



**Minnesota TZD Program
Program Team Meeting Notes
Wednesday, February 3, 2021
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Participants: Paul Aasen, Alan Ainsworth, Dave Boxum, Kat Brown, Katherine Cooper, Sheryl Cummings, Sheila Denton, Vijay Dixit, Linda Dolan, Scot Edgeworth, Girma Feyissa, Craig Flynn, Shannon Grabow, JP Gillach, Joe Gustafson, Mike Hanson, Kristine Hernandez, Melissa Hjelle, Kammy Huneke, Sue Johnson, Irene Jones, Mark Kinde, Katie Knutson, Lisa Kons, Holly Kostrzewski, Katy Kressin, Jane Landwehr, Annette Larson, CJ Lindor, Stephanie Malinoff, Scott McConkey, Sharon Mentzer, Meredith Mills, Tara Olds, Kristen Oster, Gordy Pehrson, Becky Putzke, Cheryl Salo, Frank Scherf, Jessica Schleck, Joanie Somes, Karen Sprattler, Jasmine Wangen, and Julie Whitcher

Welcome, introductions, and review agenda

Lisa welcomed the group and mentioned there would be introductions a part of the round robin.

TZD events calendar

Linda reviewed the draft 2021 TZD events calendar. **Members are asked to send Linda any changes to the calendar. If there are changes to the calendar, Linda will send out to the TZD Program Team.**

SHSP

The SHSP Action Teams are still in development. You can contact Kristine Hernandez if interested in being on a team as the emphasis areas may change.

SHSP Priority Areas

Overarching

Traffic Safety Culture – Co Chairs: Holly Kostrzewski, Kristine Hernandez

Core Areas

Inattentive Driving – Lisa Kons, chair

Impaired/Drowsy – Tara Helm, chair

Intersections – Melissa Hjelle, chair

Speed – Jessica Schleck, chair

Lane Departure – Scot Edgeworth, chair

Unbelted – Katy Kressin, chair, Melissa Hjelle and Sue Johnson participate

Strategic Areas

Commercial Motor Vehicle – Jessica Schleck, chair

Older Drivers – Annette Larson, chair

Pedestrian – Potential Co Chairs: Michelle Pooler/Sonja Piper, (reviewing this);

TZD Members include: Tara Helm, Scot Edgeworth, Kristine Hernandez

Younger Drivers – Sue Johnson, chair, (Note: this group may be merged with the Younger Driver Task Force, led by Gordy Pehrson if goals align or may work in tandem)

Motorcycles – Jessica Schleck, chair

2021 Legislative Update/Review

CMV:

Nothing

Distracted driving:

Two bills have been introduced

1. Require teens to take a 90 minutes distracted driving class before getting instruction permit
2. Create an online driver education program to replace the current classroom training

EMS:

Joanie Somes ENA is working with legislator about writing legislation regarding awareness of older driver's physical and cognitive state. Stephanie mentioned that there is a The Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation at the University of Minnesota. Steph, Kristine, Annette will be meeting with this group soon. **Stephanie will give Joanie the contact from the University group.**

Engineering:

- Work zone: Discussions continue around enforcing speeds in work zones but no legislation has been introduced
- Speed: Work building around speed management and creating the idea of creating "safe road zones"
- Equity and access is a topic that is gaining momentum and will likely have connections to future engineering policy
- A few other items on the radar: ATV use on trunk highways; authority for local jurisdiction to set speed limits

Impaired Driving (including drugged driving)

Mike Hanson discuss a current bill regarding vehicle forfeiture. They are also enhancing the ignition interlock verbiage and working with the Office of Legislative Auditor. Legalization of marijuana is a huge topic and we are uncertain how it will be proceed. We will have a lot of work in this area in the future.

There was a short discussion regarding the that there is no current field (orally) testing for drugs. There is a biometric product to test for drugged driving that is being tested called Sober-eye.com/product.

Motorcycle:

SF152 has been introduced by Senator Kiffmeyer. A House bill is awaiting introduction. This bill would raise the fee motorcyclists pay when they first receive a motorcycle endorsement from \$18.50 to \$26.50. And would raise subsequent renewals (every four years) of the endorsement from \$13 to \$17.

While the dollar amounts are small, multiplied by the 420,000 people who have this endorsement will mean that motorcycle rider training will continue to be a local option. This bill will also benefit motorist awareness of motorcyclists programs and available motorcycle rider training. While these bills were not heard in committee last year, they have had support from high-ranking legislators of both parties.

