



HITS Committee Meeting

August 12, 2015

Meeting Record

Attending: Donnie Woodyard (LA), Chair, Donna Tidwell (TN), Andrew Fulton (DE), Julie Rabeau (AK), Susan McHenry (NHTSA), Steve Tafoya (NV), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), Sue Morris (OH), Carol Cunningham (OH), Scott Winston (VA), Frank Cheatham (VA), Gary Brown (VA), Michael Berg (VA), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)

Welcome and Roll Call –Donnie Woodyard, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. Mary Hedges called the roll.

Promoting TIM Training for EMS

- a. USDOT / FHWA TIM Peer Exchange – Donnie Woodyard participated in the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Peer Exchange in Nashville last month. He commented that not only is EMS under-represented in those who have received TIM training but they are not well understood. He was one of only two EMS representatives at this national gathering. Donna Tidwell agreed and added that she has tried to educate her TIM peers about EMS. He commented that he found the online TIM course to be challenging to access. It is robust but not an easy interface. Donna Tidwell and Frank Cheatham commented that they believe the online course should be used as a last alternative if one cannot attend a hands-on, in-person course. Dia commented that the FHWA encourages state offices to work with their state fire academy or state police, neither of which are EMS-oriented. Dia added that she thinks the numbers the FHWA uses are inaccurate in terms of estimating the number of EMS personnel being trained, as their totals of non-fire EMS personnel by state are extraordinarily low. Donnie suggested surveying state EMS offices to ask for total number of EMS personnel and how many are non-fire-based EMS. He offered to follow up with a survey to get a more accurate count of non-fire based EMS personnel to provide to FHWA.
- b. State EMS Office TIM Efforts – Donna Tidwell (TN) presented a slide show about the TIM training center in Nashville. The idea was born in 2013 and driven by the high fatality rate at highway incidents. Development of the training center moved very quickly, breaking ground in 2014. The center includes tracks that replicate interstate highways and other roadways. They have trained all highway patrol officers. Donna started attending the steering committee meetings at the training academy and is now promoting it to EMS personnel. The training center will house/feed them for the 2-3 days they need to be there for the course. During EMS Week, the Tennessee EMS Office promoted the TIM training to the EMS Community. Donnie added that the center is open to anyone in the country who wishes to use it. Donnie added that he since realized that the highway patrol has a training facility in Louisiana but without the extensive roadway track. Steve Tafoya said that Nevada has a similar training facility. Donnie summarized that we should reach out to our highway patrol peers to determine if we can utilize their training facilities.

Reporting Ambulance Safety Complaints to NHTSA – Mary Hedges referred members to the link to NHTSA’s site for reporting emergency vehicle safety defects. NASEMSO members only recently became aware of this office. Mary plans to write a piece to distribute to members to publicize this resource. Michael Berg, chair of the AVL Committee, commented that he had been unaware of this office, and only learned of it recently. For more information, see <http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Owners/Emergency+Response+Vehicles>

Federal Partner Update – Susan McHenry, NHTSA Office of EMS, reported that NEMSAC met at the end of July. There were six returning members and all others were new appointees. They just completed the FICEMS meeting earlier this month. Regarding NHTSA’s funding, Congress approved another continuing resolution (35th one in a row) for short term funding of the highway trust fund to the end of October. The Senate passed a long term funding bill for the highway trust fund, which was not adopted by the House. Several NHTSA staff members plan to attend the NASEMSO Fall Meeting but will not be able to arrive until Tuesday morning (October 13), because travel on a federal holiday (Monday, October 12) requires special approval.

Project and Committee Updates

- a. Ambulance Standards Update- Michael Berg reported that NFPA 1917, version 2, is scheduled for release in early 2016. The CAAS Ambulance standards are scheduled for release October 1st of this year. GSA is not seeking another extension of the KKK standards, which expire in October 2016. Donna mentioned that Stryker is working on a less expensive cot model (\$7000) to the \$25,000 automated stretcher.
- b. Intelligent Transportation Systems America (ITSA) Annual Conference – Dia reported on Emergency Response Day (free admission to EMS personnel) held at the June ITSA Annual Meeting in Pittsburg this year. Emergency Response (ER) Day has been an ITS Annual Meeting tradition since 2011. Each year the ITS Annual Meeting brings together emergency responders and transportation industry professionals to highlight specific technology solutions that protect travelers and the public safety personnel who serve them. A video on the 2014 Emergency Response Day in Detroit, MI is [here](#).

Adjournment – Donnie thanked everyone who joined the meeting, noting we had reached adjournment time. The meeting adjourned at 4:01 PM EDT.

Next Meeting – October 13 (NASEMSO Fall Meeting, Louisville)

The meeting record was respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.