

SHSP Leadership Meeting 4/7/11

Department of Education

Summary

The Strategic Highway Safety Plan Leadership Group met on April 7, 2011, at the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. In attendance were

Grady Carrick, FHP

Gary Tait, Hillsborough Cty, Public Works

Stephanie Hubbard, Operation LifeSaver

Grier Kirkpatrick, ATSSA

Dennis Scott, DOT, Bike Ped Coordinator

Charlie Hood, DOE

Stephanie Daugherty, DOH,EMS

Mark Wilson, DOT, Traffic Operations

Phil Rivers, Florida Sheriffs Association

Roy Hudson, Florida Sheriffs Association

Gail Holley, DOT, Traffic Operations

Mary Anne Koos, DOT, Roadway Design

June Berlinger, DHSMV

Walter Castle, DHSMV

Mary Lou Rajchel, Fl. Trucking Ass'n

Brian Watts, DOT, Policy Planning

David Blodgett, DOT, Planning

Trenda McPherson, DOT, Safety Office

Brian Blanchard, DOT, Chief Engineer

Marianne Trussell, DOT, Safety Office

After a short welcome by Marianne Trussell, the meeting began with introductions.

Marianne Trussell gave a briefing on a presentation on the SHSP that she had given on April 4 at the Institute of Transportation Engineers Conference in Orlando. The presentation was part of a panel discussion on the progress of state Strategic Highway Safety Plans. The presentation also contained information that has been gathered to data supporting an amendment to the SHSP, including the 1,000+ responses to the online survey and thought the presentation would provide valuable information to the group on SHSP progress. Marianne also talked about the rebranding of the SHSP to conform to the national movement for all states to adopt a variation on the theme of “zero deaths” or “toward zero deaths” and shared a few other states’ logos and slogans, as well as one that was developed by the DOT safety office for the 2012 Lifesavers Conference that will be held in Orlando and hosted by the DOT safety office.

Marianne also shared a presentation that was prepared by a Federal Highway Administration team that visited the DOT regarding Florida’s SHSP and its evaluation processes. After the day-long meeting, the team provided a brief on the positive things Florida is doing regarding its SHSP.

June Berlinger (DHSMV) reported on the good initiatives being made by the Drive With Care Program offered by DHSMV to help teens and their parents make better driving decisions. She advised that the program is growing with the inclusion of a health and injury prevention perspective.

Gail Holley (DOT) reported on the strides being made by the Safe Mobility For Life Coalition for elder road users and the progress that is being made in developing its strategic plan with the involvement and

dedication of a wide variety of partners. There will be a face to face meeting coalition members in May to continue work on the strategic plan (other meetings have been held via video conference).

Grady Carrick (FHP) reported on the new crash report that is mandatory for use by all agencies as of 1/1/11 and that the report quality on the electronic version is “outstanding.” However, some training may still be needed for “paper” users of the form. Charlie Hood raised the troubling issue and concern of school districts now having to pay for crash reports based upon some new legislation being discussed. Many others in local governments and agencies have the same serious concerns. The Florida Sheriffs’ Association advised that it charges all for their generated crash reports, but it is handled individually by each sheriff’s department. This is a big issue and it was suggested that memoranda of understanding may be needed between data collectors and governmental users because they cannot afford the cost of paying for thousands of crash reports. Grady also talked about the STAR program whereby the initiatives of FHP troops are linked to the SHSP.

Mark Wilson (DOT) discussed on safety initiative which is reflectorized back plates on traffic signals and the performance of before and after studies to determine their effectiveness. He also discussed progress on the Federal Highway Administration initiated intersection safety plan and the DOT’s ongoing implementation efforts. He mentioned roundabouts and the DOT’s development of a policy on roundabouts and the educational component that needs to go along with their construction.

Grier Kirkpatrick (ATSSA) commended DOT on its intersection safety plan and taking system wide approaches to safety. Members are talking about more audible-vibratory markings on local roads. David O’Hagan wanted it mentioned that there is a lot of interest lately in applying safety edge where paved shoulders don’t exist or there is a drop off. Safety edge would help ease the transition when drivers allow their vehicle to veer from the travel lane. DOT is performing an internal analysis of its potential need/use on state roads.

Brian Watts (DOT) mentioned the 2060 Transportation Plan and its safety goal, reminding the group as it moves to amending the SHSP to keep the 2060 goals in mind (eliminate fatalities and minimize injuries).

