in crashes at intersections where cameras have been installed.
- Despite an overall increase in fatalities in the region between 2010 and 2011, fatalities are decreasing at RLRC intersections.
- Right angle crashes at RLRC intersections in Deptford Township, New Jersey have dropped by 87 percent.
- Citations at RLRC intersections in Gloucester Township, New Jersey have fallen by 88 percent.
- PennDOT is considering installing speed enforcement cameras in work zones along the Pennsylvania Turnpike.
- A brief video was shown describing the RLRC violation review process.

George Fallat provided an update on intersection safety improvements recently implemented after being recommended by DVRPC's Congestion and Crash Site Analysis Program (CCSAP). Below are key highlights from his presentation:

- In 2008, DVRPC partnered with Mercer County and Ewing Township officials to study and determine safety improvements at the intersection of Olden Avenue and Parkside Avenue. This intersection experienced high levels of pedestrian activity, congestion, and crashes.

- Mr. Fallat explained the advisory committee comprised of representatives from DVRPC, Mercer County, and Ewing Township, reviewed traffic and crash data and later met to develop safety recommendations.
- The main recommendation from this effort was to perform a road diet along Parkside Avenue. The road diet was completed in 2012. It reduced Parkside Avenue from an undivided four lane roadway into three lanes made up of two through lanes and a two-way center left-turn lane (TWCLTL).
- Signal retiming, improved pedestrian access, removal of traffic signal equipment from a concrete median, and restriping were completed as part the county road diet project.
- Some of the disadvantages to the road diet were inadequate shoulder for bus transit and increased delay for motorists exiting cross streets. The benefits of the road diet included improved pedestrian and bicyclist access and designated storage for left-turning vehicles.
- Municipal support on this effort was essential.
- Since the implementation of the road diet the county has reported positive feedback.
- It is too soon to determine the effect on crashes.

Below are comments from the discussion that followed:

- George Fallat mentioned the road diet project was done in conjunction with Mercer County's plans to resurface Parkside Avenue.
- Kevin Conover, PE, PTOE, Project Engineer, NJDOT Bureau of Transportation Data and Safety: Safety Engineering and Analysis Section, mentioned a road diet project on NJ 168 in Mount Ephraim Borough. The state would like to do more road diets; however more support is needed to publicize the benefits of them.
- Gus Scheerbaum, PE, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Engineer, Philadelphia Mayor's Office Transportation and Utilities, mentioned a helpful document, *Pennsylvania State Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Evaluating the Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Program Final Report*. This report indicated a decrease in crashes; however there was a slight increase in rear-end collisions at the initial implementation of RLRC at intersections. Overall crashes were reduced in Philadelphia.
- AAA Mid-Atlantic asked how enforcement can be used to address the severity of RLRC incidents. Mr. Territo responded that camera sensors have detectors to indicate if vehicles enter the intersection. Citations will not be issued unless a vehicle entered the intersection after the light turns red. It is up to local law enforcement to determine if a violation should be issued.

5. Developing Action Items

Below are comments and action items generated from the discussion to improve the design and operation of intersections. Members who volunteered will report back at the next meeting on the action items. See the 2011 Tracking Safety Actions Table for list of volunteers.

Discussion

- Ray Reeve shared information on a new federally funded program to address pedestrian issues along US 130 in Burlington County. The purpose of the program is to add police presence along the corridor to curb dangerous driving behavior. Burlington County Sheriff Department officers will set up the decoy zones and local police will organize the enforcement and educational component. NJDHTS plans to reach out to municipalities and churches in the county to raise public awareness.

