

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Judge James P. Swanger, Judiciary (meeting Chair); Sandy Mullins, Governor's Representative; Carolann Swartz, Washington State Association of Counties; Chief John Batiste, Washington State Patrol (WSP); Roger Millar, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); via phone – John Wiesman, Department of Health (DOH); Pat Kohler, Department of Licensing (DOL)

COMMISSIONER DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT: Allan Jones, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Scott Waller, Department of Social and Health Services

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT: Darrin Grondel, Geri Nelson, Edica Esqueda, Jerry Noviello, Shelly Baldwin, Larry Leveen, MJ Haught

OTHERS PRESENT: David Clifton, WMST Driving School; Hilary Torres, Region 6 Target Zero Manager; Max Severeid, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); Jeff DeVere, DOL; Martin Mueller, DOH; Wes Rethwill, Lewis County Sheriff's Office; Brady Horenstein, DOL; Moses Garcia, TSRP; Scott Bergstedt, Washington Judicial Outreach Liaison; John Nisbet, WSDOT; Kris Rietmann, WSDOT; Rob Snaza, Lewis County Sheriff's Office; Bill Drake, Orting Police Department; Chris Johnson, WMST Driving School; Jeff Sass, WSP; Mike Dornfeld, WSDOT

Commissioner James Swanger, meeting Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) to order at 10:30 a.m., on April 21, 2016, at the WTSC Offices.

A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting; however, Sandy Mullins was expected. Commissioners Kohler and Wiesman joined by conference call at 11:30 a.m.

Commissioner Swanger welcomed new Commissioner Roger Millar, acting Secretary of the WSDOT. Commissioner Millar is taking over responsibilities as the Commissioner representing the WSDOT.

Work Zone Safety/Emphasis on Public Safety/Speed Zone – Commissioner Millar/Kris Rietmann

Last week's Work Zone Safety Awareness week recognized workers killed in the line of duty. WSDOT ran a social media campaign focused on work zone safety. Kris Rietman, WSDOT Deputy Communications Director, provided an update on how the WSDOT is informing the public about safety in work zone areas. A Valentine's Day social media campaign (#trafficlove) included 28 posts on Twitter and Facebook and reached 250,000 people. WSDOT believes that even if a message does not get a lot of engagement on social media, it is important for workers to see that the agency is engaged and concerned about their safety. The public tends to engage more when the messages are personal; it makes the employees more "real."

WSDOT will continue working with partners to identify new ideas for improved awareness of safety in work zone areas.

Speed Zone – Commissioner Millar/John Nisbet

In the 2015 Legislative Session, a bill passed giving the Secretary of Transportation the authority to raise the speed limit on I-90 to 75 miles per hour (mph) if it is determined to be in the public's interest. WSDOT is researching whether to increase the speed limit on a 107-mile stretch of I-90 from George to the vicinity of the West Spokane county line. A decision is due in May.

WSDOT brought together the WSP and the WTSC to determine how to approach the project and a Technical Team was formed. A national study is also underway looking at the change in speed limits, especially at the upper end of the limit. The average travel time saved if the speed limit is increased to 75 mph is anticipated to be between 2.5 and 5 minutes. WSDOT is gathering public comment. Once the comment period ends, WSDOT will analyze the comments received and meet with partners to review those comments.

Discussion ensued regarding bridges, on/off ramps, commercial vehicle speed increases (including school busses), enforcement, variable speed zones, and public comment.

(See WSDOT PowerPoint - Evaluation of 75 mph Speed Limit in Washington.)

Director's Report – Darrin Grondel

- Introduced Hillary Torres, TZM Clark County Region 6. Lewis County Target Zero Award Ceremony is being held April 22, 2016.
- Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed by the President in December. This is the new federal transportation authorization package. In addition, the new Super Circular has been released.
- The WTSC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the 2017 grant proposals to be presented to Commissioners for approval. The approved FFY 2017 grants will begin on October 1, 2016.
- The WTSC's Annual Highway Safety Plan is due to NHTSA on July 1.
- Senate Bill 5957 passed in 2015 and established the Pedestrian Fatality Review Council. The kickoff meeting for the Council is April 25, 2016. A report is due to the Legislature and Governor on December 31, 2016, and annually thereafter through 2018.
- WTSC is funding 17 of the 22 grants proposed to the Washington Impaired Driver Action Council (WIDAC) totaling \$401,000.
- The BAC test fee is not currently collected on blood tests. WTSC is considering asking the Legislature to impose that fee on DUI blood tests. Monies collected would be used for DUI projects approved by WIDAC.
- The GHSA conference will be held in Seattle during August 27-31, 2016.
- There was an average 9.4 percent increase in fatalities nationwide during the first three quarters of 2015. Preliminary numbers in Washington show almost a 20 percent increase. At the end of April 2015, the fatality count was 147, compared to 136 in the first quarter (January through mid-April) of 2016. Fatality recap:
 - 2013 - 436 fatalities
 - 2014 - 462 fatalities
 - 2015 - 568 fatalities (preliminary)

- The Strategic Highway Safety Plan re-write is ready to be released for public comment.
- Many states have been asking the WTSC for assistance on the drugged driving issue as they look towards legalizing marijuana. We have been traveling around the country, including Canada, to present on what other states and countries can do now as they anticipate the legalization of marijuana.
- Texas A & M will be conducting focus groups in August on impaired driving, best practices, etc.