Dave Blodgett (DOT) discussed the DOT Office of Policy Planning safety surveys and a new software being tested “Plan Safe” to help make good safety decisions in planning process. The Volusia MPO and MetroPlan Orlando are piloting the software.

Trenda McPherson (DOT) provided updates on the Motorcycle Safety Coalition initiatives during Bike Week and a domestic scan of motorcycle safety initiatives in Florida. She also talked about the success of CarFit for older drivers and that it will be hold its 100th event on May 4-5 in Orlando. United We Guide is another program that is taking root which helps non driving seniors find alternative transportation.

Stephanie Hubbard (Operation LifeSaver) discussed Operation LifeSaver’s public awareness campaign and that the third week in April is train safety week; she handed out posters for everyone to display.

They have coordinated with law enforcement and created a law enforcement officer recognition program for train safety awareness initiatives.

Charlie Hood (DOE) thanked Operation LifeSaver due to the safety issue of railroad crossings and school buses. He also informed the group of an initiative of school bus drivers to document illegal bus passings, which should develop some good feedback. Floridaschoolbussafety.gov is still operational. DOE commissioner retiring June 10; they too are in need of a leader. He also discussed the ads on school bus bill; DOE is taking a neutral position. Charlie also talked about a proposal to put video cameras on school buses to detect and record illegal passing; very expensive proposition.

Stephanie Daugherty (DOH) discussed the Department of Health's prime goal which is to standardize emergency medical data and to get agencies to report incident level data (up to 46% of all agencies at this time). She also talked about the data warehouse to link trauma and EMS data sets on patient outcomes; eventually will link with crash data.

Dennis Scott (DOT) advised that the Bike Florida President is in town to talk about bicyclist safety and distracted driving. Unfortunately a cyclist was killed on the Bike Florida tour by a young driver who was reaching down to pick up his dropped cell phone. SRTS progressing; Florida is presenting a nationwide seminar on Florida's Crossing Guard training program on April 12; 229 people are registered. His group is also working on the development of a statewide pedestrian action plan; kick off meeting is May 11. 26% of pedestrian crashes are in private parking lots. The bike/ped folks are excited by the recent purchase of a series of webinars on a variety of bike/ped issues through safety office expense budget funds.

Mary Anne Koos (DOT) talked about the prevalence of pedestrian crashes involving vehicle permissive left turns. She also advised that DOT is updating its design criteria for shared use paths and that there will be design update training on April 19.

Phil Rivers (FSA) – reported on the success and progress of the Teen driver Challenge program sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association; 37 trainers licensed to do the program. He also advised the group that FSA is now in its new facility and that it has a state of the art training center which we are welcome to use for law enforcement related meetings. (we will consider holding our next meeting at this location)

Roy Hudson (FSA) – also encouraged members and their agencies to consider using their facility. He also noted that he believes the "move over" campaign is really working as he is seeing much greater compliance than ever.

Gary Tait (Hillsborough County Public Works) thanked Operation LifeSaver and the presentation they did for the DOT D7 Community Traffic Safety Team meeting; the motorcycle coalition did a presentation in February. People are starting to get used to roundabouts; three roundabouts in his area. They now have a county pedestrian action plan and are just days away from approval of a bicycle action plan. Law enforcement wants to do night time enforcement to hand out safety information and a light to put on bicycles right on the spot. Teens complained that only 12 of their schools have driving simulators and

want one in every high school; steps are being taken to use Slosberg funds to put a simulator in every high school in the county.

Brian Blanchard (DOT) provided some additional information on safety edge and the push by the Federal Highway Administration to use it as a safety measure as part of their Every Day Counts initiative. He also discussed the current legislative proposal to allow bicycles on limited access facilities to cross water bodies under certain conditions. DOT will select three pilot sites, monitor usage, provide signage, and report on results in two years.

In closing, Grady Carrick asked if we could build out the data for the proposed new emphasis areas to the SHSP. Marianne assured that this will be done.

Next Meeting:

The Leadership Group remains in a wait and see mode as many agencies are uncertain as to their permanent agency head. Hopefully appointments will be made and we can proceed to educate them as Executive Committee members and take the next steps toward an amended SHSP. Otherwise, the Leadership Group will continue to meet quarterly.

Thanks to all who attended and provided valuable input and for your continued support.