

**WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
COMMISSION MEETING**

**January 15, 2015**

**Olympia, Washington**

**[Approved April 16, 2015]**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Judge James P. Swanger, Judiciary, Chair, Sandy Mullins, Governor's Representative, Pat Kohler, Department of Licensing, Jon Snyder, Association of Washington Cities

**COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT:** Deputy Chief Curt Hattell, Washington State Patrol, Darrin Grondel, Washington Traffic Safety Commission, John Nisbet, Washington State Department of Transportation, Alan Jones, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:** Jonna VanDyk, MJ Haught, Edica Esqueda, Mark Medalen

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Marsha Masters, Target Zero Manager Kitsap, Bruce Chunn, Department of Licensing, Julie Knittle, Department of Licensing, Dusty Greene Lewis County, Steve Aust, Lewis County Sheriff's Office and Lewis County LEL, John Pagel, Target Zero Manager, South King County, Marty Miller, Washington State Patrol, David Wright, Target Zero Manager, Whatcom County, Jerry Noviello, Target Zero Manager, Thurston County, Melody Nelson, Target Zero Manager, Lewis County, April Kelley, Social Services Manager, Lewis County, Tom Martin, Washington State Patrol

**The Regular Meeting of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) was called to order at 10:31 a.m., on January 15, 2015, at the WTSC Headquarters in Olympia, Washington, by Commissioner James Swanger, meeting Chair.**

**Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes**

A quorum is not present at today's meeting, so approval of the October 2014 minutes will be set over to the April 2015 meeting.

Commissioners recognized a moment of silence in memory of Washington State Patrol Trooper Clayton J. Gocha who passed away unexpectedly in early January.

**Motorcycle Video – Julie Knittle, DOL**

Commissioner Kohler introduced a video created by the Department of Licensing (DOL) and the WTSC, addressing young drivers sharing the road with motorcycles. Motorcycle fatalities are currently a Level 2 priority in the Target Zero Plan

The video launched on December 1, 2014, and there have been 252,000 hits on the DOL website. It has been viewed in over 50 countries, including the United States, Poland, Canada, Finland, China, and the United Kingdom. In addition, a person involved in the motorcycle arena nationally has put the video on their website and it has received over 4.7 million hits.

Julie Knittle offered that the video is more unique because it is geared toward young drivers and how to share the road with motorcycles. Most of the videos currently available are focused on the rider and how to ride safer. The video is being distributed to all driver education training offices in the state.

The was shown to Commissioners and attendees.

#### **Olympia Toy Run – Mark Medalen**

WTSC and DOL staffed a vendor booth at the Motorcycle Toy Run in Olympia, distributing safety information and answering questions about motorcycle training opportunities in the state. The WTSC partnered with Interstate Distribution in Tacoma who had three truck/trailers wrapped with motorcycle safety messages. These truck/trailer combinations were parked along the Toy Run parade route.

A documenting the day was shown to Commissioners and attendees.

#### **Suspended Drivers – Julie Knittle and Bruce Chunn, DOL**

Julie Knittle and Bruce Chunn presented on the data collected after the passage of legislation in 2012 that addressed reducing suspended drivers. The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) is a nonprofit organization developing model programs in motor vehicle administration, law enforcement, and highway safety. AAMVA created a work group to reduce the number of suspended drivers, identify violations impacting highway safety, find other ways to address non-highway safety actions, and limit suspensions to those who pose risk to the public. Washington participated in the workgroup and the data collected by Washington will be compared to the study.

Suspending driving privileges has been used for decades to address poor driving behavior. Research has shown that it is effective in reducing crashes. Originally the three goals for suspending driver privileges were 1) to remove dangerous drivers from the road, 2) to change driving behavior, or 3) to punish unsafe drivers. Over time, a fourth goal emerged – to gain compliance for social non-conformance violations (i.e., non-highway safety related violations like bounced checks, truancy, failure to pay library fines, etc.). In 2002, across the country, 29

percent of all suspended drivers fell into that fourth category. By 2006, the number had grown to 39 percent. There is significant cost associated with processing these driver suspension cases. Those costs detract from the highway and public safety priorities that should be the focus.

Since the passage of the law in 2012, Washington has only five violations that still result in a suspended license: 1) minor in possession, 2) leaving a child in a running vehicle, 3) non-payment of child support, 4) fuel theft, and 5) fraudulent license. The new law and AAMVA's best practices have allowed the law enforcement to pursue true highway safety issues that pose a threat to public safety, reduced the number of suspensions DOL processes, and freed up court time.

A short discussion ensued.

### **PIRE Roadside Survey – Jonna VanDyk**

Jonna briefly recapped the PIRE Roadside Surveys conducted in 2014. The first data collection was conducted in June 2014, and the second was conducted in late-November and early-December 2014. Data was collected in six counties.

