



State of Vermont
Department of Public Safety
45 State Drive
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ROADWAY SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

September 28, 2017

The Roadway Safety Subcommittee meeting was opened at approximately 10:40 am by Thomas Anderson, Chair, with the following in attendance.

Present: Thomas Anderson, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, Chair; Joe Flynn, Secretary of the Agency of Transportation; Dr. Trisha Conti, Director of the Vermont Forensic Laboratory; Bill Mapes, Vermont Emergency Medical Services provider; Captain Mike Major, designee of the Criminal Justice Training Council; Chief Jennifer Morrison, designee of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (by phone); Representative Maxine Grad; Senator Joe Benning; John Campbell, Executive Director Vermont Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs; Marshall Pahl, Office of the Defender General; Lieutenant John Flannigan, Vermont State Police; Marie Horbar, Assistant General Counsel, Department of Public Safety

Introductions made by those in attendance.

Commissioner Anderson presents Governor's Marijuana Advisory Commission – Roadway Safety Subcommittee PowerPoint.

Important Time Frames

- November 15, 2017 – Roadway Safety Report to full Commission
- January 15, 2018 – Roadway Safety Report to Governor
- December 15, 2018 – Final Commission recommendations to Governor
 - April 1, 2018 – Progress Reports to Governor
 - July 1, 2018 – Progress Reports to Governor
 - October 1, 2018 – Progress Reports to Governor



Subcommittee Assignments

- Compile Data/Evidence
 - Current roadway injury and death data related to marijuana
 - Increase/decrease in crime rates in states where marijuana is legal
- Make Recommendations
 - Appropriate impairment testing mechanism;
 - Drug Recognition Experts – how many do we need and how are funded;
 - Vermont Forensic Lab: What is its capacity and can it handle increased testing for marijuana-impaired drivers;
 - Impairment thresholds/standards: Should/can they be established and should/can they be regionalized (ME, MA, NH);
 - Need for performance benchmark(s), e.g., decline in major crashes due to marijuana-impaired driving;
 - Adequacy of Law Enforcement, Fire and EMT services to address impaired driving due to marijuana and marijuana and alcohol;
 - Changes to Vermont law:
 - to protect those under 21 years;
 - ensure highway safety (e.g., changes to the DUI laws);
 - Search and Seizure.

Senator Benning states we need to ensure our data collection is relative to how other states are collecting their data. Collections need to be uniform.

Chief Morrison states we need to focus early on which states we are going to pick and what benchmarks we will follow.

Lieutenant Flannigan notes availability and limitations of roadway data in Vermont.

Assistant General Counsel Marie Horbar presents Roadway Safety Overview: Nationwide and New England.

Members to discuss and advise who we should invite to give overview of how marijuana legalization worked for other states. Members to think about compiling information for November 15 and dividing the work.

The next Roadway Safety Subcommittee meeting was set for October 16, 2017 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Emergency Operations Center, Vermont Department of Public Safety.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

