

## Advisory Council on Traffic Safety

### Final Minutes

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

1:00 – 4:00pm

Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota  
301 S 19th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Josie Johnson Community Room (Room 180)

#### **Attendees**

Appendix A lists all Council members, staff, and invited guests who were present at the meeting.

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Hanson called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

##### **Chairs' Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Hanson welcomed members. All members and staff introduced themselves and the organization they were representing on the Council.

Updates have been made to the [ACTS webpage](https://mntrafficsafetycouncil.org). The URL for the site is [mntrafficsafetycouncil.org](https://mntrafficsafetycouncil.org).

#### **Approve Today's Agenda**

Michael Wojcik made a motion to approve the agenda with no changes and Chief Tate seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Approve Minutes from April 10, 2024 Meeting**

Michael Wojcik made a motion to approve the April 10, 2024 meeting minutes with no changes and Chief Tate seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The final meeting minutes are available on the [April meeting webpage](#).

#### **Membership Updates**

Three organizations have had recent member updates.

- Colonel Christina Bogojevic has officially been named Chief of the State Patrol and has replaced Matt Langer on the Council.
- Josephine (Josie) Donohue has replaced Gene LaDoucer, who recently retired, as the Council member representing AAA Minnesota.
- Jessica Schleck will be replacing Annette Larson as the TZD Regional Coordinator representative.

In addition, the following changes were approved in the 2024 legislative session.

- The statewide TZD coordinator membership seat has been split into two separate roles, reflecting recent staffing changes within the program.
  - Kristine Hernandez now serves as the TZD Statewide Communications and Marketing Director. She will continue to serve on the Council in this new role.
  - Annette Larson is now serving as the TZD Statewide Program and Operations Director and will serve in this new capacity.
- Two new membership seats were added.
  - EMS Regulatory Board. Dylan Ferguson is attending today’s meeting and we anticipate all paperwork being finalized before our August meeting.
  - Representative from a victim advocacy organization. This is an open position on the Council. Staff will be posting the position through the Secretary of State’s Office soon and we anticipate the new member will be named before our August meeting.

Chair Hanson lead a moment of silence in honor of Sheryl Cummings from Minnesota Operation Lifesaver who lost her battle with cancer last month and Cleven Duncan, Responsible Beverage Server Training, who recently passed away unexpectedly.

### **Crash Data Analysis Systems in Minnesota**

MnDOT, DPS, and MDH representatives discussed the various crash data analysis systems they use in each of their respective agencies, including an update from the Department of Public Safety on the Roadway Safety Information Center. Members heard how the systems complement each other, how they are different, and discussed traffic safety data challenges and needs.

### **Minnesota Department of Public Safety**

Chair Hanson, Brandon Walters, and Rachel Horne discussed the Road Safety Information Center (RSIC) as the cornerstone of the Data Analytics Information Center with a goal to provide equitable levels of services to all communities in Minnesota. They discussed closing the loop on feedback including content, design, and usability. Exciting new steps include working on the EMS mapping model and continuing to improve the data models. The platform can be found <https://roadsafetyinfocenter.mn.gov/>.

RSIC is a public resource and compliments current MnDOT tools and medical research communities. It will be consistent, provide accurate data, use updated designs, and expects to have superb usability. The tool will evolve to include predictive data that will be used to identify where the highest risk of future fatalities will be. This tool could also help to improve EMS response time by identifying where medical vehicles should be located to reduce response time and get crash victims to a medical facility faster, especially during the “golden hour”.

### **Minnesota Department of Transportation**

Derek Leuer reported on the current crash data available.

- Minnesota Crash Mapping Analysis Tool MNCMAT2: It is updated quarterly and user friendly. Users, often law enforcement partners, can build reports and do analysis. Training on this tool is available.
- ArcGIS Pro: Not as user friendly but features crash data back to 1984 to provide historical data.
- Coming in 2024: Software as a Service (SaaS): This will replace CrashMART. It was built in-house at MnDOT in conjunction with MnIT and DPS. A contract will be signed soon with Citian to build this software.
- There are other tools for crash data analysis including ClearGuide, StreetLight Insight and other Traffic Mapping Application.

## **Minnesota Department of Health**

Erik Zabel discussed how the Minnesota Department of Health's data would link to crash data (CODES). This includes data from the Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Registry, Center for Occupational Health & Safety, Alcohol/Drug Abuse Epidemiology & Suicide Prevention. It would also link hospital, ambulance, and other data and help to evaluate cost and health outcomes. Some of the hospital data components include injury severity, injury type, outcome, payer, trauma registry, intentional injury, pedestrian and bicycle injury.

