



Board of Transportation Safety

Meeting Minutes

01/29/09

DRAFT

VDOT, Richmond, Virginia

Chair: Charles Rosemond

Recording Secretary:

Audrey Odum

Board Members Present: Charles Rosemond, Walter Yeatts, Bruce Wingo, Melvin Robertson, Dee Bowles, Seldon Rhodes, Tom McGrath, Paulette Benson, Rebecca Martin, Allen Muchnick

Board Members Absent: Charles Quillin, Judy Suddith,

DMV Staff: David Mitchell, John Saunders, Audrey Odum, David Mosley, Angelisa Jennings, Eula Moore-Anderson, Elroy Bentick, Bruce Biondo,

Special Guest(s): Deputy Secretary Ralph Davis
Lorraine Novak – NHTSA Regional Program Manager

Chair Charles Rosemond called meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending.

Deputy Secretary Ralph Davis followed with welcoming remarks and thanked the Board for taking time out of their busy schedules to support the Commonwealth. He discussed Virginia's fatality rate and noted it was the lowest number in Virginia since the start of collecting data in 1966. He indicated that with support of many safety programs like Click it or Ticket, other enforcement and awareness campaigns, along with the economic downfall this pass year, there was a change in driving habits. The Deputy Secretary also discussed the reason behind not sending a support letter to legislators on primary seatbelt when the Governor had not chosen to include primary seat belt as one of his initiatives. The Board being advisory to the Governor (and Secretary) should not send a letter to legislators contrary to the Governor's direction. He recommended that a better course is for the Board to send a similar letter to or set up a meeting with the Secretary during the early summer (June) each year. This is when decisions are being made regarding the Governor's legislative initiatives and is the opportune time for the Board to put forth its recommendations.

Chair Charles Rosemond asked Secretary to the Board, David Mitchell to call roll. Representation was sufficient for a quorum.

Board Business

Chair Charles Rosemond asked the Board to review for approval the minutes from the October 2008 meeting. Approved with no amendments.

David Mitchell addressed past action items concerning what constitutes a Board meeting and procedures for out of cycle grants. He asked John Saunders, VAHSO Director to discuss proposed procedure.

John Saunders discussed anticipated course of action for new grant requests received outside of the annual competition and requested grant increases received out of cycle and the need to have flexibility in acting on these type request. Board agreed to procedures and guidelines were adopted.

Secretary David Mitchell furnished a brief overview of current legislation that may impact the Virginia Highway Safety Office.

Chair Charles Rosemond asked Dave Rhodes, Chair of the By-Laws Committee to update the Board on status of new by-laws or procedure guidelines. Dave Rhodes indicated that comments had been received since the October meeting and had been incorporated into DRAFT. Board discussed various changes and Board voted to adopt. (By-Laws will be known as Rules of Procedure.)

Chair Charles Rosemond asked Tom McGrath, Nominating Committee member to give update for Charles Quillin, Nominating Committee Chair. Tom McGrath proceeded with bringing forth two nominees for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Chair

Charles Rosemond

Vice-Chair

Walter Yeatts

Chair Charles Rosemond thanked the Nominating Committee and called for other nominations from the floor. None were received. The nominations were closed. Nominations were excepted by unanimous vote. Chair Charles Rosemond and Vice-Chair Walter Yeatts both thanked the Board for their confidence in them and support. They also thanked staff for all they do in making the Board's responsibilities run smoothly.

Standing Reports

Chair Rosemond recognized Lorraine Novak, Regional Program Manager for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Ms. Novak gave a brief update on NHTSA's priorities for the upcoming year which will continue the focus on areas with the greatest potential to enhance safety and improve program delivery: increasing seat belt use, reducing impaired driving, increasing motorcycle safety and helmet use, and improving program management.

Ms. Novak took the opportunity to praise the Virginia Highway Safety Office for all their support, cooperation and participation during the NHTSA management review.

Angelisa Jennings provided an overview of crash statistics. (Report Attached) Various discussion surrounding the decrease in fatalities developed and everyone agreed, Virginia numbers are cause for celebration. (Lowest number since 1966.)

Eula Moore-Anderson provided the Board an updated financial report. (Report Attached)

New Business from Floor

David Mosley presented new grant submissions to the Board. In addition to two new grant applications shown on the financial report, one additional grant was submitted. Two new grants were for Smooth Operator – Washington Regional Alcohol Program for \$236,500 and Child Safety & Child Booster Seats Incentive Grant – Virginia Department of Health for \$178,405. The increase in grant funds was for the HERO Program – DriveSmart Virginia (increase to current SMOVE grant) for \$34,000. Board approved all three grant requests.

Action: Board would like more information on the HERO Program as it evolves. Invite to future meeting.

Action: Board would like to be invited to Regional Workshops.

Chair Charles Rosemond proceeded with requesting members to serve on various other committees. On the Awards Committee, Dave Rhodes will serve as Chair with Rebecca Martin and Judy Suddith as committee members. (Judy Suddith was not in attendance and will be approached by Chair.) On the Allocations Committee, Vice-Chair to the Board, Walter Yeatts will Chair the Allocations Committee with Melvin Robertson and Bruce Wingo serving as committee members.

Public Comment - None

Dates of Future Meetings -

June 2009
Full Board Meeting – FY10 Grant Review
DMV Headquarters – Richmond

August 12, 2009
Governor's Award Ceremony
Judicial Conference – VA Beach