

BALTIMORE REGIONAL SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, February 28, 2019
10:00 to 11:45 A.M.
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300, Baltimore, MD, 21230

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Denise Worsley, Chair, Baltimore City DOT welcomed everyone to the meeting. Each person identified themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Members reviewed the minutes and approved by consensus.

3. MARYLAND HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE (MHSO) – VISION AND DIRECTION

Dr. Tim Kerns shared updates about an impaired driving symposium in Washington, DC the previous day, as well as the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) report released this morning predicting pedestrian fatalities. Dr. Kerns then gave an overview of current Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) efforts. He explained the 2016-2020 SHSP, its six emphasis areas (Aggressive Driving, Distracted Driving, Highway Infrastructure, Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, Pedestrian/Bicycle) and overarching goal to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by 50% from 2008 to 2030. This is Maryland's Toward Zero Deaths goal and Dr. Kerns noted that pedestrian fatalities increased in 2018 (preliminary data) and official figures will be released by Transportation Secretary Pete Rahn at the Traffic Safety Summit on April 17, 2019. Dr. Kerns concluded by discussing the importance of local strategic plans to improve safety and reduce crashes by addressing issues unique to each jurisdiction.

Mr. Jeff Dunckel asked if the SHSP goals are affected as fatalities increase (notably pedestrians). Dr. Kerns explained that although interim targets are not achieved, it does not change the goal for 2030. Many of the five-year rolling averages may not change direction quickly, but the pedestrian trend has been affected. Mr. Doug Mowbray mentioned the expiration of the FAST Act Surface Transportation Bill in 2020 as possibly having an effect on planning and other efforts to reduce fatalities. Dr. Kerns explained that GHSA and other national partners are tracking the development of a new Transportation Authorization Bill and noted that drugged driving is another focus, in addition to pedestrian safety. Ms. Nanette

Schieke asked if the drugged driving conference the previous day focused on prescription and over-the-counter medication, to which the answer was yes. Mr. Chris Letnaunchyn shared that Senator Chris Van Hollen has reached out to local partners in preparation for a new Transportation Authorization Bill.

Mr. Bala Akundi thanked MHSO on behalf of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) for the ongoing support and collaboration. Dr. Kerns explained that MHSO is working to strengthen relationships on the local level with MDOT-State Highway Administration District Offices and Departments of Health.

Mr. Dunckel explained some of the pedestrian safety grants that are being proposed for FY 2020 and the process for submitting applications by Sunday March 3, 2019.

[PowerPoint: Strategic Highway Safety Plan – Moving Maryland Toward Zero Deaths]

4. LOCAL STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLANS

The three jurisdiction partners noted benefits to having diverse SHSP committees, sound data analysis to begin development of a plan, and how it is critical to then implement and evaluate the plan. Each jurisdiction's team is also committed to obtaining executive approval and support for the plan, and to possibly have discussions with the Governor's Representative for Highway Safety, MDOT MVA Administrator Chrissy Nizer.

Mr. Letnaunchyn and Captain Dave Stem from Carroll County shared some updates on their planning efforts. They noted that working to affect small numbers of fatalities is challenging, so the Carroll County group is focusing their plan and performance measures on injury crashes and total crashes. This allows them to use more stable metrics, where small numbers of fatalities may fluctuate significantly without explanation. The Carroll County team is diverse, including state and local partners, and has been meeting monthly. They are concluding the data analysis/problem identification phase and are now selecting Emphasis Areas.

Sergeant Mike Lane from Harford County updated the group on the status of the Harford SHSP. The County is in the middle of its second plan, the first being adopted in 2013 and the current one in 2018. He explained the local commitment to traffic safety and the designation of a Traffic Safety Task Force in 2012 to develop a strategic plan. The Harford County SHSP is based on the statewide plan and the Task Force is currently working to implement and evaluate the plan.

Mr. Chris Eatough from Howard County updated the group on the current status of the Howard SHSP committee. He explained that a multi-disciplinary team has begun meeting monthly to construct a plan and the effort is being led by the Office of Transportation. This team builds upon the successful US 1 Evaluation Study and involves many of the same partners. The group is reviewing available data, both on the state and local levels, to identify Emphasis Areas. Mr. Eatough also mentioned that changes in executive positions, following the 2018 election, may affect development timelines.

Ms. Tanya Asman requested updates on other plans that have been implemented (Prince George's, Montgomery, Washington, and Cecil Counties).

[PowerPoint: Local Strategic Highway Safety Plans]

5. REGIONAL PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Mr. Jose Marrero presented the final creative materials. These were identified based on focus group feedback. Mr. Eatough suggested shooting the video near a school as a way to use different environments and types of pedestrians. Mr. Dunckel discussed more of the focus group findings. Mr. Mowbray mentioned the car-centric society and how we may use Signal Woman to educate broadly. Ms. Debbie Jennings likes the concepts and is looking forward to the final product. Mr. Eatough likes the positive tone and Mr. Mike Farrell agrees.

[PowerPoint: Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Campaign – Creative Findings]

6. MEMBER REPORTS

No further reports.

Next Meeting – May 23, 10:00 – 11:45 AM

ATTENDANCE:

Bala Akundi – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Regina Aris – BMC
Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Cindy Burch – BMC
Allie Chavez – National Study Center for Trauma & EMS
Adrienne Dealy – Sherry Matthews, Inc.
Jeff Dunckel – MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office (MDOT MVA MHSO)
Chris Eatough – Howard County Office of Transportation
Mike Farrell – Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) (by phone)
Mansoureh Jeyhani - Morgan State University (by phone)
Debbie Jennings – Chesapeake Region Safety Council
Tim Kerns – MDOT MVA MHSO
Bari Klein – Harford County Health Department
Mike Lane – Harford County Sheriff's Office
Chris Letnaunchyn – Carroll County Department of Public Works
Jose Marrero – Sherry Matthews, Inc. (by phone)
Doug Mowbray – MDOT MVA MHSO
Kris Nebre – Baltimore County Department of Public Works
Walter Phillips – MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA)
John Rotz – MDOT SHA
Jon Schermann – MWCOCG
Nanette Schieke – MDOT MVA MHSO
Dave Stem – Carroll County Sheriff's Office
Linda Taylor-Newton - Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT)
Philip Thomas – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Russ Ulrich – BMC
Kay Underwood – Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT)
Karen Wieland – Integrated Designs, Inc.
Denise Worsley – Baltimore City DOT
Yan Zhang – Howard County Department of Public Works