

Regional Safety Task Force Meeting

HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL 8, 2009 MEETING

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting began with John Ward, Associate Director of Planning, DVRPC welcoming everyone. Mr. Ward introduced the new chair and co-chair of the Task Force, Ray Reeve, New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety and Larry Bucci, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

2. Summary of January 2009 Meeting

Ray Reeve asked for a motion to approve the Highlights from the January 27, 2009 Regional Safety Task Force meeting. The meeting highlights were approved.

3. Update on the Safety Action Plan for the Delaware Valley Region

Zoe Neaderland, Manager of Transportation Safety and Congestion Management, DVRPC presented the preliminary draft update of the Regional Safety Action Plan. The updated safety plan will build on previous work and will be shaped by feedback from the Task Force. The current update began by reviewing the 22 emphasis areas listed in the AASHTO Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The next step was to look for emphasis areas shared by New Jersey and Pennsylvania in their safety plans. Four shared emphasis areas were identified. Analysis specific to the region was done to determine additional emphasis areas with the most potential impact on reducing fatalities. Two emphasis areas were added as a result of this analysis, for a total of six regional emphasis areas. They are: 1) Curb Aggressive Driving; 2) Reduce Impaired Driving (DUI); 3) Reduce Roadway Departure Crashes; 4) Sustain Safe Senior Mobility; 5) Increase Seat Belt Usage; and 6) Improve the Design and Operation of Intersections. Kevin Murphy, DVRPC reiterated that the analysis focused on fatalities, not crashes. A technical report will be issued by DVRPC with more details.

Lou Belmonte, PennDOT suggested adding Pedestrian Safety as a seventh emphasis area for the region, saying 40 percent of traffic fatalities recorded by PennDOT so far this year have been pedestrians. Bill Beans, NJDOT said that in New Jersey pedestrian fatalities are 50 percent of the total so far this year. The decision was made to add pedestrian safety as a seventh emphasis area. Ray Reeve suggested teen driving as another potential emphasis area. Violet Marrero, Manager of Special Projects, NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety noted the difficulty in viewing teen driving as a separate emphasis area, since in reality it overlaps with several of the previously

identified emphasis areas such as: Aggressive Driving, Impaired Driving and Seat Belt Usage.

Break-out groups were formed to discuss programs and strategies for each of the seven emphasis areas.

4. Overview of Transportation Security Planning in the Delaware Valley Region

Zoe Neaderland presented a draft outline of the Overview of Transportation Security Planning in the Delaware Valley Region report underway by DVRPC. The report is intended to:

- Provide an overview of security planning without revealing sensitive information
- Increase opportunities for coordination and improve efficiencies
- Meet federal regulations for MPOs to address security planning.

The Philadelphia region presents a challenging context for security planning. Being located between New York City and Washington, D.C. creates issues in the event that those cities are forced to evacuate. Philadelphia benefits from a robust multimodal system, but the limited number of bridge crossings and bi-state nature of the region present challenges. Coordination between municipalities, counties, states, MPOs, public, and private entities will be essential to regional security planning. It is also critical for security planning efforts to interact with safety and transportation operations planning.

Ms. Neaderland asked the group for feedback. Highlights of the discussion follow:

- Suggestions were offered for improvements to the report's definition of Transportation Security Planning.
- The regional shortage of redundant transportation networks was raised by Sarah Weissman, Transportation Safety Resource Center.
- Stan Niemczak, Jacobs Engineering Group provided an update of the regional evacuation plan for southeast Pennsylvania that will be finalized in June. The planning effort built on existing county evacuation plans, identified regional and cross-county routes, defined operational roles and responsibilities, and addressed the redundancy issue.
- John Ward stressed the importance of information sharing. For example, capital improvements must be coordinated so alternate evacuation plans can be developed.
- Lou Belmonte described PennDOT's successful sharing of video coverage with various enforcement agencies as new cameras come online.
- Richard Montanez, Philadelphia Streets Department spoke of challenges that can arise when trying to share cameras. In his experience, the agency that pays for a camera has the most say about how it is used and who is allowed access. He argued for flexibility in funding and access.
- Bill Beans suggested that Stan Niemczak and others involved in the regional evacuation plan could present to the Task Force in order to share challenges and opportunities for enhanced coordination.

- Liam O’Keefe, City of Philadelphia Emergency Management reported on the successful Philadelphia evacuation planning process. The effort was able to involve key stakeholders, work on building redundancies, and address challenges such as how to get people into New Jersey and what to do once people are there. As part of the solution, Philadelphia entered into the first ever mutual aid agreement between Philadelphia and New Jersey.
- Ms. Neaderland asked the group to please provide feedback and suggestions on the draft report by April 17, 2009.

