

BALTIMORE REGIONAL SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday October 8, 2024

10:00 - 11:03 A.M.

Virtual meeting

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Debbie Jennings, Chesapeake Region Safety Council (CRSC), called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2024 MINUTES

Ms. Jennings asked for any comments or changes to the minutes from the June 27, 2024 Baltimore Regional Safety Subcommittee meeting. Receiving none, the minutes were accepted into the record.

3. LOOK ALIVE WITH SIGNAL WOMAN

Ms. Kenna Williams Swift, Sherry Matthews Group, provided updates from recent Look Alive outreach activities. Those included social and paid media, street teams, and the virtual reality car. One unique event was with the Baltimore Orioles in September 2024, which included the virtual reality setup, signal people, and a photo wall. It was a very successful event and the location at Gate H was ideal. Ms. Swift also shared plans for October, the National Pedestrian Safety Month.

Ms. Jennings also shared about working with Ms. Swift to bring the Look Alive resources to other local events.

[PowerPoint: Look Alive]

4. FEDERAL UPDATES

Mr. Breck Jeffers, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), shared updates on safety programs. Those included the Safe System Approach (SSA) and several outreach webinars and materials have been sent out related to the SSA. Another effort is focused on equity and incorporating different vulnerable populations, such as those who are unhoused. He offered to provide more detail about the equity activities at a future meeting with a subject matter expert at FHWA headquarters.

Ms. Jennings thanked him for the pedestrian safety information videos that were shared the week prior. She asked if it was possible to provide an overview of the SSA for the general user because those videos were more for practitioners. If anyone is aware of such an overview of SSA, please contact Ms. Jennings.

Mr. Jeffers noted that last year Maryland was able to meet the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) goals, provide vulnerable road user funding, and begin implementing projects from the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. In the coming years, those projects should move from planning to construction. He also anticipates an announcement for local HSIP funding in the spring and more application rounds for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program.

5. STATE UPDATES

Ms. Myra Wieman, Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office (MHSO), provided information on FY 2025 grants across the region. Those included law enforcement programs as well as outreach/education projects. Examples include bicycle safety training, mock crashes, distracted driving, injury prevention, Impact Teen Drivers, motorcycle safety, and data analysis support. Some of those were also statewide grants that benefit the region.

Ms. Cindy Burch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), asked about the University of Maryland Medical System Foundation distracted driving simulator program and if it was similar to simulators that have been brought into local libraries in past years. The University program will be going into high schools in Baltimore City with the simulator. Ms. Burch then asked if the program was linked to court-ordered diversion programs run through the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center and those seem to be different efforts but the simulator may be used in both.

Ms. Jennings asked about a comprehensive list of simulators across the region or state and there doesn't seem to be one. It's a great idea to build such a list for state-funded and privately-funded programs.

[PowerPoint: MHSO new grants]

6. REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Ms. Burch explained that the FY 2025 project for a hyper-local safety messaging campaign. It will build and expand upon other safety messaging disseminated by national and state partners. The project will focus on neighborhood and local level outlets and maintain the positive outlook approach utilized by the state Be The Driver campaign. She has been working with each jurisdiction's safety teams for suggested media resources that reach their public. Each local Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) was used to help focus the messages. If you have ideas, please contact Ms. Burch.

7. LOCAL STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLANS

Ms. Burch shared a brief update on the local SHSPs in the region:

- Ms. Shayna Rose, Baltimore City Department of Transportation, shared that another demonstration application was submitted for SS4A funds (\$10 million). This effort will expand partnerships and hope to create local manufacturing and development jobs for the quick-build installations.
- The Baltimore County group continues to work with a consultant to develop a Vision Zero action plan for the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) with a strong equity component.
- The Carroll County Strategic Traffic Safety Plan (STSP) team is implementing the Impact Teen Drivers in all public high schools. They are also working together on Move Over law enforcement activations.
- Mr. Connor Jett, Howard County Office of Transportation, shared that the Howard County Strategic Road Safety Plan (SRSP) team has finalized the SS4A Route 1 agreements to begin work. They have been working with Smart Growth America on the Complete Streets Academy to work on the Route 1 project as well. Work has begun to update the SRSP. Ms. Eileen Singleton (BMC) noted that a bicycle skills traffic garden has been built in the southern part of the county in Huntington Park.
- Ms. Burch noted that it will be a busy year coming as the state updates the Strategic Highway Safety Plan and several local plans will be updated. If you are interested in joining the state working groups, please contact Ms. Burch or MHSO.

8. OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Jennings asked for any new business from the group. She then shared about impairment trainings for workplace safety professionals conducted by CRSC. She also shared that four mock crashes are scheduled for 2025 with Dr. Janet Bahouth of Crash Core.

Howard – Mt. Hebron on April 23 (rain date 4/25)

Harford – C. Milton Wright on May 1 (rain date 5/2)

She also shared that Impairment Science Incorporated, a company out of Massachusetts, that developed an app that is an impairment self-assessment tool. It may also be used by employers and costs \$1.99/month. CRSC is doing a pilot project with a Baltimore County company.

Ms. Burch mentioned that the Baltimore County Young Drivers Safety Program will happen on Saturday October 19 at the Carver Vocational Technical School in Towson, MD.

The next meeting will be held virtually on December 19, 2024.

No other discussion was had and Ms. Jennings adjourned the meeting at 11:03 A.M.

Attendance:

Tanya Asman – Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Janet Bahouth – Crash Core
Breck Jeffers – Federal Highway Administration
Debbie Jennings – Chesapeake Region Safety Council
Connor Jett – Howard County Office of Transportation
Barry List – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) State Highway Administration (SHA)
Doug Mowbray – Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office (MHSO)
Walter Phillips – MDOT SHA
Shayna Rose – Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Nicole Waldheim – Fehr & Peers
Kenna Williams Swift – Sherry Matthews Group
Myra Wieman – MHSO

Staff:

Cindy Burch – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Todd Lang – BMC
Anna Marshall – BMC
Eileen Singleton – BMC