

Motor Carrier Advisory Council
Microsoft Teams Meeting
March 10, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Chris Smith, Lynn Zelek, Sandra Bianco, Jean Cronin, Paul Farrell Joe Sculley, Don Braman, Eyvonne Parker-Bair, Deb Notarino, Felipe Briseno, Michelle Moroni, Mei Wong, John Getsie, Ed Brickner, Steve Shore, Evelyn Stender, Katherine Grady, Adam Grippo, Erick Johnson, Jean Cronin, Joan Nichols, Anne Kleza, Paul Kritzler, Stacey Manware, Kelly O’Connell

- I. **Call to Order** – Motor Carrier Advisory Council (MCAC) Chairman Christopher Smith called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm and informed participants the meeting was being recorded.
- II. **Chairman’s Remarks** – The Chairman introduced Lt. Evelyn Stender.
- III. **Approval of the June 24, 2021 Minutes** – Chairman Smith asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes from the last meeting. There weren’t any requests for changes. Jean Cronin motioned to approve the minutes, and Paul Farrell seconded the motion.
- IV. **Review of the Legislative Session of the General Assembly** - Chairman Smith began with the state agencies.

DMV – Eyvonne Parker-Bair

- Reported on technical change with regard to 14-27-b, section 9. The change will give the Commissioner greater flexibility to coordinate coverage at the weigh stations.
- There is an amendment to 14-282 which would remove the requirement to inspect retired school buses.

DEEP- Paul Farrell and Paul Kritzler

- Reported on the new executive order, EO 21-3., and the directives to state agencies. Most pertinent is that DEEP was directed to perform an assessment of the impacts associated with the adoption of California medium and heavy duty emission standards for new vehicles, and what this means for CT. The report has been issued and can be found here https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/air/mobile/MHD/MHD_whitepaper_030.22.pdf.

- Spoke about SB 4 and grant program ideas to help the agency by using various voucher programs for medium and heavy duty vehicles, as well as electric school buses. The bill includes a heavy duty voucher program that can be implemented in similar manner to the one in New York.
- Chairman Smith asked John Getsie to provide an update on how DMV is working with DEEP. John responded that he is working to improve data gathering and reporting capability through the DMV Opacity Testing Program.

Motor Carrier Industries

Connecticut Bus Association/CT School Transportation Association – Jean Cronin

- The Bus Association is still waiting for motor bus regulation revisions from DOT.
- Ms. Cronin told Felipe Briseno the Industry has been waiting over a decade for updated motor bus regulation.
- She would like to begin working on redoing commuter routes.
- There is concern about a bill regarding “carb standards,” and that CT could lose control over its own destiny when it starts following the rules of another state.
- Electrification of buses – There is concern about the ability to charge electric charter buses when they are traveling long distances. The Industry is not ready for that. They want to work with DEEP, and will be submitting comments.
- The Industry supports Senate Bills 162 and 256.
- There is concern over the cost of electric school buses.
- Proficiency Tests – Tests are onerous for drivers and time consuming for instructors. With retirements, the DMV will be losing employees. Perhaps the testing can be streamlined?
- Thanks given to Cindy Zuerblis and Deb Notarino for the webinar training.
- Discussion with Paul Farrell, Paul Kritzer and Felipe Briseno about regulations and the cost of electric buses. Paul Farrell explained that at this point, there is no requirement for anyone in CT to purchase electric school buses. When that happens there will be grant programs available.
- Joe Sculley asked Paul Farrell to clarify the timeline on the CA. emission standards. Paul explained regulatory timelines associated with adopting CA standards and lead time requirements of the federal Clean Air Act.
- Felipe Briseno told Ms. Cronin that regulations for charter buses and livery vehicles were put into the state system years ago. There were questions from the AG’s office, and the regulations are not undergoing review. After that has been completed Mr. Briseno wants to go through the public comment phase, make any revisions, and get the regulations implemented. Jean will reach out to the Industry.
- Chairman Smith spoke to Ms. Cronin about COSTA’s leads finding potential bus drivers.

Motor Transport Association of CT – Joe Sculley

- Thanked DMV for working with them on figuring out new entry level driver training. Also thanked St. Stender and Sgt. Browne for attending a 2-million-mile accident free driver celebration.
- He said that he would love to have law enforcement participate in the Truck Driving Championship on June 11th.
- Is opposed to the Carbon Bill 50-39. He ran the numbers and found there isn't enough money to pay vouchers for vehicle upgrades to EV for all vehicles. He also explained the diesel section of the bill
- Senate Bill 4 – the Organization is generally okay with incentives rather than mandates.

Shore Associates – Steve Shore

- Reported the CELTIC system is getting better, but there are still “a whole bunch of anomalies.”
- Asked to revisit the idea of a third party vendor that would be able to issue IRP plates. Kelly O'Connell said the idea could be discussed in the future.
- Mr. Shore asked for updates on the CT Mileage Tax Bill. Joe Scully informed him that the bill passed.
- Mr. Shore has an issue with having to provide the original VIN verification document. He would like it to be electronic. Chairman Smith explained the reasons an original document is required.

Connecticut Farm Bureau – Joan Nichols

- Farmers are having issues when renewing vehicles that have a farm plate. The tax exemption permits are being missed and the vehicles are not being renewed. Audrey Hall will examine the current process.
- Also expressed concern about EV sales mandates.

U.S. DOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Association (FMCSA) – Ed Brickner

- The Infrastructure Bill will increase grant funding over the next five years.

Innovative Technology Deployment/Commercial Vehicle Operations (ITD/CVO)- Kelly O'Connell

- The ITD PRISM Project to automate Federal Out of Service process has been documented. They are waiting to prioritize the project to see when the work will be completed in the system.
- The MOU with UCONN has been sent on for review and comments.
- The RFP for virtual weigh stations is being worked on and should be sent out shortly.

Connecticut Motor Vehicle Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) – Evelyn Stender

- DMV is currently working on its role with the MCSAP program. The intention is to keep the program running and procure more funding to keep the program running smoothly.
- Connecticut's crash rate is approximately half of the national average.

V. Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:06 pm