



Highway Incident and Transportation Systems (HITS) Committee Meeting

April 8, 2020

3:00 PM EDT

Meeting Minutes

Attending – David Newton (GA), Hilary Bikowski (NASEMSO), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Ken Menke (PowerArc), Mark Klavon (SAE), Robert Czajkowski (SAE Co-Chair), Jeremy Tucker (SAE Co-Chair), Keith Wages (Immediate Past Chair, NASEMSO), Dave Zaiman (BioSpatial), Sue Morris (OH), Jim Green (NIOSH), Dr. Carol Cunningham (OH), Tim Seplaki (NJ), Veronica Seymour (OR) Scott Winston (VA), Frank Cheatham (VA), Cory Hohs (Haas Alert), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), Gam Wijetunge (NHTSA)

Welcome and Roll Call – David Newton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM EDT

Review & Approval of February 12th Meeting Record – Tim Seplaki moved; Sue Morris seconded approval of the February 12th minutes. Minutes were approved as submitted.

NHTSA Update - Dr. Jon Krohmer, Gam Wijetunge or Dave Bryson were not able to join the call due to COVID-19 activity.

RAND Study: Economic Benefit of Improved Ambulance Design – Jim Green presented a brief slide show about the [RAND Case Study on Improved Ambulance Design](#). NIOSH requested the RAND Corporation to assess the value of the its work. RAND selected 3 of 10 projects that NIOSH submitted and rated the ambulance study at the top of the projects submitted. The study calculated the cost savings (estimating the cost of fatalities and injuries over a lifetime) based on injuries and fatalities avoided as the new ambulances are placed into service. David Newton commented that this is helpful information to share with ambulance services as the state increases its safety standards for ambulance vehicles.

SAE Emergency Warning lights and Devices LED Conspicuity and Glare Study (attached) – Ken Menke (PowerArc), Mark Klavon (SAE Ground Vehicle Standards). Ken explained that the SAE Emergency Warning Lights Committee requested that he develop a proposal for a study on glare of LED lights on emergency vehicles. Mark Klavon explained how SAE conducts and oversees a study. Ken Menke noted that 95% of warning lights in emergency vehicles are LED. These lights can create a glare effect, which is what they intend to address in the study. They would examine 4 variables to determine how to reduce the glare effect (intensity, color, flash pattern, etc.). They had originally hoped to start in October but with the current pandemic, they think they are probably a year behind. They are looking for contributions to fund the study from multiple partners to keep it impartial. They are seeking smaller amounts (\$3000 to \$5000) from multiple organizations to reach the amount of \$75000 needed for the study. Cory Hohs inquired about members of the committee. Mark invited Sam (Hass Alert) to join the committee.

Project and Committee Updates

- USDOT First Responder V2X Pilot Program – Dia said she has no new information on the V2X Pilot Program due to the COVID-19 activity.

https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/first_responder_safety_technology_pilot_program011620.pdf

- Cory Hohn said that the DC Fire will be implementing V2X on all its EMS and fire vehicles, thanks to a FHWA safety grant. (This is unrelated to the V2X pilot project previously discussed.) They will be collecting data and he is happy to report on the data they gather.
- Road to Zero Coalition – Dia is leading a multi-disciplinary work group to compile and store all the TZD documents in a single location that can be easily shared and updated.
- TIM Executive Leaders Group – Dia noted that the responders completing TIM training will probably slow down given the social distancing requirements (unless they complete the online training).
- Safe Transport of Children Crash Test Project – Jim Green, Project Manager, reported they have over 50 entities (organizations and manufacturers) who have signed on to the letter of support for this project. They have temporarily slowed down in seeking funding during the COVID-19 situation but intend to focus on children’s hospital foundations.
- AVL Committee / Ambulance Standards Update – Sue Prentiss or Dale Adkerson were not on the call. Dia reported that GSA recently published a Change Notice which is open for comments. Jim added that it addresses emergency lighting as well as communications and radio equipment. The comment period opened April 1st and closes on May 15, per Scott Winston.

Collaboration between State Highway Safety Officials and State EMS Officials – All are invited to share examples from their state

Cory Hohn shared there is a new nonprofit called Arrow Coalition.org focused on strengthening move over laws.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:58 PM EDT.

Next Meeting – June 10