

**Motor Carrier Advisory Council**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting**  
**February 4, 2021**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Chris Smith, Don Bridge, Commissioner Magubane, Deputy Commissioner Guerrera, Dan Silbo, Gary Catania, Chris Herb, James Flynn, Michelle Givens, David Hiscox, Jean Cronin, Joan Nichols, Joe Scully, Paul Farrell, Stavros Mellekas, Tracy Babbidge, Adam Grippo, Audrey Hall, Eric Jackson, Anne Kleza, Paul Kritzler, Stacy Manware, Deb Notarino, Brandon O'Brien, Kelly O'Connell, Iliana Rodriguez, Mike Romeo, Vanita Smith, John Szilagy, Elaine Ulrich, John Getsie, Edward Brickner, Chris Henry, Gail Billet, Sandi Bianco, Lynn Zelek

- I. **Call to Order** - Motor Carrier Advisory Council (MCAC) Chairman Christopher Smith called to the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and advised that the meeting was being recorded.
  
- II. **Approval of March 5, 2020 Minutes** – Chairman Smith asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the previous meeting of March 5, 2020. Paul Farrell of DOT requested changes be made to his statement from the last meeting. Lt. Bridge motioned to correct the minutes and Paul Farrell seconded the motion. Note; the changes have been made and will be posted.
  
- III. **Chairman Remarks** – Chairman Smith thanked everyone for attending and introduced Commissioner Magubane and Deputy Commissioner Guerrera. The commissioners thanked everyone in the industry for their hard work during a very challenging year. The deputy also commended Chief Smith for doing a great job, and informed the group that the agency had launched the on-line system for driver license renewals.
  
- IV. **Review of the Legislative Session of the General Assembly** – Chairman Smith began with the state agencies.

**DMV –**

- Attorney Michelle Givens discussed proposed changes to statues 14-25c, 14-29, 14-44c, 14-44e, 14-441, 14-44K, 14-276a, and 14-163f. A summary of the changes may be found in the posted attachment. In addition to the above, the Department also proposed legislation regarding FMCSA's entry level driver training program. The proposal notes that on and after February 7, 2022, the Commissioner is prohibited from issuing a CDL to individuals who seek an upgrade to a Class A or B CDL, individuals who are applying for a

P or S endorsement, or individuals who are seeking an H endorsement, until the commissioner verifies with FMCSA that they have undergone entry level driver training as required under 49 CFR Part 380. The proposal also notes to whom this requirement does not apply.

- Commissioner Magubane asked John Getsie for an update on the emissions program. John explained that a new vendor is coming on board next year and will provide new equipment to perform on-board diagnostic tests on trucks.

**DOT** – David Hiscox stated that they are preparing an RFP and gathering information regarding setting up virtual weigh stations. He is also putting together a package to clarify language with regard to weight postings on bridges.

**DESPP**- Colonel Mellekas did not have any comments or concerns

**DRS**- Mike Romeo discussed the September 2021 upgrade of the tax system and roll out of IFTA into C tax payments. Further information to IFTA carriers will be forthcoming

**DEEP** – Paul Farrell

- DEEP is going to re-propose legislation regarding heavy duty diesel emission standards for new trucks in CT. There is a choice for CT to adopt federal standards or CA standards. Federal standards have not been reviewed since the early 2000s.
- There are serious air quality challenges that put regulatory pressure on stationary sources in CT; these have been regulated to the point where there aren't a lot of viable emissions reductions left. Equity is also a factor because the transportation corridor historically bears a disproportionate burden when it comes to air pollution.
- CT greenhouse gas reduction goals are for a 45% reduction by 2030 and an 80% reduction by 2050. CT needs to look at the mobile source sector in terms of ozone pollutants.
- CA is working toward electrifying large portions of heavy duty fleets and reducing emissions by 2035; this coincides with the CT reduction targets.
- Recently, an MOU was signed where CT and other states are taking voluntary measures to electrify portions of their heavy duty fleets.

**DEEP** – James Flynn

- Attorney Flynn reiterated Paul Farrell's statements.
- He discussed the Transportation and Climate Initiative which is a multi-state market based initiative to reduce CO2 emissions from on road transportation while generating proceeds through the auction of allowances to invest in transportation projects.
- The program will start in 2023 and is projected to increase gas prices by 5 cents in 2023 and 10 cents in 2032. There is also a Cost Containment Reserve which is a safety valve to ensure costs stay within an acceptable range.
- Participating jurisdictions have agreed to invest at least 35% of the annual proceeds to ensure communities overburdened by air pollution or underserved by the transportation system benefit from the program.
- CT will establish an Equity Advisory Body which will advise on how proceeds from the program should be invested.
- If legislation passes there will be a stake holder engagement and public comment period.