11:30 a.m. Commissioner Kohler and Commissioner Wiesman joined by phone.

Action Council on Young Drivers – Brady Horenstein

The creation of the Action Council on Young Drivers was discussed at the January 21, 2016, Commission meeting. No quorum was present at the time, so no action was taken. Today, Mr. Horenstein is requesting formal approval of this Council.

The Council has been meeting and has solutions to bring to the Commission and partner agencies focused on legislative changes with an anticipated outcome of reducing serious injury and fatal collisions involving young drivers. Ideas include:

- Expanding driver training to young adults who may currently avoid driver training by waiting to drive until their 18th birthday.
- Changing the nighttime restriction in the state (currently 1 a.m.) to 9 or 10 p.m. with exemptions for those participating in high school extracurricular activities and for working.
- Other simplification and improvements to statutes to help the WSP and other law enforcement agencies enforce these intermediate laws.

Commissioner Wiesman asked if youth should be represented on the Council. Mr. Horenstein said youth has not been involved in the Council to this point, but they can include them formally.

Chief Batiste moved to adopt the resolution with the addition of including representatives of young drivers on the Council. Commissioner Swartz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Chief Batiste moved to accept the minutes of the October 15, 2015, and January 21, 2016, Commission meetings. Commissioner Swartz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FFY 17 Grant Proposals – Chris Madill

Chris Madill discussed the FFY 17 Grant Proposal process and presented the investment plan as approved by the WTSC and the TAC.

High Visibility Enforcement

Local Law Enforcement Overtime Campaigns	
Two DUI	\$400,000
One Seatbelt	\$130,000
One Distracted Driving	\$200,000
Motorcycle Campaign	\$100,000
Locally-determined FLEX funding	\$300,000
Target Zero Teams (King, Pierce, Snohomish, Yakima, Spokane)	\$470,000
Speeding	<u>\$100,000</u>
	\$1,700,000
WSP Enforcement Overtime Campaigns	
Two DUI	\$400,000
One Seatbelt	\$133,000
One Distracted Driving	\$100,000
Motorcycle Campaign	\$100,000
FLEX funding coordinated with local enforcement	\$100,000
Speeding	<u>\$100,000</u>
	\$933,000
Media Campaigns	
Paid Media	\$2,633,000
News/Ancillary Media, includes funding for new TV/Radio ad production	<u>\$250,000</u>
	\$2,883,000
TOTAL	\$5,516,000 (41%)

Statewide Impact

Child Passenger Safety (Bonney Lake)	\$270,000
Traffic Records (WSP, WSDOT, DOH, WASPC, WTSC)	\$1,098,522
Traffic Safety Prosecutors (King Co., MSRC)	\$344,616
Local Traffic Safety Coordinators (WTSC)	\$400,000
Statewide Law Enforcement Liaison & Local LELs (WTSC)	\$145,000
Motorcycle Programs (WTSC, DOL)	\$232,500
Impaired Driving Section	\$511,540
Traffic Safety Culture Survey/Analysis (WTSC)	\$250,000
Electronic DUI Process (WSP)	\$320,000
Licensing Office & Educational Videos (DOL)	\$85,000
Local Enforcement Traffic Safety Equipment (WASPC)	\$395,000
Tribal Traffic Safety Advisory Board (WTSC)	\$49,000
Action Council on Young Drivers (WTSC)	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$4,151,178 (30%)

Local Impact

Speeding Projects (Kitsap, Thurston, Wenatchee, Auburn)	\$160,500
Youth Impaired Driving Enforcement (Pierce, Okanogan)	\$96,041
DUI Courts (Yakima, Clark, one TBD)	\$249,002
City/County Level Traffic Safety Interventions (Kent, Bellingham, Seattle, Clark, King)	\$369,264
Tribal Traffic Safety Projects	\$186,820
Pedestrian Education/Enforcement (Spokane, Seattle, Clark, Pierce)	\$272,000

Roadway Corridor Projects (Klickitat, Whitman)	\$105,150
Target Zero Prosecutor (Spokane)	\$150,000
Electronic Search Warrant (King)	\$43,600
WSU Research on THC Impact on Crashes	\$59,393
Emerging Local Traffic Safety Projects	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$1,716,770 (13%)

WTSC Operations

Staff Salaries/Benefits	\$1,985,000
WTSC Enterprise Management System (WEMS)	\$35,000
Research & Data Division (Surveys, Analytical Support, etc.)	\$243,000
WTSC Website Revision	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$2,363,000 (17%)

Chief Batiste moved and Sandy Mullins seconded the approval of the FFY 2017 Grant proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

Sobriety Checkpoints – Darrin Grondel

Impaired driving is a leading indicator for ResultsWA Goal 4. WIDAC has prepared a white paper on Sobriety Checkpoints that explains the history of sobriety checkpoints and studies conducted on sobriety checkpoints. Currently, 39 states are utilizing sobriety checkpoints. Checkpoints are included in NHTSA’s Countermeasures That Work and are the only proven strategy for impaired driving that Washington has not implemented. Studies have shown that sobriety checkpoints account for a 9-20 percent reduction in fatalities. Director Grondel asked for approval to submit the white paper to the Governor’s Office.

Motion was made by Chief Batiste to forward the sobriety checkpoints white paper to the Governor. Commissioner Swartz seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 21.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 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