

**WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING
October 16, 2015
SeaTac, Washington**

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

COMMISSIONER DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT: John Nisbet, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); Martin Mueller, Department of Health; Scott Waller, Department of Social and Health Services

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT: Darrin Grondel, Geri Nelson, Dawn Hernandez

The Regular Meeting of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) was called to order at 10 a.m., on October 16, 2015, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, in Seattle, Washington, by Commissioner Pat Kohler, meeting Chair. The regular meeting was held during the WTSC's Traffic Safety Conference.

Commissioner Kohler welcomed attendees and complimented Director Grondel and the WTSC staff for holding an amazing conference.

A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting so the agenda was modified until all Commissioners arrived.

The first item of business was the 2016 Legislative Session. Director Grondel reported that the WTSC put forward the distracted driving legislation. Draft legislation has been submitted to OFM and is moving through the Governor's approval process. There have been some discussions about possible changes to the draft legislation. WTSC staff will be working with all parties to finalize.

The WTSC is hoping Senator Padden's bill that that would have reduced the felony DUI from 5 to 4 and provided an additional FTE for the impaired driving program, as well as a \$50 increase to the BAC fee, will resurface in 2016.

Because of the 2016 budget situation, the WTSC did not request any supplemental funding for 2016.

In compliance with SSB 5957, which passed during the 2015 legislative session, the WTSC is recruiting for a Pedestrian Safety Advisory Council Coordinator. This is a half time, project position expected to last through June 30, 2019.

Shelly Baldwin, WTSC Legislative Liaison, has been and will continue working on distracted driving, impaired driving, and young drivers.

Director Grondel reported that the Highway Trust Fund is still struggling. The federal government continues to add funds from the General Fund into the Highway Safety Fund. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) received a continuing resolution which resulted in funding through December 11, 2015. NHTSA has received appropriation authority but their operating authority under MAP 21 expired and needs to be renewed by Congress. WTSC was hoping for a six-year budget plan for transportation, but we are not currently seeing that as a possibility.

NHTSA's focus is on four primary areas – drugged, drunk, distracted, and drowsy driving, with drowsy driving recently being added to the “3 Ds.” Dr. Mark Rosekind announced at both the 2015 AAMVA and 2015 Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) conferences that he wants focus to be placed on drowsy driving. Research shows that approximately 20 percent of the fatality accidents in the country are a result of drowsy driving. WTSC is working with Dr. Brian Villa of Washington State University (WSU) who has researched and studied sleep deprivation with a focus on law enforcement – impacts the different shifts have on law enforcement officers. He plans to broaden those studies to include all drivers.

A short discussion ensued surrounding drowsy driving, the PIRE report, young adult driver behavior, and young drivers, specifically those drivers who wait to get their license and do not complete a driver education program. Commissioner Swartz suggested that when making decisions on legislation that focus be on young drivers, not only 16 year olds, but also the 18 year olds who may not have taken driver education, and those drivers when they turn 21. Commissioner Kohler said that WTSC gave the DOL grant money to review and expand the knowledge test. In addition, DOL added some agency resources to put toward that review.

Commissioner Kohler announced that with the arrival of Sandy Mullins, a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Snyder moved to approve the April 16, 2015, and October 10, 2015, minutes. Commissioner Chief Batiste seconded the motion. There being no objection, the minutes were approved.

Approval of the Pedestrian/Bike Project Proposal

Commissioner Peterson, who was unable to attend today's meeting, submitted a letter to the Commission regarding the Pedestrian/Bike Project proposal. John Nisbet, Commissioner Peterson's representative, gave a brief background of the proposal discussed at the April 16, 2015 Commission meeting. The letter Commissioner Peterson submitted serves as a proposed motion for approval of the project entitled “Spokane Pedestrian Project.” Mr. Nisbet read the letter into the record. A copy of the letter and the proposed project description are attached to these minutes.

Commissioner Chief Batiste stated that he supported the bike/pedestrian effort as the WSP is seeing an increase in car/pedestrian fatalities, in particular on the interstate systems with the

homeless community in King, Snohomish, and Spokane Counties. The WSP is looking for solutions and wants to assist with the project in any way it can.

Commissioner Snyder said the city of Spokane is thrilled to be considered for this grant. They appreciate the support of WSDOT and WTSC and hope this money will help them focus on using limited resources to achieve results.

A short discussion ensued.

John Nisbet clarified that the project proposal indicates that the WSDOT is the recipient of the grant funds. However, the intention is that the funding is granted to the local governments to conduct education and enforcement activities. WSDOT, WTSC staff, and the city of Spokane will work together to determine the actual grant recipient.

Commissioner Kohler asked for a motion to approve the Pedestrian/Bike Proposal. Commissioner Chief Batiste moved to approve the proposal, Commissioner Swartz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

As clarification, Sandy Mullins, Governor's Representative, asked if Commissioner Snyder should abstain from this vote. It was determined that he should abstain and that the letter (previously read into the record) from Commissioner Peterson would count as a vote. Commissioner Snyder changed his vote to an abstention. The motion was approved.

