**NH Traffic Safety Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: June 25, 2018**

**In attendance:** Captain William Haynes (OHS), John Clegg (OHS), Glen Wilder (DOS), Mike Dugas (DOT),

Marilyn Costa (NH Driver Education Association), Pat Rainboth (Victims, Inc.), Dan Goodman (AAA-NNE),

Howard Hedegard (IPC-CHAD), Vicki Eckleberg (IPC-CHAD Student Intern), Pat Conway (Rockingham County DA), Judy Silver (NH Municipal Association), Tim Blagden (Lake Sunapee Rail Trail)

**Meeting Agenda Items Discussed**

John Clegg opened the meeting by expressing the regrets of Assistant Commissioner Quinn for not being able to attend the meeting.

John Clegg referenced the purpose of the commission based on the charter and stated that the status of the commission’s vice chair position would be delayed until the next meeting in anticipation of a higher member attendance.

John Clegg formerly introduced the new Commander of the Office of Highway Safety, Captain William Haynes who then provided a brief overview of the current functions of the office of highway safety including the fact that less NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) funding will be available for fiscal year 2019.

This increases the reality that current and future funding requests must be supported by specific evidence of program needs, documentation of any past successes in solving the need and inclusion of any data that documents the actual need and how past efforts have been or how proposed efforts could be successful in minimizing the problem.

Captain Haynes stressed the importance, especially considering the reduced funding, of everyone working together. He reminded the commission that no single agency or program can solve the highway safety challenges that exist within our state by themselves.

He further stated that that funding priorities will be identified and adjusted, as need be, using calendar year 2017 data and 2018 quarterly data.

Glen Wilder, FARS Supervisor of the fatal crash unit from DMV/DOS, provided the commission members with a thorough overview of the 2017 fatal crash data with some 10-year trend and average data. This presentation was thorough and provided a solid understanding of the fatal crashes that are happening in our state. Captain Haynes encourage Glen to attend future meetings to provide on-gong quarterly data.

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Captain Haynes discussed 2017 distracted driving crashes. He stated that of the crashes requiring police response, 9,978 (or 29%) involved some level of distraction. He further stated that he believes that distracted driving as a cause is under reported. Some police reports don’t have specific categories that allow for the reporting of distraction.

He stated that New Hampshire does not currently qualify for NHTSA distracted driving funds because the term used in our law is “hand held” but needs to be “electronic device” to qualify.

Each of the attending members introduced themselves, identified their positions and provided a brief overview of their current and recent past projects. Some members asked questions that were responded to by Captain Haynes or other commission members. This session included some discussion on future collaboration to reduce crashes especially those that are fatal or cause serious injury.