SF9 has been introduced by Senator Osmek. A house bill is awaiting introduction. This bill requires law enforcement departments to have a training policy to avoid the profiling of motorcyclists. It is the same bill language from previous years. This topic continues to gain bi-partisan support. There is currently a lot of interest in policing issues and this bill could be part of a larger bill under consideration.

Senator Matthews will be reintroducing the motorcycle sales tax bill, which was SF3888 last year. This bill reduces the sales tax imposed on older motorcycles. Currently, motorcyclists who transfer a title for a motorcycle which is ten years old or older and valued at less than \$3,000, or have a motorcycle that is 20 years old or older who ask for a "Classic" specialty plate, pay a much higher rate of sales tax than an automobile meeting those criteria. This bill would put motorcycles on an even scale with automobiles. Motorcycles cause almost zero damage to our roads and should not be taxed at a higher rate than cars and trucks.

Title transfers for motorcycles are charged as a car/truck not as a motorcycle.

Railroad Safety:

There was some legislation that was recommended but they declined. There was some information indicating that CMV drivers may not be adequately be traversing railroad crossings and are considering possible legislation or education.

Seat Belts:

The question was raised, "why are the fines not set up like distracted driving?" Do we need additional sanctions or penalties for new drivers or drivers with a provisional license?

Speed and Speed Limits:

Joe Gustafson mentioned that they are working on a statewide speed limit vision. Please go to Mnspeedlimitvision.org for more information. MUTCD changes do impact our roads and there are some possible changes proposed. Considering the legislations SF 157/SF 157 Speed Limit on Town Roads it is identical to 2020 and MnDOT will remain neutral. The main concern is that it specifically says you don't have to do an engineering study to set speed limits which contradicts what MnDOT prefers.

Rochester has made some speed limit changes.

Here is another resource from AAA about the "review of current practices for setting posted speed limits" <https://aaafoundation.org/review-of-current-practice-for-setting-posted-speed-limits/>. There is a meeting on February 11th from 9:00-11:00a.m. that you can join.

Teen Driving:

S.F. 255-Jasinski: Online driver education program. Katherine Cooper and Vijay discussed the people do not understand the difference between Online driver education programs versus virtual driver education training.

Stakeholder Introductions and round robin discussion

Paul Aasen In the fleet world, drivers are driving less but some are double/tripling driving since COVID because they can't have multiple people in the trucks.

Linda Dolan CTS is hiring a TZD student worker. Her current student is graduating. Let her know if you have any recommendations. She hopes many can join the TZD Stakeholder Breakfast immediately following this meeting.

Mike Hanson OTS is in the process of developing a web based solicitation process. Anyone can add new ideas for improving traffic safety. There will be an open solicitation not time limited.

Stephanie Malinoff We are working to secure a CAV-X vehicle to be used by University of Minnesota researchers and to also study connected vehicles.

Annette Larson She has been focusing on SHSP and working with her steering committee on priorities. She is also working on the TZD engagement tool to give us a baseline so TZD can evaluate if their programs are successful or not.

Sue Johnson She is working on teen driver safety and education. She is also working on drug free counties and the SHSP plan.

Craig Flynn He is working on the public website that Mike spoke about and the MnCRASH system. They are hopeful that by the end of February people are able to pull crash data from the system.

Kat Brown She has worked with TZD and OTS for years primarily on enforcement education, and speed,

Frank Scherf They have been impacted by the pipeline issues and protests and have suspended their TZD efforts currently.

Joe Gustafson He has been working on the statewide speed limit changes and mentioned that the MUTCD is out for comments and it is over 700 pages.

Joanie Somes Emergency Nurses are still managing the older driver information out to groups. There are TRIAD groups who interact with older drivers. Joanie presented how to use the DOSCI tool at the Aging Road User Programs Interstate Collaborative. Currently, over 70 law enforcement agencies are using the DOSCI tool in Minnesota. She also educated over 1,000 nurses on how to assess older people's ability to drive as they come into the ER.

Sheryl Cummings She mentioned that Operation Lifesaver had to pivot much of their work due to COVID. They are currently giving most virtual presentations primarily to driver education programs. They are piloting a direct link to educators to materials and videos for them. If you want to be on that list, let Sheryl know.

