

February 10, 2009

Safe Passage

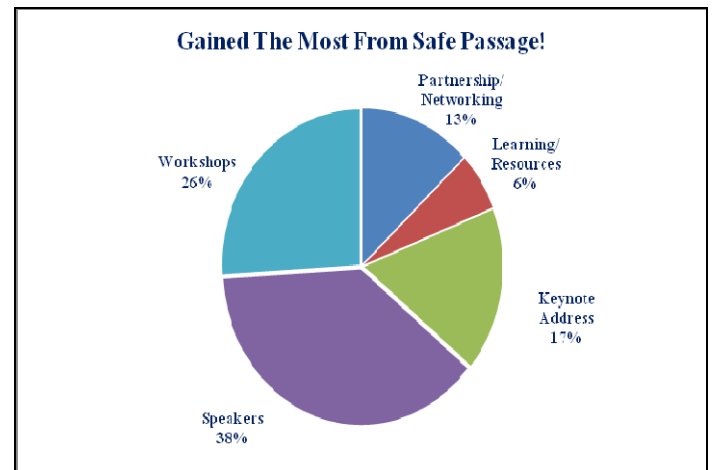
New Solutions: Moving Toward Zero Fatalities

Conference Highlights

Over 700 people die yearly on New Jersey roadways; but in 2008 these fatalities significantly decreased to 596 lives lost. It has been speculated that this dramatic reduction is due to the economy, as well as the implementation of targeted safety initiatives. On February 10th, members of the law enforcement and safety communities attended the Safe Passage Conference, held at the Ocean Place Resort to renew their commitment to Safe Passage. Governor Corzine, Attorney General Milgram, safety leaders, and enforcement officials addressed the audience on New Jersey's transportation safety needs, proven best practices, and distributed resources on further reducing roadway fatalities.

Nearly 300 representatives from the law enforcement (74%), safety (15%), and transportation (11%) professions renewed their commitment to Safe Passage by attending the plenary session and a series of breakout workshops on roadway safety. All of the respondents surveyed (43%) enthusiastically agreed that this symposium was beneficial to them. They gained the most value from presentations by Michael Geraci, Director of NHTSA Enforcement and Justice Services and Lieutenant James Halverson of the New York State Police Traffic Unit. Mr. Geraci described the Data-Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS), while Halvorsen provided an overview of the New York State Motorcycle Enforcement Demonstration Project. Following the main session, a series of workshops were held and deemed as most beneficial to 29% of the respondents. Also, the keynote address was independently identified as the highlight of this

conference, along with networking opportunities that enabled those present to learn from their peers.



About the Workshops

Workshop #1 Red Light Camera Pilot

Presenter: Patricia Ott, Director, Traffic Engineering and Safety, New Jersey Department of Transportation

A five-year pilot program has been established in New Jersey to determine the effectiveness of installing and utilizing traffic control signal monitoring systems. A traffic control signal monitoring system includes cameras and vehicle sensors, which work in conjunction with traffic control signals to produce images of vehicles disregarding a red signal.

Participant Comments

- ✓ **Excellent Overview**
- ✓ **Very Informative About the Application Process**
- ✓ **Will Be Considered By My Agency**

Workshop #2 Teen Driver Safety Panel

Panelists: Pam Fischer, Director, NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety; William Margaretta, President, NJ State Safety Council; and Lt. Brian Crain, New Jersey State Police, Construction Unit

A series of targeted teen driver initiatives were presented that included recommendations from the Governor's Teen Driver Study Commission. The 14 essential recommendations were highlighted during the session. Also, there were brief presentations of the Alive at 25 and Work Zone Safety Teen Driver Programs, which are examples of best practices that support these recommendations.

Participant Comments

- ✓ **Eye Opening**
- ✓ **Want to Learn More About Alive@25**
- ✓ **Great Need to Get Parents More Involved**

Workshop #3 Pedestrian Decoy Program

Presenters: Ranjit Walia, Program Manager, and Robert Williams, Coordinator, Voorhees Transportation Center

New Jersey Department of Transportation and the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety have partnered with the Voorhees Transportation Center to pilot a pedestrian decoy program in North and South Jersey. The purpose of the program had been to target those drivers who do not yield to pedestrians in marked crosswalks. Decoys cross the roadway while law enforcement watches for and cites those drivers failing to yield to pedestrians.

