



Strategic Highway Safety Plan

FINAL

Minutes

VHSA Data Focus Group Meeting

November 4, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: AOT, National Life, Montpelier Room 313



Attendees: Kevin Andrews, Susan Clark, Robert Craver, Johnathan Croft, Mario Dupigny-Giroux, Ken Millman (via phone), Bob Thigpen, Mandy White

Agenda Item 1: What is the Data Focus Group about?

Getting data that are available to the other focus groups, facilitate the other groups.
More about providing data, who needs what and how to get it to them.
Providing data and some form of analysis.

Get a broader spectrum from other data sources, e.g., Valcour and Spillman. How do we get data entry and administrators to the table? What data field could be pulled over? This is more of a TRCC task.

This group is more about getting the data to the other groups.

Needs to decide first what the group needs to be accomplishing before deciding who else to invite.

VHSA decision makers rely on this group to tell them how we are doing (finding issues) and how well we did (evaluation). Here to serve, tell us what you want us to do.

Agenda Item 2: What role should members of the Data Focus Group have in implementing our top 3 assigned data action items or any of the other items from the top 20 list?

[TOP 20 ACTION: Develop a web query tool \(score 0.93/1.00\) CEA: Improve Infrastructure; Strategy: Support municipalities in mitigating high crash locations.](#)

The web query tool has been implemented. Supports with the developer (Fountains Spatial) ends on December 31, 2015. The tool has been launched incrementally with different types of users getting access to it first (phase I, Driver's Ed, VT Local Roads, Health, DPS, UVM; phase II, RPCs ITE consultants, VLCT).

It is now publically available (this is phase III), but this has been a soft release so far.

We need to let the public know via Twitter and Facebook. We need to let the media know. Reach out to the media and let them know; reach out to Erik.

Make a You Tube video.

Other ideas to reach out:

Add a link to the DMV Interactive Learning Tool page.

Link year-end total of fatalities story and query tool.

Vermont Local Road Safety Class, can a module be added?

Use the tool as part of driver's ed.

Users do not typically fill out the survey. We got some feedback at the beginning. We need to reach out to those first users via the broader contact groups and invite them to share their comments. Use Survey Monkey. We will evaluate what we get and decide if some enhancements to the tool are required.

In general, the tool should be kept broad; users have the option to go for more analysis by contacting VTrans. Tool was intended to be broad and visual. Do not want to make it slower and have people lose interest.

[Top 20 ACTION; Continue to implement a program to increase municipal awareness for which intersections are high crash locations \(score 0.78/1.00\) CEA: Improve Infrastructure; Strategy: Support municipalities in mitigating high crash locations.](#)

The 2010-2014 High Crash Locations list (HCL) will be available soon.

This summer Tom Fields (enforcement focus group) approached Mario to do road safety audits at eight intersections. The intersections came from the HCL list but with emphasis on major crashes. Looked at the crashes for those that could be due to a lack of enforcement (i. e., speeding, disregarding signs and signals) to select the intersections. Worked with the towns and brought enforcement and engineering to towns. Mario did the crash diagrams. The process needs to be documented and the infrastructure group needs to be involved in the implementation as well.

Another idea is to get each town their top 3 HCL. (This could be a forum). We need to focus on all roads within a municipality including local roads. We will have the data needed for next year (segments only?).

Can build the data out to all the roads in the state system. Right now, just federal aid roads are used for HCL. SafetyAnalyst would be useful to accomplish this. In general, we need to be able to update the input files using existing databases (i.e., automated process).

[TOP 20 ACTION: Increase use of electronic crash report submission by enforcement officers \(score 0.76/1.00\)](#)
[CEA: Improve Vermont's Data in the interest of Safety; Strategy: Improve the timeliness of police reported data](#)

We discussed this agenda item partially at the end outside of our allotted meeting time. Some attendees had already left.

Mandy and Kevin reported issues with fatal crash reports not being available on time. Some LE departments put info on paper and pass it along to supervisor. Behavior/practice that need to be changed. Reporting and timeliness issue with FAR. Mandy is meeting with Gary Scott to discuss this. This is a problem with the DPS barracks as well as other local departments.

Would this require a legislative action? What is the current language in the Statutes? Related Statutes are shown at the end of these minutes.

Agenda Item 3: What role should members of the Data Focus Group play with the "VHSA Priorities" (Occupant Protection, DUI, Distracted Driving and Speeding)?

We would like representation from the Data Focus Group on every focus group and task forces as data questions arise at meetings.

Johnathan volunteered to join the Infrastructures Focus Group while Mandy will be joining the Marketing Focus Group. Sue will let the focus group leaders know.

Agenda Item 4: What other projects the Data Focus Group should be working on?

We did not discuss this agenda item.

Agenda Item 5: Data: are there other data resources that can be used to work in concert with the crash data? Population and demographic data? Other?

We did not specifically discuss this agenda item. We did talk about some aspects of it indirectly in discussing other agenda items as follows:

There is some data that VTrans has that could be useful like curves, pavement quality, DMV, convictions and suspensions.