Mark Kinde He mentioned that team members are working on linking crash data with hospital discharge data and analyzing the results.

Irene Jones The occupant protection and child passenger safety taskforce is recruiting member to join their taskforce. **Linda will send the flyer to the TZD Program Team.** The CPS Liaisons include Sheila Denton (Southern), Jasmine Wangen (Northern), and Shonette Doggette. There is currently a hospital car seat distribution sponsored by Evenflo. The main requirement must that you have a certified technician help you learn how to correctly put the seat in. They have spent over \$70,000 over the past year for car seats distribution.

Gordy Pehrson He continues to work with the Safe Road grantees and working on RFP and two pilots in Crystal and South Central EMS to address adult 18+ drivers education. There is a teen taskforce meeting virtually quarterly. There are bylaws and the public is invited. The teen taskforce's next meeting is March 18th. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Gordy. He mentioned a future suggestion for a change to the legislation is to increase the motorcycle endorsement fee a \$1 or \$2 more to support the delivery of the teen novice driver education program.

Kathy Cooper There continues to be an increased number of fatalities with unbelted drivers/passengers. It is a problem and they continue to try and figure out what they should do. They continue to focus on driver's education. Please forward your ideas for seat belt use to Kathy.

Ken Johnson

Reducing lane departure crashes - An update to the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is under public comment up through May 2021. One change that could improve safety is the proposed modification to make 6 inches the normal width of longitudinal markings (edge lines, centerlines, and lane lines) for roads with speed limits greater than 40 mph – the current typical installed width is 4 inches. This additional 2 inches in the width may not seem to be much, but studies conducted in a variety of states have shown a total reduction of fatal and serious injury crashes of up to 21% on corridors where this change has been implemented. In a parallel effort, MnDOT is planning on phasing in these wider markings over the next few years. If this change is implemented in the Federal MUTCD, the Minnesota MUTCD would need to include a similar requirement within 2 years of the publication of the Federal MUTCD. These wider pavement markings would then be required on all Minnesota roads with speed limits greater than 40 mph and the appropriate volume. Wider pavement markings is an on-going Lane Departure tactic of the SHSP. It is expected that this proposed change will reduce lane departure crashes.

Julie Whitcher

Over the next year, Julie's office will be working on developing our Grade Crossing State Action Plan. This is a new requirement for all 50 states (plus DC) to develop a Statewide Action plan. We anticipate building on their risk-based approach developed in 2016 to identify high risk grade crossings and identify specific strategies for these crossings. The plan must be submitted by February 14, 2022.

Meredith Mitts

Meredith has changed her last name from Terpstra to Mitts. She switched from AAA Minneapolis to AAA The Auto Club Group (took over Mark Peterson's position). It sounds like National is sun-setting the AAA Teen Driving and Senior Driving Pages, AAA - The Auto Club Group is working on replicating these pages on our own website so they can still be used by people in our regions. She has research, b-roll and sound bites in relation to speed/speed limits if anyone needs them, let her know. If Mark Peterson was working with anyone on a project in the past year, please reach out to her and let her

know. AAA gave \$70,000 in mini-grants last October/November, so we did not do mini grants this spring. She will let everyone know if/when they come back and are available again.

Sheila Denton

Last week they had a crash in her area involving a 9 year old who sustained life threatening injures. She is in the process of trying to get more specifics on this crash. With this being said, we need to heighten the awareness and importance of that just because the “law” says a child over 8 years old no longer needs to be in a booster seat, a child under 4 ft 9 inches is NOT a able to be belted safely in just the seat belt. She will be working on Booster seat awareness and reaching out to Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS and asking to come and provide education to their staff. They can also contact her for more information.

Sheila also recommends that we need to make sure that Child Passenger safety is also listed as a high importance for vehicle safety.

SCEMS/Southern MN Liaison has been hosting a monthly CPS zoom meeting. These are held the first Thursday of the month at 9 am CST. Anyone is welcome to attend and learn more in regards to CPS safety. This month will be Bob Wall from Nuna presenting on “how tight is too tight”. This will be a CEU worthy session.

Tara Olds

If you are interested in joining the new CAV Innovation Alliance Safety Committee, please contact Tara Olds at tara.olds@state.mn.us.

Message from Lisa “Take care of your mental health.”

Meeting was interrupted by the start of the TZD Stakeholder Breakfast and was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.