Participant Comments

- ✓ **Important Work**
- ✓ **Need Program Funded for Pedestrian Areas**
- ✓ **Use Crash Data to Determine Success**

Workshop #4 Myths and Realities of the Black Box

Moderator: Shannon Purdy, NHTSA Region 2

Presenters: Sgt. Richard Maxwell, Colts Neck Township Police New Jersey Police Traffic Officer's Association; and Lieutenant Robert Parlow, Assistant Bureau Chief, Operations Safety, New Jersey State Police

Crash Data Retrieval (CDR) Systems are devices that record events. They are sometimes referred to as the "black box". CDRs have the ability and potential to create a major impact on highway safety, ranging from assisting in real-world data collection to better defining the auto safety problem, or aiding in law enforcement and understanding the specific aspects of a crash. The operational function of Crash Data Retrieval (CDR) Systems were reviewed, along with the use of this information in conjunction with situational complete reconstruction reports.

Participant Comments

- ✓ **Outstanding, Knowledgeable Presenters**
- ✓ **Present to All Law Enforcement Commanders**
- ✓ **Lots of Information**

Workshop #5 Smooth Operator

Presenters: Edward O'Connor, NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety and Sergeant David Iulucci, Winslow Township Police Department

The Smooth Operator program is a public safety initiative which aims to provide education, information and solutions for the aggressive driving problem. In 2007, the program was piloted and successfully implemented in Pennsylvania. Several hundred police departments annually participated in four enforcement waves that resulted in over 241,000 citations being written.

Participant Comments

- ✓ **Well Done**
- ✓ **Workshop is Useful**
- ✓ **Good Presentations**

Keynote Presentation

Major Steven O. McDaniel, Pennsylvania State Police (*retired*).

Major McDaniel introduced himself as a newly retired citizen, who found joy in not having to go to work any longer. He mentioned his experiences as a visitor to New Jersey, while attending training at the Police Academy in Sea Girt. McDaniel commended the Safe Passage Task Force for their efforts in helping to reduce roadway crashes and fatalities during the past year. He also expressed admiration regarding the collaborative effort of the Safe Passage Task Force.

The remainder of his presentation addressed the importance of determining your personal “why” when attempting to understand roadway safety. The “why” behind personal behavior was explored, as it relates to driving on roadways. It is also important to understand why crashes occur, especially those caused by human error. The concept “why” was then broadened to reflect upon how crashes impact families and the communities where they occur.

Major McDaniel ended his presentation by challenging the audience to gain a true understanding of “why” they are committed to roadway safety. Without the passion that is fueled by “why”, such efforts will be minimally realized at best!



2008-09

Safe Passage Leadership Awards

Special Recognition

Lt. Colonel Juan Mattos, Deputy Superintendent of Operations,
New Jersey State Police

Outstanding Advocacy

Pamela S. Fischer, Director, New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety and Governor's Highway Safety Representative

Engineering Safety

Patricia Ott, Director, Traffic Engineering and Safety, New Jersey Department of Transportation

Law Enforcement

Chief Anthony Parenti, First President, New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association

Traffic Safety Education

John Clearwater, Managing Director, Construction Industry Advancement Program (CIAP) and Founding Member, New Jersey Work Zone Safety Partnership

Media Advocacy

John Cichowski, Writer, Road Warrior Column

Recommended Next Steps for Safe Passage

- ✓ Identify Best Practices
- ✓ Driver Behavior
- ✓ Pedestrian Programs
- ✓ Commercial Motor Vehicles
- ✓ Teen Driver Program
- ✓ Legislative Issues
- ✓ Crash Data
- ✓ Marketing Safety
- ✓ Outreach to Health Care Reps
- ✓ Grant Writing
- ✓ Engineering
- ✓ Child Passenger Seats

Safe Passage Partners

AAA

Administrative Office of the Courts

Brain Injury Association of New Jersey

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Federal Highway Administration

Federal Motor Carrier Administration

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

NJ Department of Transportation

NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety

NJ State Safety Council

NJ Trauma Centers

NJ Law Review Commission

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission

NJ Office of the Governor

NJ Police Traffic Officers Association

NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police

NJ State Municipal Prosecutors Association

NJ State Police

Office of the Attorney General

Rutgers University CAIT-LTAP

Subaru of America, Inc.

Safe Passage Task Force

Traffic crashes claim over 42,000 lives each year nationwide. Over 700 of these fatalities occur on New Jersey roads. In addition, there are over 316,000 yearly crashes in New Jersey resulting in an average of 105,000 injuries. The Safe Passage Task Force was organized under the leadership of the New Jersey Division of State Police, as part of Governor Corzine's Pedestrian Initiative, to address traffic safety issues that amplify the crash risk. This task force includes members from over 20 agencies, who share the goal of combating fatalities through a statewide crash awareness and reduction effort.

Mission: The mission of the Safe Passage Task Force is to develop and undertake a number of innovative statewide initiatives aimed at improving traffic safety and reducing crash frequencies. These initiatives are based on the three E's of traffic safety: Education, Engineering, and Enforcement.

For more information and conference presentations, visit the Safe Passage website <http://www.nj.gov/safepassge/>.