AAMVA Motorcycle Program

Commissioner Kohler reported that in 2015 the DOL won a PACE award for a project funded by the WTSC which focused on young drivers having more awareness of motorcycles to ensure their safety when they are on the roadways. The AAMVA Region IV Award recognized public relations, public affairs, consumer education, and excellence among motor vehicles, law enforcement, and traffic safety. Commissioner Kohler showed the newest video – "[Training is Everything](#)." The majority (65 percent) of collisions involving motorcycles are actually the motorcycle driver's fault. This video focuses on the continuous need for training.

Commissioner Kohler thanked the WTSC for their continued partnership.

Director's Report

Traffic Safety Conference: Director Grondel thanked everyone for attending the Traffic Safety Conference. He said that the attendance for the 3-day conference far exceeded the office's expectations. There were 36 workshops offered, covering topics such as education, policy, leadership, enforcement, engineering, and licensing just to name a few. One important topic the WTSC is looking at is traffic safety culture and how we change the culture in Washington State.

A short discussion ensued regarding the conference.

WTSC's Tribal Traffic Safety Advisory Board: This Board approved the production of culturally relevant traffic safety educational materials for the tribes. The materials should be ready for release by the end of October.

Drugged Driving Report: The Drugged Driving report prepared by GHSA and the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility was released two weeks ago. WTSC participated as an advisory panel member in the creation of this report which identifies issues surrounding drugged driving. NHTSA will be doing a follow-up report.

Partners Meeting: The WTSC's Partners Meeting for the Strategic Highway Safety Plan is scheduled for December 8, 2015 at the Great Wolf Lodge.

Fatality Count: In 2013 there were 436 fatalities. In 2014 there were 462. By the end of September 2015, the preliminary number was 425. If this trend continues, the fatality count could be as high as 500-525 by the end of the year. Many factors contribute to the higher numbers (weather, economy, the increase in population); however, if you look at the trend over the past five years, we are still below the five year average.

Discussion ensued regarding the causes of the upward trend and what we need to do to address the trends.

Target Zero Manager: WTSC hired Alison Mitchell as the new Target Zero Manager in Grant County.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Kohler asked for a motion to adjourn. Chief Batiste moved and Commissioner Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.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



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Lynn Peterson
Secretary of Transportation

Transportation Building
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300
360-705-7000
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

October 15, 2015

Washington Traffic Safety Commission
621 8th Ave SE #409
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Traffic Safety Commissioners:

My apologies for not being with you today. I had prior commitment out of state that made it impossible for me to join you in discussing this important topic. I appreciate the opportunity to provide my thoughts and enthusiastic support for the Spokane Pedestrian Safety Zone project, through this letter.

First I want to thank my fellow commissioners for allowing extra time to develop an additional pedestrian safety project. I appreciate the Traffic Safety Commission's inclusive process as well as the opportunity to help guide this important effort.

Pedestrian Safety is a Target Zero priority two. Pedestrian safety is one of our priority areas that has not seen a reduction in fatalities or serious injuries. To ensure the continued development of a true multi-modal transportation system, we must continue to find ways to make it safer and easier for people walking to move through our system and to effectively access other transportation options.

I support this project because it brings together engineering, education and high visibility enforcement efforts to address pedestrian safety. Thank you to Traffic Safety Commission staff for their efforts developing this important project. Spokane is a great location, and a willing participant, to test concepts and share results. Our hope is that we will see significant improvements in pedestrian safety that we can share with others around the state.

Again, I fully support this project, and want to thank all of you for allowing and fostering its development, and for your consideration in moving it forward. The Department of Transportation is committed to helping make it successful.

Sincerely,

Lynn Petersen
Secretary of Transportation

**WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING**

October 15, 2015
Seatac, Washington

Commission Agenda Item 3: Spokane Pedestrian Project

<p align="center">Grant Recipient Washington State Department of Transportation</p>	<p align="center">Federal Project # M7*PS16-01</p>	<p align="center">WTSC Program Manager MJ Haught</p>	
<p>The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the WTSC will collaborate with local stakeholders in the City of Spokane to conduct a targeted pedestrian safety zone project. The Spokane City Council passed a city ordinance in 2014 elevating the importance of pedestrian safety by establishing functional crosswalks and trails as essential elements of future planning and construction. This project builds upon past pedestrian safety zone projects by incorporating greater emphasis – and greater coordination – around the engineering aspects of the city’s pedestrian safety work. The project will include a heavy localized public information campaign incorporating paid and earned media utilizing media such as radio, digital, billboard, bus tails, and posters, among others. The project will also include high visibility enforcement to complement the public information campaign and impress the criticality of establishing a safe environment for pedestrian travel. Specific locations within the City of Spokane will be determined based on fatality, serious injury, and other risk exposure data. Education and enforcement will follow targeted engineering enhancements implemented by the City of Spokane Public Works Department.</p>			
<p align="center">SHSP (Target Zero Plan) Link PED 1.3, 2.1-2.2</p>	<p align="center">Fund Source NHTSA 405d</p>	<p align="center">Amount Approved \$60,000</p>	<p align="center">Benefit to Local \$0</p>