VTrans' IT is building a better data warehouse. Will provide date access and analysis through Excel. This is within a 5-year time frame.

How do we bring it all together? Implementing SafetyAnalyst would bring crash data and road data information together. SafetyAnalyst would tie with the strategy on implementing a program to increase municipal awareness versus high crash locations (from the Top 20 Action list).

Mile points are now available on the local roads system. Mandy and Johnathan will meet to discuss how to make this available so that data entry of local crashes could use this information starting with the January 2016 crashes.

The state linear reference system (LRS) needs to be merged with the local LRS before Rick Scott can use the data to add this information to past crashes.

It is planned that the two systems will be merged prior to the next HPMS submission in June 2016.

Agenda Item 6: Windshield Survey: Should we consider suggesting a windshield survey in summer 2016 to collect distracted type data?

We did not discuss this agenda item.

Other Discussion:

Project as part of driver's ed. Have students go to intersection and observed people who do not stop completely at stop signs. The Data Focus Group could put a data form together. Could us Fulcrum mobile data app. Students would use their own phone. They need to have the data that goes back to the classroom. Group of students, one person could count stop sign violations, another one cell phone/texting, and another one seat belt usage. Target the schools with the HCL.

Bona fide advertisement: We are taking this stuff seriously. Beneficial on the marketing side because it is showing the public that the kids are out there and exploit this.

Bring this idea to the Marketing Focus Group.

List of Follow up Actions

Sue: To inform Infrastructures and Marketing focus group leaders about Mandy and Johnathan joining them.

Rob: To prepare a follow up survey to reach out to Phase I and Phase II public query tool users.

Sue/Mario Contact Jackie Leblanc about Phase III release and Twitter, Facebook and Media.

Sue/Mandy: Bring the idea of having schools go to intersection and observed traffic to the Marketing Focus Group.

Potential Agenda Item for Next Meeting

- Public Query Tool: Updates on Phase III deployment and review follow up survey.
- Increase use of electronic crash report submission, resume discussion and update
- What other projects the Data Focus Group should be working on?
- Windshield Survey: Should we consider suggesting a windshield survey in summer 2016 to collect distracted type data?
- Data: are there other data resources that can be used to work in concert with the crash data? Population and demographic data? Other?

VSA 23

- **§ 1016. Reports of arrests**

Law enforcement officers who make arrests or issue citations for violations of this title shall forward a written report on forms prescribed and furnished by the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and of Public Safety and approved by the Attorney General with respect to any matter affecting the substantive rights of any person, to the Department of Motor Vehicles within 30 days after the arrest is made or the citation is issued. (Added 1975, No. 72, eff. April 18, 1975; amended 1981, No. 81, § 2, eff. May 5, 1981; 2009, No. 39, § 2.)

- **§ 1603. Investigation of accidents**

The Commissioner shall forthwith after receiving notice of an accident where a personal injury occurs, and, in case of notice of an accident where an injury occurs to property, may cause such accident to be investigated by an enforcement officer, and where such investigation reveals facts tending to show culpability on the part of any motor vehicle owner or operator, he or she shall cause such facts to be reported to the State's Attorney of the county where the accident occurred. The State's Attorney shall further investigate the accident and may hold an inquest as provided by 13 V.S.A. §§ 5131-5137. After such investigation or inquest, he or she shall report forthwith to the Commissioner the result thereof together with his or her recommendation as to the suspension of the license of the operator of any motor vehicle involved in the accident.

- **§ 1129. Accidents-Reports**

(a) The operator of a motor vehicle involved in an accident whereby a person is injured or whereby there is total damage to all property to the extent of \$3,000.00 or more shall make a written report concerning the accident to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles on forms furnished by the Commissioner. The written report shall be mailed to the Commissioner within 72 hours after the accident. The Commissioner may require further facts concerning the accident to be provided upon forms furnished by him or her.

(b) As used in this section, the word "accident" refers only to incidents and events in which the motor vehicle involved comes into physical contact with a person, object, or another motor vehicle. It shall not include such contact where a vehicle involved is

being used by a law enforcement officer as a barrier to prevent passage of a vehicle being operated by a suspected violator of the law. In such cases, the law enforcement officer shall not be required to make a personal written report of the incident.

(c) The owner and the operator of a motor vehicle covered by one or more policies of liability insurance shall notify any person injured by the motor vehicle, or the owner of any property damaged thereby, of the name and address of all liability insurance companies which may cover the incident, and the numbers of the policies. The notification shall be made to the injured person, or the owner of the damaged property, or both, not more than five days after the injury or damage. The information shall be given to the injured person and the owner of the damaged property at the last known address of each. (Added 1971, No. 258 (Adj. Sess.), § 3, eff. March 1, 1973; amended 1977, No. 81, § 5, eff. April 27, 1977; 1979, No. 46, § 4, eff. April 26, 1979; 1979, No. 190 (Adj. Sess.), § 4; 1987, No. 241 (Adj. Sess.), § 4; 2009, No. 152 (Adj. Sess.), § 14.)