Open Forum

An open forum was held for members to share and exchange information. Larry Bucci said there was a 20 percent drop in highway deaths last year. However, he said it’s hard to know how much is due to successful programs and how much is simply because people are driving less. Mr. Bucci also said the “Drive Safe PA” program is reorganizing and some districts may be combined. Matt Anderson said Chester County’s Strategic Business Plan is looking to improve safety and will pull strategies from the regional Safety Action Plan. Mike Castellano, FHWA - Pennsylvania praised PennDOT’s “Follow the Cone” program for National Work Zone Awareness Week. Caroline Trueman, FHWA – New Jersey praised the Work Zone Awareness Week program as a quality partnership and pointed out that work zone safety is an especially important issue as stimulus projects begin to hit the ground. Sgt. Wayne Mason, Pennsylvania State Police said that DUIs and crashes are down. Bill Beans said crashes in New Jersey for 2008 were the lowest they’ve been since 1948. Violet Marrero shared information about the Driver Education Safety Symposium that will take place at Rutgers on May 21, 2009. Violet is reaching out to the Latino community about pedestrian safety issues, and is looking to partner with agencies in Pennsylvania.

The new teen driver laws in NJ should be passed soon, including an identifier requirement for teen drivers, a bill limiting passengers in cars driven by teens, and a shift in terminology to “probationary” licenses (subsequently signed by Governor Corzine on April 15, 2008). Ray Reeve said Governor Corzine just signed a law (“Move Over Law”) in New Jersey requiring drivers to slow down or switch lanes when approaching an emergency vehicle that is responding on a roadway. New Jersey has discontinued the “Smooth Operator” program, absorbing its functions under the “Obey the Signs or Pay the Fines” campaign. The “Click it or Ticket” initiative will begin in New Jersey around Memorial Day weekend. Mary Beth Dixon said AARP adopted the Mobility Agenda and is working to get Complete Streets legislation passed in every state.

Attendees

Anderson, Gastonia	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Anderson, Matthew	Chester County Planning Commission
Bartels, Stacy	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Beans, Bill	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Belmonte, Lou	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bowlby, Dave	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Bryant, Edward Lt.	Gloucester Township Police
Bucci, Larry	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Buerk, Jesse	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Castellano, Mike	Federal Highway Administration - Pennsylvania
Chen, Mengke	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Cushing, Linda	Burlington County Office of Aging
Dixon, Mary Beth	AARP
Duval, Jennifer	Jacobs Engineering
Evans, Joe	Philadelphia Sheriff's Office
Feggans, Charles	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Ferry, Kurt	Greenwich Terminals
Fullerton, Dave	PATCO
Gatchell, Robert	New Jersey Transit Police
Hayes, Linda	Delaware River Port Authority
Herbst, Bruce Lt.	Burlington County Bridge Police
Hufnagle, Louis	Delaware County Planning Department
Lang, Fred	Camden County Prosecutor's Office
MacKavanagh, Kelvin	DVRPC Goods Movement Task Force
Marrero, Violet	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Mason, Wayne, Sgt.	Pennsylvania State Police
Matkowski, Laurie	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
McQuilkin, James	Delaware River Port Authority
Montanez, Richard	Philadelphia Streets Department
Moore, Regina	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Moyo, Jabulani	Philadelphia Streets Department
Murphy, Kevin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Nederland, Zoe	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Niemczak, Stan	Jacobs Engineering
Nuble, Patrice	Philadelphia Streets Department
O'Keefe, Liam	City of Philadelphia – Emergency Management
Only, Robert	Delaware River Port Authority
Paris, Chris Sgt.	Pennsylvania State Police
Ragozine, Bill	Cross County Connection TMA
Reeve, Ray	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Schiavi, Bill	South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
Sexton, Derrick	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Snyder, Brian Cpl.	Delaware County Sheriff's Office
Sweeney, Dennis	CSX

Thomas, Carol Ann
Trimbell, Shayne
Trueman, Caroline
Walsh, Nicholas
Ward, John
Weissman, Sarah
Williams, Greg
Ziemer, Karl
Zito, Joe Sgt.

Burlington County Engineer's Office
Greater Valley Forge TMA
Federal Highway Administration – New Jersey
Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Safety Resource Center
New Jersey State Police
Delaware River Port Authority
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