CDTC Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee

Draft April 17, 2018 Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Bill Trudeau, City of Albany
Brent Irving, CDTA
Brian Rossi, Schenectady County Sheriff
Chris Wallin, City of Schenectady
Jason Temple, Schenectady County Sheriff
Regina Doyle, NYSDOT
Tom Werner, Saratoga County
Tracy Mance, Albany County Sheriff’s Office and Albany County TSB

Wendy Holsberger, VHB
Alanna Moran, VHB
Denise Williams, VHB
Sandy Misiewicz, CDTC
Chris O’Neill, CDTC
Jacob Beeman, CDTC
Ami Parikh, CDTC

1. Introductions

2. Safety Data Overview- VHB

Wendy presented some baseline statistical data of the serious injury and fatal crashes of the Capital Region compared to statewide data. Further, Wendy compared the total crashes with local road crashes broken down into emphasis areas as categorized in the State Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Some key points of the overall crash data from ALIS and ITSMR were also noted. The last few slides of the presentation were about the outreach efforts as part of the Regional Safety Plan. The presentation is attached.

Chris Wallin suggested to take a look at the crash data to see if there are low cost tangible countermeasures that can be done on the roads and use that data to determine the discussion topics. Sandy responded that the team will be looking into the potential countermeasures as part of the plan.

3. Planning for Stakeholder Meetings

The stakeholder/focus group meetings are tentatively planned for May, prior to the Summit. The purpose of the focus groups is to get feedback that will help further decide the topics that can be covered in the Summit. The consultant team proposes five focus group meetings.

In order to better facilitate these meetings, the consultant team suggests a short online survey to identify questions or areas of interest. Sandy mentioned that the survey could be a way to find out about the safety programs in the member communities and which ones are working. This could also help gauge interest and provide more focus on the topics that can be covered.

Wendy pointed out that the stakeholder groups should include a wide range including municipal officials, public safety (police, emergency response, and County Safety committee board members), other health and education agencies and many others listed in the presentation. Wendy handed out an extensive list of stakeholders with contacts highlighted for Stakeholder meetings as well as
Summit. Committee members were requested to provide feedback by April 27th. Tom Werner suggested adding Care Links (Saratoga County).

Committee members collectively suggested that the discussion should not be limited to highway capital projects and also have emphasis on enforcement and education strategies.

4. Planning for the Regional Safety Summit (June 13)

The Regional Safety Summit is scheduled for June 13th at The Crossings, Colonie, location. Wendy Holsberger provided an overview of the Summit that is planned for a four-hour timeline with the following items on the agenda:

- Welcome/Introduction – possibly by Mike Franchini
- Brief presentation by project team
- Keynote speaker or panel discussion
- Breakout groups

Wendy suggested a panel discussion will be a better option for this Summit. Sandy pointed out that the idea of the Summit is to find out what we can do for Capital Region’s Safety Plan. With regards to the panelists, Wendy suggested to have Frank (VHB) from engineering side; one panelist from enforcement side; one from possibly Governor’s Traffic Safety group or a County official; one from the implementation side – possibly a DPW employee; and one from the education side. With regards to education, the group collectively thought that it would be good to reach out younger drivers using driver education course as a possibility. A nationally known inspirational speaker was also a suggestion as a panelist.

Chris Wallin suggested ensuring that the panel has a strong moderator who can steer the panelists’ discussion and keep track of time as needed.

5. Review of Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) Project Applications

Sandy provided an overview of the four PSAP applications CDTC received from the Cities of Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady and Town of Clifton Park. She showed and discussed the locations included in these applications and asked the committee for feedback. Currently NYSDOT is reviewing all the applications. Chris Wallin suggested using HSIP funding for the projects that are not funded under PSAP. Regina Doyle mentioned that other Regions are planning to fund the eligible top priorities of all sponsors based on the available funding.

6. Autonomous Vehicles and Congestion Management

Chris O’Neill presented on potential benefits and issues of autonomous vehicles. He talked about how to plan for the transition to autonomous vehicles with safety as a priority with the existing tools. Chris showed a chart showing the NPMRDS data for Balltown Road displaying the weekday travel times during PM peak period before, during and after construction. He talked about reliability as a performance measure and how the data reflects it.

Chris pointed the lane stripping as a simple low cost countermeasure that the new technologies in the vehicles use to alert vehicle lane departures. This is a low cost countermeasure to address some of the crashes.
7. **Schedule the Next Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee Meeting**

The next meeting is not yet scheduled.