



HITS Committee Meeting

April 8, 2015

Meeting Record

Attendance: Donnie Woodyard, Chair, Michael Berg (VA), Gary Brown (VA), Elaine Coleman for Billie Collier (MS), Frank Cheatham (VA), Jim DeTienne (MT), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Erik Hicken (NJ), Nancy Kelly-Goodstein (NJ), Steve McCoy (FL), Susan McHenry (NHTSA), Mark Miller (AK), Donna Smith (MS), Steve Tafoya (NV), Scott Winston (VA)

Welcome and Roll Call – Donnie Woodyard called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM EDT. He welcomed everyone, commenting he is very pleased to see the interest.

Review & Approval of February 11th Meeting Record (attached) – There were no changes to the February 11th meeting record.

Emergency Response Day, ITS America Annual Meeting, June 2, Pittsburgh – Donnie encouraged those in the Pittsburgh area to take advantage of the free admission offered to Emergency Responders to the Intelligent Transportation Systems America Annual Meeting on June 2nd. Mary Hedges added that she was able to attend the ITSA meeting about 3 years ago and was fascinated with the emerging technologies they had on display. More information is available at [ITS Annual Meeting](#).

Comments to NHTSA “Characterizing Ambulance Driver Training Requirements” Mary reported that NASEMSO was one of two entities that submitted comments in response to NHTSA’s proposal to survey state EMS offices and EMS agencies regarding the status of ambulance driver training requirements. NASEMSO’s comments can be viewed at [NASEMSO Comments](#). NASEMSO supports the effort to collect information in order to update NHTSA’s Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) that is now 20 years old. NASEMSO agreed with NHTSA’s proposal to contact agencies by email but noted that it may be difficult to obtain accurate email addresses for EMS agencies nationwide.

Federal Partner Update – Susan McHenry reported that NHTSA’s Office of EMS will be hosting a webinar on Ground Ambulance Crashes on April 28th. Mirinda Gormley and Noah Smith will share updates of the presentation that Mirinda presented to the HITS Committee at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Cleveland. The presentation was recently given at the NEMSAC Meeting, and they were very impressed. More information is available at [NHTSA Webinar - Ground Ambulance Crashes – April 28](#)

NHTSA’s Review of the NASS: Report to Congress (attached) – Mary Hedges explained that NHTSA’s National Automotive Sampling System (NASS) provides nationally representative traffic crash information for traffic safety researchers. It is now 30 years old and is in need of updating. This report describes NHTSA’s plan for updating the system, which is referenced in the Ground Ambulance Crash presentation. Although ambulance crashes do not have their own category in NASS, they have been the subject of special crash investigations. Susan McHenry added that NHTSA received limited funding to update the system and must focus their resources. Dave Bryson, Mirinda Gormley and Noah Smith are the most involved with NASS from the Office of EMS.

Project and Committee Updates

- Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Training at National Fire Academy – Donnie noted that Stephen Phillippe from the Louisiana EMS office participated in the TIM Train the Trainer session at the National Fire Academy recently. They would like to roll out the training in Louisiana, and are considering making the TIM course a renewal requirement for EMS personnel. Jim DeTienne said they promote the course to EMS agencies in Montana, but the state police take the lead. Frank Cheatham added the state police have historically taken the lead in Virginia also. They hear that EMS providers do not need feel it is important because they spend so little time at the scene of a crash. Frank added that Nebraska was offering free traffic cones and other items to encourage more participation in the course.
- Ambulance Standards Update – Michael Berg reported there has been no significant change with NFPA 1917 Version 2 Ambulance Standards since he last reported. January 2016 is the projected release date. The CAAS standards work group will be reviewing comments from the second round. October of 2015 is the projected release date for the CAAS standards. John McDonald recently announced that the KKK standard would be extended by one year (to 2016) by the GSA. Change Order 8 (cot retention systems) will go into effect July 2015. At the Ambulance Manufacturers Division meeting in Orlando, they indicated that while there are no standards for remounts, it is something they would like to put on their agenda in the future.

Collaboration between State Highway Safety Officials and State EMS Officials

Donnie reported that he has been on an interesting journey learning about traffic safety and its relation to EMS. He shared a view of Louisiana's crash data website, commenting that very few of the EMS agencies in the state are aware of the data available on crashes.

Steve McCoy reported that he presented Florida's linkage project at the National Traffic Records Forum last year. They are now examining the effect of red light cameras on crashes.

Jim DeTienne said Montana is beginning to explore the mapping of hospitals and their capabilities; he would like to map EMS agency capabilities, particularly helicopter agencies. This would be modeled after the Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE) project that emanated from the HITS Committee. He is working with the researchers from the Center for Transportation Injury Research in Buffalo, New York, as Montana participated in their earlier project utilizing the MIECE Proof of Concept. Susan McHenry encouraged him to move forward with implementing the Montana project based on the MIECE concept.

Other Business / Member Questions / Comments

Susan McHenry thanked Donnie for his enthusiasm and leadership as Chair of the HITS Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM EDT. The next meeting of the Committee will be June 10.

Meeting Record was respectfully prepared and submitted by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.