## **Data Dive: Impacts of Winter Weather on Crash Data**

Brian Harmon, Research Analyst Specialist at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, shared data around the impacts of winter weather on crashes. After reviewing winter fatality and serious injury crash data from 2004-2024 and comparing mile versus normal winters, data indicated the following:

- The more snow the fewer fatalities and serious injury crashes.
- The higher the average temperature, the more fatalities and serious injury crashes.
- The more days of bitter cold, the fewer fatalities and serious injury crashes.
- Mild winters have indicated a high number of non-motorized crashes.

Harmon posed the following question to Council members to consider: *"Should we use some of the tools we use in warmer months during mild winter months?"*

## **2024 Minnesota Legislative Session: Traffic Safety Recap**

Paul Aasen, chair of the ACTS Legislative Subcommittee, led a discussion summarizing traffic safety related updates from the 2024 Minnesota legislative session.

Chair Hanson highlighted changes respective to DPS including legislation regarding crash reporting. If one or more vehicles is disabled at a crash site, then a crash report must be written. Lane splitting for motorcycles was also approved and will take effect on July 1, 2025; it is also against the law for a motorist to interfere with a motorcyclist who is lane splitting. Many other states who have similar lane splitting legislation also have helmet laws.

Vice Chair Sorenson highlighted MnDOT legislative changes. New laws regarding e-bikes, older driving education, and speed enforcement cameras were passed in 2024. MnDOT was asked to do a pilot study at 2-4 work zone locations with the speed enforcement cameras and Karen Sprattler is convening a meeting of the Speed Safety Camera Tack Force in July.

Aasen described five kinds of advocacy: direct; administrative (rulemaking); legislative/statutory; judicial; and rhetorical advocacy (using our voices). ACTS members are recommended to always have a list of suggestions for legislative changes.

Hausladen highlighted a new \$12.5 million bill for truck parking and MnDOT will do a truck parking study. It will look at if drivers are getting the necessary rest they need and if they are parking at a safe spot.

Other legislation highlighted included a \$1.2 million appropriations law passed for law enforcement officers who pull over a driver with a broken headlight, etc. This funding will support the program for law enforcement to give drivers with a broken headlight, etc. a voucher for repair instead of writing a violation ticket.

Commissioner Jeppson highlighted a [St. Louis County program](#) which has reduced recidivism by 40% to 5% for impaired drivers from underserved communities. They are able to go through a mental health program at no cost.

CTS hosted an event a few months ago that ACTS members were invited to attend with [David Ederer](#).

The legislature also passed an Advisory Council on Infrastructure.

## **Council Business**

### **Project Idea Solicitation Process Subcommittee**

Malinoff provided an update on behalf of the Project Idea Solicitation Process Subcommittee. A copy of the final solicitation can be found on the [ACTS project solicitation webpage](#). There is \$1.2 million available. The solicitations went live on May 22, 2024 and will close June 17, 2024. There will be a meeting on June 28 to score the submissions and decisions will be made around July 1. As of today, there are two applications.

### **Rural High Risk Roads/Safe Road Zones and Strategic Highway Safety Plan Working Group**

Leuer provided an update from the SHSP group. They met on May 10 and discussed the engagement materials from the TZD regional workshops, online survey and map, work groups, and equity meetings. Their next meeting is July 12, 2024 to analyze the crash data and then hope to present their findings to ACTS.

Leuer provided an update on the Rural High Risk Roadways efforts. The group has met six times and developed a project solicitation; the submissions totaled over \$10 million with the goal to reduce speeds and conflicts on rural highways. All the submissions were approved except one, which was partially funded.

Leuer updated the members on the Safe Road Zones initiative. The solicitation closed on May 3 and there was \$1 million for establishment of work zones and \$1 million for added enforcement. They had 24 local agencies apply for funding and all 24 were approved. DPS is processing the enforcement grants and MnDOT is processing education/awareness grants. Funds are awarded and will be distributed July 1. The Council agreed to disband the Rural High Risk Roads/Safe Road Zones Working Group now that their work is complete.

### **Meeting Attendance Expectations**

Vice Chair Sorenson reviewed the Council Operating Procedures with members, including expectations for attendance at meetings. A copy of the [Operating Procedures](#) is available on the ACTS website. Meeting attendance expectations are defined in section IV. Terms of Membership. A member organization that misses two consecutive meetings, or whose attendance falls below 50% in a one year period, will be contacted by staff to evaluate their ability to fulfill their obligation to ACTS. Members are encouraged to send another representative in their place if they are not able to be at a meeting. Members should reach out to one of the Chairs/Vice Chairs if they have concerns.

### **TZD Statewide Conference and Awards**

Vice Chair Sorenson encouraged council members to attend the Toward Zero Deaths Statewide Conference which is scheduled for October 22-23 in St. Cloud. There will be a session that will include an update on ACTS and the RCIS. General attendee registration opens August 27 and sponsor/exhibitor registration opens on July 18, 2024.

