

**WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING
January 21, 2016
Olympia, Washington**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Pat Kohler (Chair), Director, Department of Licensing (DOL); Judge James P. Swanger, Judiciary; Sandy Mullins, Governor's Representative; Carolann Swartz, Washington State Association of Counties; Chief John Batiste, Washington State Patrol (WSP); Jon Snyder, Association of Washington Counties (resigned)

COMMISSIONER DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT: John Nisbet, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); Allan Jones, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Scott Waller, Department of Social and Health Services

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT: Darrin Grondel, Geri Nelson

The Regular Meeting of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) was called to order at 10:33 a.m., on January 21, 2016, at the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, by Commissioner Carolann Swartz, meeting Chair.

A quorum is not present; however, Sandy Mullins is expected to attend. Approval of the October minutes is tabled until April. The Commission will move forward with discussion on the Action Council on Young Drivers.

Action Council on Young Drivers. Commissioner Kohler asked the Commission to approve a resolution to establish an Action Council for Young Drivers. The Traffic Safety Commission and the Department of Licensing will jointly lead the Council, with representatives from WSP, DOL, DOH, DSHS, WSDOT, OSPI, local government, public health, law enforcement agencies, AAA, Professional Drivers Association, Inc., Washington Traffic Safety Education Association, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center, and other traffic safety experts as necessary. The Council will coordinate statewide young driver safety efforts.

The Council will meet quarterly, or more frequently as necessary. A comprehensive legislative package to address young driver issues will be presented to the Commission and the Governor in time for the 2017 Legislative Session. The Council will develop a public awareness and outreach program over the next year to raise awareness about young driver safety and to raise support for the legislative package. The Resolution, Act, and Timeline are included in Commissioner packets. Because a quorum is not present, the timeline will be adjusted to reflect:

January 2016	Reconstitute Young Driver Task Force
May 2016	NHTSA Driver Education Assessment
May 2016	Policy Summit/Young Driver Conference
Summer 2016	Public Outreach
Late-Sumer 2016	2017 Legislative Package Agreed Upon

Key policy issues surrounding young driver safety must be addressed or the drive to Target Zero is unattainable.

Chief Batiste committed the WSP's support of and participation in this Council.

Brady Horenstein, DOL, said that informal meetings have been occurring, but the goal with the Council is to reinvigorate this effort. Mr. Horenstein is looking forward to working with the Commission member agencies on a legislative package, which is critical to addressing funding deficiencies.

The Action Council will continue working in an informal manner until the formal resolution can be adopted at the April Commission meeting. The Decision Package will be placed on the July 21, 2016, Commission meeting agenda.

Director Grondel thanked Mr. Horenstein and Angie Ward, WTSC, on the tremendous work they have accomplished to date.

Commissioner Swartz asked how, once this is in place, we get the word out at the local level and how we get youth involved. She recommended that we engage the local health districts in this project. Discussion ensued on how to get local partners and youth involved.

On June 1, DOL is rolling out improvements to the driver guide, knowledge test, and driver curriculum. The knowledge test was compared to the Target Zero Plan and its priorities and gaps were identified. The knowledge test and driver guide were modified to coincide with the Target Zero Plan and focus on high priority areas, such as impairment including drugs, distracted driving, and hazard awareness. The knowledge test questions increased from 25 to 40. In addition, DOL is looking at educational materials for the 20-21 year olds on impaired driving, similar to the letter sent to 18-20 year olds when they get their first ticket, etc.

Pedestrian Safety Advisory Council. Last year, a bill passed creating a Pedestrian Safety Advisory Council and the WTSC received a half time (.5) FTE. Larry Leveen was hired as the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Council Coordinator. Mr. Leveen briefly discussed his plans, currently underway, for establishment of the Council.

2016 Legislative Updates.

HB 2574 - Distracted Driving is a big focus again this year. Representative Ferrell is the new prime sponsor for the distracted driving bill. A work session on the bill is scheduled for next week. A short discussion ensued about past years' bills, issues faced, and plans for moving forward this year.