- Zoe Neaderland, Manager of Transportation Safety and Congestion Management at DVRPC, asked if there was something the RSTF can do to help facilitate a technical discussion to encourage communication with the municipalities, counties, and state DOTs on improving intersections.
- George Fallat said that one of the things lacking is an exposure rate and the number of accidents to identify appropriate locations for specific intersection safety improvements.
- The Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) is about to release a video describing the benefits of the RLRC program in Philadelphia. The PPA video could be shared with Pennsylvania municipalities eligible for the RLRC program, which will be helpful to inform their decision on whether to install cameras.
- Gus Scheerbaum said it's good to get the information out and to tell municipalities to look at intersections in a more holistic way such as complete streets which will allow infrastructure to accommodate the needs of all roadway users.
- Kevin Murphy mentioned roundabouts (a FHWA proven countermeasure) as an action for DOTs to consider. Median islands are another countermeasure that could be supported.
- Joe Fiocco, Owner of Fiocco Engineering LLC, mentioned that automated speed enforcement is another tool to help traffic enforce laws at intersections.
- Dennis Winters, Transportation Team Member, Clean Air Council, suggested generating a toolbox that could list all of the viable intersection safety improvement strategies.
- Gus Scheerbaum mentioned it would be beneficial if the RSTF could reach out to the legislators and show support for the requirement of low cost treatments to be considered whenever an intersection is redesigned for any project.
- Larry Bucci, Traffic Safety Engineer, PennDOT District 6, suggested providing specific examples of the various intersection safety improvements within the toolbox that will show how counties and municipalities would benefit from utilizing a particular method.

Action Items

- Develop a toolbox containing all available safety improvement treatments for unsignalized and signalized intersections.
- Share information on the *Pennsylvania State TAC – Cameras in Work Zones Final Report*.
- Distribute the PPA video and information on the newly eligible municipalities and their counties.

6. Follow-up from December 2012 Meeting

The meeting highlights from December 4, 2012 were approved. Zoe Neaderland provided a brief summary of each item below:

- *Quarterly Crash Trends* – Staff developed a new way of showing the preliminary crash data trends. This new approach compares the preliminary number of crashes and fatalities per month in 2012 to the five-year average for that month (2007-2011). Due to crash data reporting differences (paper vs. electronic), New Jersey data will be reported only up to six months before a meeting.
 - In Pennsylvania, the 2012 monthly crash average was lower than the five-year monthly average. There was an average of 23 fatalities per month in 2012, compared to 22 fatalities in the five-year average.
 - In New Jersey, the 2012 nine-month crash average was 16 percent lower than the five-year crash average. The 2012 fatality monthly average was also lower than the five-year fatality average.

- *Volunteer Updates from December 4, 2012 Meeting – Keep Vehicles on the Roadway and Minimize the Consequences of Leaving the Roadway*
 - Kevin Murphy discussed a draft RSTF letter to the New Jersey Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (STRCC), requesting their assistance in moving towards more accurate reporting of crash-related events in the NJTR-1 form to better identify Run-Off-Road (ROR) crashes. The RSTF endorsed the letter. Mr. Murphy also followed up on DVRPC working to provide the NJDOT cluster location lists to counties. There were a few issues of getting county locations to appear on the lists. This was discussed over lunch.
 - Regina Moore, Transportation Engineer at DVRPC, is continuing to work with enforcement agencies to publicize enforcement efforts. Agencies were reminded to provide information to her.
 - Bill Beans, Program Manager, MBO Engineering, LLC, has reached to the New Jersey county prosecutors to determine the best approach in delivering educational materials to judges and prosecutors. Max Little, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association, will reach out to Pennsylvania county prosecutors.
 - Zoe Neaderland discussed another RSTF letter written to the STRCC, requesting their assistance in moving towards more meaningful reporting of aggressive driving as a way to increase transportation safety. The RSTF endorsed the letter.
- *Volunteer Updates from March 8, 2012 Meeting – Ensure Pedestrian Safety*
 - George Fallat reported back on his efforts in determining the effectiveness of rapid flashing beacons on two projects for Hopewell Borough and Lawrence Hopewell Trail (LHT). He received no feedback on the LHT, however response was positive from Hopewell Borough where beacons were installed in front of their library.
 - Officer Jim Philbin provided an update on the success of Cherry Hill Township's Pedestrian Decoy Program. There were numerous violations reported by pedestrians not crossing at crosswalks, particularly along Route 70. The program originally started as an awareness campaign for pedestrians, however has been expanded to educate and enforce the motorists in targeted areas.