Fewer people participated in November/December data collection than in June -- 600 vs. 926. Researchers believe a few things may have contributed to the reduced number of participants, including colder temperatures, there was less media coverage in November/December; and, in the June collection, in Seattle, the King County Sheriff provided security even though the collection was taken within city limits. The King County Sheriff was unable to provide security for the November/December and a new venue was selected.

Only two drivers were processed through the impaired driver protocol (provided assistance in getting home) in November/December versus eight in the June data collection.

Commissioners viewed a regarding the PIRE Roadside Survey.

The from the June data collection is included in Commission packets. The final report, when released, will have much more detailed information.

PIRE and NHTSA have indicated an interest in conducting another survey in June 2015.

### **Legislative Report – Distracted Driving Video – Shelly Baldwin**

Shelley showed a video portraying the problems law enforcement encounters when attempting to enforce the texting and driving law. In response to that, the WTSC asked for and received permission from the Governor's Office to run agency request legislation related to distracted driving. The WTSC is still looking for a sponsor for the proposed bill.

Shelly will provide Commissioners a list of bills that the WTSC tracking.

### **TZM – Statements of Work – Update – Edica Esqueda**

Edica sent an email to all contract regions notifying them of the process for developing statements of work. WTSC will begin with the contractor regions using the state procurement process. A second email was sent to the contract regions requesting contact information for partners to participate in a survey and provide feedback on programs they would like TZMs to focus on. Dr. Staci Hoff provided region specific data that includes fatalities, serious injury, and priority areas. That data will be used to assist in the development of customized statements of work. Once a draft statement of work has been prepared, WTSC will begin negotiations.

WTSC is running the FTE areas in similar fashion. The survey will be used for feedback, including what local partners decide should be included in the statements of work.

### **Director's Report – Darrin Grondel**

Sharon Dillon retired on December 31, and the WTSC is working with the Governor's Boards & Commissions for a replacement.

The hiring process for the Program Manager position vacated by Shelly is underway. We hope to have the new Program Manager on board by late-February or early-March.

Grant notifications are out for FFY 2016 and the due date for receipt of proposals is January 30. Staff and the Technical Advisory Committee will review all proposals and present recommendations to the Commissioners for approval at the April meeting. Those approved grants will be submitted to FHWA on July 1.

Planning is underway for our October 13-15, 2015, Washington Traffic Safety Conference. The conference will be held in SeaTac, and we are in the process of deciding on topics and speakers.

August 27-31, 2016, is the Annual GHSA Conference. WTSC is hosting the annual conference, to be held in Seattle.

The number of fatalities in 2013 has been confirmed at 436. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> straight year we have seen a reduction in fatalities. While the results for 2014 will not be confirmed until December 31, 2015, the preliminary number of fatalities is 460, a 5.2 percent increase. We will analyze the impacts of I-502 and conduct additional research to determine where the issues are.

In 2014, Oregon saw a 12 percent increase in fatalities. Marijuana becomes legal in Oregon on July 1, 2015.

State Farm provided the Commission with a \$50,000 grant which is distributed to local high schools and/or clubs in mini grants of \$500. This year, we held a competition for students to submit a video addressing impaired driving or a traffic safety element. Two winners of the competition, along with a parent or advisor, were awarded a trip to attend the LifeSavers Conference March 14-17, in Chicago. The two students will be presenting their video at a breakout session. Winners are Hunter Watson of University High School in the Spokane Valley and Kennedy Guinn from Hoquiam High School.

### **Other Business**

Commissioner Snyder reported that a Cooper Jones meeting was held in November to identify gaps in policy regarding bicycle/pedestrian safety. The Committee is looking forward to continuing the movement of bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Commissioner Snyder testified in favor of SB 5002 relating to open containers for marijuana. He asked if anyone testified against the bill. Commissioner Snyder took the opportunity to cite the PIRE results, an example of how valuable this data is. Shelly Baldwin reported that a member of the Cannabis Action Coalition attended the hearing and testified against the bill, indicating there is federal law prohibiting us from not allowing him to carry his medicine in a car. Shelly said that as the bill is written he could still carry the marijuana, but it would need to be in his trunk.

Commissioner Kohler added that in her discussions with the Governor regarding the motorcycle video, the Governor indicated he is interested in doing something similar for bicyclists. Darrin Suggested she contact Commissioner Snyder and the Cooper Jones Committee.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, Commissioner Swanger asked for a motion for adjournment. Commissioner Kohler moved for adjournment, Commissioner Snyder seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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**These minutes in addition to the audio recordings constitute the full minutes. Audio recordings of Commission meetings can be found on the WTSC website – [wtsc.wa.gov](http://wtsc.wa.gov).**

Geri Nelson  
Executive Assistant