**Advisory Council on Traffic Safety**

**DRAFT Minutes**

**Wednesday, August 14, 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**

Vice Chair Diamond called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Chairs’ Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Approve Today’s Agenda**

Julie Jeppson made a motion to approve the agenda with one change. The Executive Committee struck the last item under Council Business, “Approve revised Operating Procedures.” Josie Donohue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes from June 12, 2024 Meeting**

Kyle Shelton made a motion to approve the June 2024 meeting minutes with no changes and Reed Leidle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The final meeting minutes are available on the [June meeting webpage](https://www.minnesotatzd.org/ACTS/meetings/2024/june).

**Membership Updates**

Two organizations have had recent member updates.

* Nick Martini from Northstar Bus Lines/American Student Transportation has replaced Chelaine Crego as the Council member representing the Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation.
* Holly Bot has replaced Sheryl Cummings as the Council member representing Minnesota Operation Lifesaver.

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

* Two new membership seats were added.
  + EMS Regulatory Board. Dylan Ferguson has officially joined the Council and all paperwork is now complete.
  + Representative from a victim advocacy organization. This is an open position on the Council. Staff have posted the position through the Secretary of State’s Office and the Chairs will begin reviewing applications later this month.

**Member Profile**

Starting this month, and as time allows at future meetings, a different Council member will be asked to give a brief introduction about themselves and their work. The goal of these discussions is to learn from each other, find commonalities, and identify potential partnership opportunities.

This meeting’s profile featured Judge Kerry Meyer, chief judge in Hennepin County and the Minnesota State Judicial Outreach Liaison (JOL). The goal of the JOL program, which is administered through the American Bar Association, is to focus outreach efforts to education and inform judges on impaired driving and highway safety issues primarily through peer-to-peer education. Meyer explained that participating in TZD and ACTS has been valuable in bringing a more well-rounded view to the bench and to other judges.

Meyer shared several examples of the types of activities she focuses on as our state’s JOL: working as a resource to other judges on impaired driving cases, DWI courts, and developing traffic safety/impaired driving sessions at judicial conference and training sessions. She also mentioned that ACTS project solicitation funds will send Minnesota judges to the 2025 Lifesavers Conference—a great example of something that would never happen if this role did not exist.

Meyer ended her session with a Q&A with members.

**2025 Traffic Safety Legislative Initiatives**

Paul Aasen, chair of the ACTS Legislative Subcommittee, provided an update on results from the ACTS Policy and Legislative Proposal survey that was completed in July. A summary of the ACTS Policy and Legislative Proposal survey results, including initials subcommittee rankings on priority, are included on the [ACTS website](https://www.minnesotatzd.org/ACTS/meetings/2024/august).

Members then broke into three small groups to brainstorm additional legislative ideas and prioritize initiatives for the 2025 session.

**Breakout Group Reports**

Before the three small groups reported to the larger group, Tim Held provided more detail about proposal 6 (sustained staffin for MNTrauma). MnTrauma is the clinical database that collects critical care information, treatment information, and outcome information from 125 trauma hospitals in the state. MDH has never had committed, dedicated analytical research capacity to work with this trauma dataset to the extent that it should. The department’s goal is to evaluate the outcome of injuries based on standard performance metrics. Improvements can be made if the data is evaluated and changes are made based on what the data shows.

Highlights from the report outs include:

* All three groups agreed that proposal numbers 28 (keep base charter for ACTS with funding) and 29 (retain ACTS enabling language and charter) as very high priorities.
* All three groups also believed that proposal number 1 (continuing drivers education) should be moved from medium to high priority.
* Members noted the importance of technology, especially proposals 22 (automated traffic enforcement) and 27 (intelligent speed assistance for repeat offenders). It is in the state’s best interest to harness technology to assist in speed control and traffic enforcement.
* All groups agreed that MNTrauma staffing (#6) is very important and should be a high priority.
* Workzone infrastructure (#13) should be elevated in priority.
* It was noted that while motorcycle helmet wearing is important, it should probably be lower on the list (at least for this year) given the uphill battle with legislative efforts. Group #3 suggested that rather than pursuing a change to law, the Council could consider a social norming/education campaign to encourage motorcyclists to wear helmets.
* One group suggested that requiring seatbelts on ATVs (#9) could be an easy legislative win with little cost and should be moved higher.
* Group #1 suggested that proposal #23 (RSIP and HSIP) should move higher (but still be medium-level priority) because federal funding is available. There is currently a program that is accessible to larger communities—however, there is a process and staffing barrier for smaller communities.
* Several proposals referred to penalties and increased fines. Group #1 suggested that it shouldn’t be the council’s responsibility to decide the price of fines and therefore those proposals should go down in priority. Group #3 said that the price of penalties may not be as important as what the penalties fund.
* Many of the proposals were similar and should be lumped together and looked at in more depth (topics relating to engineering, vulnerable road users, speed).
* A number of proposals also warranted further discussion, such as the proposals around speed, driver testing for impairment, and VRU protections.
* Court ordered behavioral telematics (#10) could move to high, similar to continuing driver education (#1).
* Broadening impaired driving research and demonstrations beyond the Highway Safety Center would be valuable (#3). The group suggested cleaning up the legislative language first, then possibly asking for funding in future years.

For proposal #12 (fire extraction) would need to identify if there really is a problem or not. There could possibly be a funding request to the legislature for a study, or possibly a task force to explore in more detail.

The Executive Committee will review the groups’ notes and determine next steps at their August 30 meeting.

**Data Dive: Involvement of People With Driver’s License Issues in Fatal Crashes**

Brian Harmon, Research Analyst Specialist at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, was scheduled to share data around the impacts of people with driver’s license issues in fatal crashes. Due to time constraints, this presentation will be moved to the October meeting.

**Council Business**

**Project Idea Solicitation Process Subcommittee**

Malinoff provided an update on behalf of the Project Idea Solicitation Process Subcommittee. 22 ideas were submitted and 15 were selected to move forward. Malinoff is working with Chair Hanson and his team to get contracts in place and projects started.

There will be another round of solicitations in the coming months.

**Strategic Highway Safety Plan Working Group**

Leuer provided an update from the SHSP working group. Slides are available on in the [June meeting slide deck on the ACTS website](https://www.minnesotatzd.org/sites/minnesotatzd.org/files/2024-08/2024_08_14_acts_ppt_final.pdf).

**Toward Zero Deaths Conference Scholarships**

Jackson Piper reminded Council members that they are strongly encouraged to attend the Toward Zero Deaths Statewide Conference, scheduled for October 22-23 in St. Cloud. Scholarships to cover hotel and registration costs are available for Council Members who may need financial assistance to attend the conference. Scholarship applications close on August 22.

**Public Comment**

Due to time constraints, there was no opportunity for public comment. Any feedback or comments can be shared with the ACTS Chairs via email.

**Adjourn**

Vice Chair Diamond thanked everyone for their time, attention, and involvement in traffic safety. Jeppson 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 October 9, 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** |
| *Council Members* |
| Aasen, Paul | Minnesota Safety Council | X |  |  |
| Ali-Mumin, Abdirahman | Representing Vulnerable Road Users |  | X |  |
| Bogojevic, Christina | Minnesota State Patrol |  |  | X |
| Bot, Holly | Minnesota Operation Lifesaver | X |  |  |
| Cocking, Aaron | Insurance Federation of Minnesota |  |  | X |
| Diamond, Catherine | Minnesota Department of Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Section | X |  |  |
| Donohue, Josephine | AAA- The Auto Club Group | X |  |  |
| Ferguson, Dylan | 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 |  |  |
| Martini, Nick | Northstar Bus Lines (representing Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation) |  |  | 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 |  |  |
| 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 |
| *Council Staff* |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |  |  |
| *Invited Guests* |  |  |  |  |
| Harmon, Brian | Minnesota Department of Public Safety | X |  |  |