7. Member Updates and Open Forum

- Ray Reeve mentioned NJDHTS will conduct four Pedestrian Decoy training sessions this year and are looking to expand the program. There were pedestrian decoy training classes held in August and September. A pedestrian decoy training video for police officers was developed. The video will be distributed to every police department in the state.
- DVRPC is finishing up the 2011 County Crash Data Bulletins. Each bulletin provides an annual snapshot of road safety within each county and its municipalities. It also highlights and compares trends at the state, county, and local levels.
- John Ward mentioned the *DVRPC Long Range Plan* (LRP) update fact sheet that has information on transportation funding in the region.
- Kelvin MacKavanagh, Planning Subcommittee Chair, Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force, announced the annual New Jersey TransAction Conference will be held on April 17-19, 2013 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.
- Joe Fiocco mentioned the South Jersey Chapter of American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) is offering a half-day workshop on designing for pedestrians. This event will be held on April 17, 2013 at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ).
- Sam Spino, Coordinator at Camden County Highway Traffic Safety, mentioned a new Variable Message Board (VMB) campaign in Camden County which targets aggressive

driving, speeding, and pedestrian safety at key locations. The VMB can record driver speed, posted speed, and time. This data is given to municipalities to help them with targeted enforcement efforts.

- Kevin Murphy mentioned the Gloucester County Highway Traffic Task Force will be hosting their 10th Annual High School Safety Video Contest. .

Attendees:

Aguilera, Lori	Chester County Highway Safety
Bartels, Stacy	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Behr, Sheriff Eileen	Montgomery County Sheriff's Department
Bucci, Larry	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – District 6
Buerk, Jesse	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Chelius, Tim	South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
Conover, Kevin	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Delromano, Lt. Nick	Pennsylvania State Police
Fallat, George	Mercer County Engineering Division
Felts, Alex	Greater Valley Forge TMA
Ferraro, Donna	Public Health Management Corporation
Fiocco, Joe	Fiocco Engineering, LLC
Hansen, Janet	Rutgers University – CAIT
Hicken, Eric	New Jersey Office of Emergency Medical Services
Kozak, Diane	Camden County Highway Traffic Safety
Knaus, Kurt	Ceisler Media & Issue Advocacy
Kubiak, Suzanne	Public Health Management Corporation
Little, Max	Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association
MacCarrigan, Lisa	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
MacKavanagh, Kelvin	DVRPC – Goods Movement Committee Task Force
Marrero, Violet	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Matkowski, Laurie	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Merritt, Darrell	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Moore, Regina	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Moyo, Jabulani	Philadelphia Streets Department
Murphy, Kevin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Naderland, Zoe	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Noble, Tracy	AAA Mid-Atlantic – New Jersey Office
Nuble, Patrice	Philadelphia Streets Department
Oaks, Sarah	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Philbin, Officer James	Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Picone, Leah	3M Traffic Safety Systems Division
Ragozine, Bill	Cross County Connection TMA
Reeve, Ray	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Robinson, Jenny	AAA Mid-Atlantic – Philadelphia Office
Rudolph, Brad	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – District 6
Scheerbaum, Gus	Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Transportation & Utilities
Schmidt, Chief Mark	Upper Makefield Township Police Department
Schuler, Dennille	Ceisler Media & Issue Advocacy

Speese, Chris
Spino, Sam
Territo, Charlie
Turk, Lt. Eric
Vilotti, Charles
Ward, John
Ward, John
Wiegman, Chief William
Winters, Sgt. Amy
Winters, Dennis
Zito, Sgt. Joe

PennDOT – Bureau of Maintenance and Operations
Camden County Highway Traffic Safety
American Traffic Solutions
Pennsylvania State Police
Chester County Highway Safety
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
YRC Freight
Lower Southampton Township Police Department
Cherry Hill Township Police Department
Clean Air Council
DRPA Police Department