SB 6236 - 24/7 Sobriety Program. Senator Padden's bill will expand the 24/7 program. The way the bill is drafted interferes with our funding. The bill allows 24/7 in lieu of ignition interlock, but we receive ignition interlock funding specifically because ignition interlock is a requirement

for every DUI. If that requirement is taken away, we lose about \$400,000 per year. A discussion ensued regarding the 24/7 and ignition interlock law.

Ms. Baldwin handed out a list of bills she is watching.

Boating Under the Influence. Wade Alonzo and Hoyle Hodges presented on State Parks' Boating Under the Influence (BUI) Program.

State Parks is mandated by the Coast Guard to make boating as safe as possible in Washington State. Mr. Alonzo manages the Boating Safety Program and Mr. Hodges is the Marine Law Enforcement Coordinator. The Program has agreements and works with 53 agencies around Washington State that conduct patrols, education, and public safety patrols on the state's waterways. This program is very similar to the WTSC. The average number of BUI fatalities is 30, and alcohol accounts for about 30 percent of all boating fatalities.

A challenge on the water is that when an officer is administering a field sobriety test they cannot do a "walk and turn" because they are on a moving platform. The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) funded research into an alternative seated battery of field sobriety tests. Mr. Hodges is currently training all officers in Washington State so when officers are doing BUI detection enforcement they can use this new test. It is being used all around the country and some terrestrial law enforcement are using it on land where it can be applicable to situations, such as someone who suffers from vertigo or someone who has an injury and are unable to do the standard field sobriety test.

The video produced by NASBLA was shown.

Discussion ensued.

SHSP Update. Chris Madill, WTSC Deputy Director, gave some background information and an update on the status of the SHSP Update. Myke Gable, Program Manager, is leading this project, and Katherine Boyd, is the technical editor and writer. John Nisbet, WSDOT Traffic Engineer, co-sponsors the project with Mr. Madill. WSDOT has contributed money to this project and WTSC appreciates the infusion of funds.

The SHSP was created in 2000, updated in 2007, and is currently being updated every three years. The Plan appeals to a broad stakeholder group – state-level traffic safety organizations, as well as city councilmembers and county commissioners who are using the Target Zero Plan and its strategies to address traffic safety issues in their jurisdictions.

We have a large steering committee with all commission agencies represented, a core project team that helps guide the project over an 18-month period, and a larger group of partners that attended our Partners Meeting in December 2015.

We began the project in May 2015, and individual chapters are being finalized. The plan will be assembled and will move into the review and approval process. A final draft will be submitted to

Commissioners for discussion and approval at the July Commission meeting and will then be submitted to the Governor.

Director's Report.

- Director Grondel introduced Tammy Bahr, who is replacing Leslie Maltby as our Fiscal Analyst 5.
- The Partners Meeting was held in December and had over 180 people in attendance.
- Fast Act – Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act was signed by the President in December.
- Grant Announcements are out for 2017 Grants. The project period begins on October 1 for awarded grants. All grant proposals are being submitted through our new grant management system – WEMS – and are due by February 12, 2016.
- GHSA Annual Meeting – August 27-31, 2016, at the Sheraton in Seattle. We have requested the Governor to attend and give opening remarks. NHTSA Administrator Dr. Rosekind will also be attending.
- Commission Changes – Jon Snyder, Association of Washington Cities, has taken a new position with the Governor's Policy Office as the Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development Policy Advisor. In addition, Kevin Quigley, Secretary of DSHS, has submitted his resignation to the Governor.
- Director Grondel expressed appreciation to Commissioner Snyder for his excellent service on the Commission, and presented him with a plaque, a traffic safety coin, and a lapel pin. Chief Batiste presented him with a Chief's coin.
 - Commissioner Snyder expressed his sincere appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Commission.
- Fatal Rates – 2013 – 436, 2014 – 462, and preliminary numbers for 2015 – 562. This is a 20 percent increase over 2014. This is a new trend being seen nationwide. Our counterparts across the country are seeing an increase of between 8 and 14 percent.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

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.

Geri Nelson
Executive Assistant