Vice Chair Sorenson discussed the TZD Scholarships that will be available for ACTS Council Members who may need financial assistance to attend the conference. ACTS members who work in the state of Minnesota are eligible to apply for a scholarship to facilitate their in-person attendance at the 2024 TZD Statewide Conference. Scholarship recipients are eligible for complimentary registration which includes all conference materials, breakfasts, lunch, breaks, and a networking reception. Scholarship recipients are also eligible for one hotel sleeping room for two nights (October 21 and 22) at one of the conference hotels if the recipient works more than 65 miles from the River's Edge Convention Center. All other travel expenses are not eligible and must be paid by the individual attendee or their employer. Council staff will email more information to Council members in late July.

Vice Chair Sorenson discussed the 2024 TZD Awards. Each year the TZD program gives awards to recognize individuals and organizations who have demonstrated excellence in their efforts to move Minnesota toward zero deaths. Recipients are selected by TZD Leadership based on recommendations from the TZD Awards Subcommittee. The awards vary from education, enforcement, EMS, child passenger safety, media, traffic safety innovation, emerging leader, distinguished public leadership and the Kathy Swanson Outstanding Service Award. More information can be found on the [TZD Awards webpage](#). The deadline to submit nominations is Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

#### **Public Comment**

Chair Hanson called for public comment. The number of commenters and length of time permitted was limited due to time constraints.

#### **Adjourn**

Chair Hanson thanked everyone for their time, attention, and involvement in traffic safety. Wojcik made a motion to adjourn, Moilanen seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

The next Advisory Council on Traffic Safety meeting will be August 14, 2024 from 1:00-4:00pm in the Josie Johnson Community Room at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs on the University of Minnesota campus.

**Appendix A: Attendance: Members, Staff, and Invited Guests**

Member Name	Organization	Present		Not Present
		In-person	Virtual	
<i>Council Members</i>				
Aasen, Paul	Minnesota Safety Council	X		
Ali-Mumin, Abdirahman	Representing Vulnerable Road Users			X
Bogojevic, Christina	Minnesota State Patrol		X	
Cocking, Aaron	Insurance Federation of Minnesota		X	
Crego, Chelaine	Northstar Bus Lines (representing Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation)			X
Diamond, Catherine	Minnesota Department of Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Section	X (Ashley Chavez)		
Donohue, Josephine	AAA- The Auto Club Group	X		
Dylan Ferguson	Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board	X		
Hanson, Mike	Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety	X		
Hartzell, Chris	City of Woodbury (representing League of Minnesota Cities)		X	
Hausladen, John	Minnesota Trucking Association	X		
Hernandez, Kristine	TZD Statewide Communications Director	X		
Hosmer, Pete	A+ Driving School (representing Minnesota Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association)	X		
Jacobs, Robert	CentraCare (representing Minnesota Statewide Trauma Advisory Council)	X		
Jeppson, Julie	Anoka County (representing Association of Minnesota Counties)		X	
Kosluchar, Jim	City of Fridley (representing City Engineers Association of Minnesota)	X		
Larson, Annette	TZD Statewide Program and Operations Director	X		
Leidle, Reed	Safety Signs (representing contractors)	X		
Leuer, Derek	Minnesota Department of Transportation, State Traffic Safety Engineer		X	

Meyer, Kerry	American Bar Association, State Judicial Outreach Liaison	X		
Moilanen, Michael	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (representing tribal governments)	X		
Ostgaard, Gayra	Minnesota Department of Education			X
Putzke, Becky	Law Enforcement Liaison	X		
Quinn, Cheryl	Representing Vulnerable Road Users	X		
Ramos, Michael	Washington County Sheriff's Office (representing Minnesota Sheriff's Association)		X	
Schallberg, Heidi	Met Council (representing metropolitan planning organizations)	X		
Schleck, Jessica	TZD Regional Coordinator	X		
Severson, Michele	Council on Disability		X	
Shelton, Kyle	Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota	X (Stephanie Malinoff)		
Sorenson, Brian	Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Traffic Engineering	X		
Tate, Jeff	Shakopee Police Department (representing Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association)	X		
Witter, Andrew	Sherburne County (representing Minnesota County Engineers Association)			X
Wojcik, Michael	Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota	X		
Young, Charles	Minnesota Department of Human Services		X	
<i>Council Staff</i>				
Dolan, Linda	Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota	X		
Malinoff, Stephanie	Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota	X		
Piper, Jackson	Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota	X		
<i>Invited Guests</i>				
Harmon, Brian	Minnesota Department of Public Safety	X		
Horne, Rachel	Minnesota IT Services	X		
Lynaugh, Tim	Minnesota Department of Public Safety	X		
Polinsky, Olivia	HDR	X		
Zabel, Erik	Minnesota Department of Health	X		