



Vermont Highway Safety Alliance

Infrastructure Focus Group Meeting Notes



Infrastructure Focus Group Meeting Notes – December 4, 2013

Attendees: Bruce Nyquist (VTrans), Jon Kaplan (VTrans), Roger Thompson (FHWA), Eleni Churchill (CCRPC), Matt Marsolais (3M), Jonathan Williams (VLCT), Harry Henrickson (Barre Town), Mike Charron (VT Ctr. For Independent Living – VCIL)

Core & Focus Group Updates:

- Infrastructure Focus Group – Membership Updates

Bruce indicated that membership of this focus group has shifted somewhat with some folks leaving and some new individuals joining.

Mike Charron introduced himself and gave a brief background on his area of interest and expertise, which is accessibility for people with disabilities to use the transportation system, especially with regard to sidewalks and street crossings.

- Synopsis of other Focus Group activities

The Education group is working closely with AARP, including the dissemination of winter driving tips.

The Data group is working on the web query tool that will allow anyone to query the state crash data. They will be looking for “beta” testers of the tool hopefully in the first quarter of 2014.

The Outreach and Marketing group is up and running and coordinating closely with the Education group.

The Enforcement group is working with VLCT on best practices for town ordinances regarding traffic to make sure they are enforceable.

Safety Calendar

- VHSA Board Meeting was held December 3 at the Statehouse to coordinate with the Red Ribbon Tree which remembers those killed by impaired drivers. There was discussion of some law changes that will take effect on January 1, including increased points for use of any electronic devices by any age driver in work zones. There was also a presentation about Drug Recognition Experts who assist in assessing impaired drivers.
- Several VTrans representatives attended the Impaired Driving Summit in Manchester, NH on December 4
- VTrans is hosting a peer exchange in February focused on integrating safety into the planning process. RPC's will be key players in this meeting.
- Any calendar updates should be added to the google calendar. Matt Marsolais and Mike Charron need to receive the link.

SHSP Review

- Went through all of the action items under infrastructure and discussed their status and possible collaboration to achieve the goals.

New Safety Initiatives

- US 4 Hartford-Woodstock

As a result of a marked increase in serious crashes in 2012, a series of improvements were made along US Route 4. Bruce shared several photos of milled in edgelines, milled in centerlines with centerline rumbles, improved signs and curve delinators.

- Occupant Protection Task Force - John Filipek

This task force is up and running. Last week they assisted Sherriff Trevor Colby in conducting the memorial ceremony for the sherriff deputy who died in the line of duty.

The other Task Forces (Impaired and Distracted Driving) are looking for participation from each of the focus groups.

- VHB assistance with New HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) document

The HSIP used to look at the top 50 locations, which was impractical to implement. There is now likely to be a focus on the top 10 locations. It was stressed that this program is important to municipalities with issues that might not otherwise be addressed.

Next Meeting

Bruce will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule the next meeting.