Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (STRCC)

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday September 15, 2016
AAA Mid-Atlantic
700 Horizon Drive Hamilton, NJ
9:30 AM
Room 148

1. Attendees: Robert Agos, OIT; Kevin Bartels, NJSP; Kevin Conover, NJDOT; Joseph Costello, FMCSA; Grace Faughnan, NJDOT; Tim Franco, NJPTOA; Layla Fryc, NJTA; Baher Girgis, NJDOT; Lisa Glodowski, FARS; Shari Leichter, MVC; Dave Maruca, RU LTAP; Debra Orzol, OIT; Gary Poedubicky, DHTS; Pamela Reed, FMCSA; Mike Rizol, NJSP; Tim Seplaki, NJDHS; Paul Thomas, NJDOT; Caroline Trueman, FHWA; Joseph Weiss, RU-DHTS; Karen Welch, NJTA; Srinivas Pentapelli, NJTA; Liz Smith, OIT; Mike Cox, MVC, Patricia Ott, Chair

2. NJTR-1 Subcommittee Update
   a. Form Completion: minor edits were brought to the NJTR-1 Subcommittee's attention and are in the process of being corrected; notification will be made when completed. Tim Franco would like to send a copy of the new form to the PTOA membership so they can begin to familiarize themselves with the changes.
   b. Guidebook: Joe Weiss and Bill Beans are making changes to the guidebook which will first be available as a static PDF document. Joe is then working on an interactive PDF version for later use as an on-line document (to be completed prior to the 1/17 document release)
   c. Notification: Letters to all Chiefs of Police, the Traffic Officers Association and affected vendors will be completed by the end of September, notifying all of the implementation of the new form on 1/1/17. Additional information will include the ways to submit crash reports to the DOT (in an effort to receive timely reports). The DOT website is being updated and the form will be available there at the end of September. Paul Thomas will be regularly attending the monthly Traffic Officers meetings to answer questions regarding the new form as well as crash reports submission.
   d. Printing & distribution: A limited amount of new crash report booklets will be printed (= or < 500k) for distribution to law enforcement and with their cost saving ideas (printing back-to-back, keeping the cost <$100k. It is anticipated that MVC may be able to print a limited number of future booklets in-house, but police agencies will be encouraged to print the form from the DOT website.

3. Electronic Data Transfer
   a. RFP Update/Vendor Selection: Due to the overwhelming amount of questions posed from vendors on the first RFP, a second RFP is out with responses due in Oct; it is anticipated that a vendor will be selected and on board in early January 2017.

4. Current Project Updates
    a. DHSS: about 260 EMS agencies are currently on board with the new electronic reporting system, which represents about 50% of all 911 agencies, but 70% of the reports; smaller agencies are yet to join, but DHS is providing assistance when requested. DHS averages about 97k records per month, with NJ in the top 10 states in records collection. Of the 1.5 mil 911 calls per year, DHS collects about 1.2 mil. DHS is aiming to complete all agencies by January, 2107.

       Tim expressed that Senior Management within DHS may not recognize the value of data collection within the EMS community and its effect in the larger traffic records environment. It was suggested and agreed that a letter of support from the STRCC outlining the need for this data in the larger context would benefit Tim's efforts to continue data collection. Caroline Trueman suggested that there may be significant value if the DOT looked at linking critical EMS sights through their records with crash sites and efforts supporting the SHSP.

5. Traffic Records Assessment: NJ is scheduled for their 5-year Traffic Records Assessment in February 2017. Gary Poedubicky is currently recruiting agency members to participate in the on-line assessment, which should take between 2-3 months. Once agency reps are identified Pat Ott will provide the questions and answer any questions regarding the process for the TRA.

   Caroline Trueman asked that part of the STRCC meetings be dedicated to reviewing the TRA process and findings and provide a forum for discussion and the process. A preliminary discussion will take place at the STRCC March 2017 meeting and a more in-depth discussion of the findings will take place at the June 2017 meeting.

6. Open Discussion - Agency Highlights
    a. Pat Ott was asked by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's (DVRPC) Regional Safety Task Force (RSTF) to again discuss the possibility of the STRCC adopting a definition for Aggressive Driving. NJ currently does not define this term in statute; Careless and Reckless Driving are defined in state statute and are referred as possible contributing factors to aggressive driving.

       Discussion regarding formal adoption, similar to PennDOT, resulted in the STRCC stating that current statutes were adequate to define aggressive driving behavior at this point in time.
    b. The FHWA is offering a free webinar entitled "Data-Driven Safety Analysis " on September 27th, 2016. A handout was provided and Pat Ott will send an electronic version to the Committee.
    c. AAA is hosting a one-day seminar on October 18th, "Roadmap to Safety" at the Hamilton Facility:
       https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aaa-roadmap-to-safety-tickets-27576581297
    d. The DHS Annual Conference will be November 16-19th in Atlantic City; members who wish to distribute information should see Tim Seplaki
    e. NJSP is looking to hire a staff member for FARS and if you have any suitable candidates, contact Mike Rizol.

    f. The DHTS Annual Highway Safety Plan has been approved. DHTS is currently processing grants with a faster approval process this year.

    g. Caroline reminded all of the requirements of the FAST Act and the setting of performance management targets for safety and the benefits of the coordination between targets in NJ's Strategic Highway Safety Plan and DHTS's Highway Safety Plan. Discussions should be held between the agencies to coordinate and collaborate target setting and evaluation.

7. Next Meeting

    -December 6th at AAA Hamilton

8. Adjourn