**DEEP continued** - Chris Herb of the CT Energy Marketers Association asked the following:

- Mr. Herb asked Attorney Flynn if there is a bill the industry can look at. Flynn replied that they are working on it and that he will take all feedback seriously.
- Mr. Herb also asked Attorney Flynn to elaborate on the rule making process if the legislature does not approve the bill. The answer was that the goal is to make it consistent across state lines and operate independently in each state; the first step in CT is to seek legislative authority to go through the normal regulation process and collect input.
- He then asked Mr. Farrell to clarify where the monitors that determine NOx and other emissions from mobile sources are located. Mr. Farrell answered that the closest is in Hartford by the Sills building and a series of 14 ozone monitors are located throughout the state. Mr. Herb asked Mr. Farrell to share the location information; Mr. Farrell agreed to do this.

**University of Connecticut-** Eric Jackson

- UCONN has a grant through FMCSA to train police officers on how to investigate commercial motor vehicle crashes. The training has been put on hold due to COVID.
- There is a project to develop a pilot study to help truckers find a place to park their vehicle.
- The other application being looked at is for warning commercial vehicles of work zones.
- UCONN recently purchased a black box kit which downloads the event recorders on commercial vehicles. Training is on hold.

### **Motor Carrier Industries**

**Motor Transport Association of CT** Joe Scully

- Recognized DMV for the “great” work done supporting the industry.
- He is looking forward to when a system allowing large fleets to do their own registrations will be available.
- He inquired about on-line CDL license renewal capability.
- There is a drug and alcohol seminar coming up.
- Mr. Scully submitted, for the record, that his organization is strongly opposed to both legislative proposals from DEEP. He explained that the CA emissions standards will put CT businesses at a disadvantage that will push truck sales and jobs out of state. He also pointed out that passenger vehicles in CT contribute more emissions than commercial trucks.
- Paul Farrell from DEEP asked Mr. Scully to send him information the Motor Transport Association has re; stats etc., because some of the information presented does not align with what they have at DEEP. Mr. Scully agreed to do so.

### **Connecticut Bus Association/CT School Transportation Association – Jean Cronin**

- Charter and school bus companies were hard hit by COVID. Trouble finding drivers.
- Ms. Cronin applauded the DMV for proposed bills 14-29 and 14-276a
- There is frustration with DOT re; the restructuring of bus routes and work going to CT Transit instead of being bid out.
- There is fear that private operators are being shut out of the UPASS program.
- Would like to see the final Motor Bus Regulations passed.
- Would like slots in the license appointment system reserved to book CDL permit tests. Deputy Commissioner Guerrero asked for a list of people having trouble getting an on-line appointment in a timely manner, and said he would speak to Janet Reynolds about reserving a couple of emergency appointment slots.
- DESPP is caught up on background checks.
- There is concern over upcoming retirements and how they will affect CDL testing. Commissioner Magubane explained the new OPM process that allows the refill paperwork be submitted a month before an employee retires.
- On behalf of COSTA she is working with Chris Smith and Cindy Zuerblis on changes o the proficiency test structure for school bus drivers. She hopes this will be implemented soon.
- The industry is pleased to see online training for school bus driver classroom instruction, and would like to see online renewals for school buses.

### **Connecticut Energy Marketers Association – Chris Herb**

- Thanked DMV for the quick response to an hours of service waiver during a snow storm.
- He stated his organization is aligned with Joe Scully's comments on the Emissions and Transportation Climate Initiative bills
- There is extreme concern that the TSA Center on 100 Waterford St in New Haven is being relocated.
- The association is working to make sure drivers transporting essential products are in phase 1B of the definition of essential workers.

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

- There were four grant opportunities discussed; Innovation Grant (CDL Program), High Priority Innovative Technology Deployment, High Priority Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Grant, and the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Training program grant.
- Contact information for information about the grants is [Edward.brickner@dot.gov](mailto:Edward.brickner@dot.gov) or Grants.gov and search by keyword FMCSA

**Innovative Technology Deployment/Commercial Vehicle Operations (ITD/CVO)- Vanita Smith and Iliana Rodriguez**

- Updated information regarding the virtual weigh stations – An RFP is being drafted, and ITERIS will be working on project plans.
- The new IFTA system will be rolling out in September of this year.
- As of 2/2/21 the CDL portal has 10,858 user accounts, and 130,204 medical certificates were uploaded
- DMV will be adding new features to the CDL portal which will allow for registration paperwork to be uploaded.

**Connecticut Motor Vehicle Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) – Lt. Bridge**

- Lt. Bridge reported that motor carrier traffic volume that was down due to COVID, is now on the way back up.
- PRISM update given.
- He is working with Judicial on an on-line adjudications program.

**V. Council Recommendations**

- Chairman Smith would like the Council to look at statute 14-270c and come up with recommendations to be shared at the next meeting.

**VI. Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:18 pm.**