

Connecticut
Motor Carrier Advisory Council
Thursday, April 10, 2008
1:00 P.M.
Department of Motor Vehicles
60 State Street, 2nd Floor Commissioner's Conference Room
Wethersfield, Connecticut
Minutes

Attendees

Commissioner Robert Ward, Motor Carrier Advisory Council Chairman/Deputy Commissioner John Herman, John Yacavone, Kenneth Nappi, Kathleen Flanagan-Beal, Lieutenant Donald Bridge Jr., David Ostafin, Andy Munson, Keith Kennedy, Dennis Walsh and Maureen Doyle, Department of Motor Vehicles; Lieutenant Peter Wack and Sergeant Frank Sawicki, Traffic Services Unit, Connecticut State Police; Marc Papandrea and Rosemary Cleary, Department of Revenue Services; Hal Decker, Jr. and James Spencer, Department of Transportation; Lawrence Lusardi, Department of Economic and Community Development; Robert Hammersley, Office of Policy and Management; Michael Riley, Motor Transport Association of Connecticut, Inc.; Don Shubert, Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc.; Bill Moore, Connecticut School Transportation Association; Jeffrey Cimahosky, U.S. DOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; Bruce Gresczyk, Jr., Connecticut Farm Bureau; Rick Szilagyi, Michael Pazzaneze and Larry White, New England Livery Association; Eric Anderson, Essex Limousine; and Steve Shore, Shore Associates.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Herman welcomed all attendees at 1:05 p.m. and self-introductions were made. Chairman Herman reviewed Title 14, Section 14-11c Motor Carrier Advisory Council, including portions that addressed the establishment of the Council as a forum for representatives of the motor carrier industry to meet with representatives of the various State agencies responsible for the oversight, enforcement and regulation of the commercial transportation industry, the duties of the Council and the voting members identified in the statute.

II. Approval of Minutes: September 26, 2007 Meeting

Copies of the minutes forwarded earlier were distributed. Marc Papandrea made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, Lieutenant Wack seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Herman expressed his appreciation to those in attendance and thanked DMV Commissioner Robert Ward for having designated him to serve as the MCAC Chairman. Chairman Herman requested that DMV Grants and Contracts Division Manager Andy Munson provide a brief update concerning the status of the Connecticut Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN) FY 2008 Deployment Program Grant Application. Mr. Munson reported that the application was submitted earlier in the day for FMCSA review. Chairman Herman requested that CVISN/PRISM Program Manager Keith Kennedy provide an update overview of the CVISN Program. Mr. Kennedy identified the following three program areas of providing operating credentials electronically; roadside screening and pre-clearance at the Weigh

and Inspection Facility in Union, Connecticut; and safety and credentials information exchange among participating jurisdictions and the Federal government. He noted that Program efforts are targeted to provide motor carriers with credentialing options and to improve highway safety by rewarding safe motor carriers, penalizing unsafe carriers and removing unsafe commercial vehicles from the roadways.

IV. Review of Legislative Proposals for the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly

State Agencies

DMV Legal Services Bureau Chief John Yacavone discussed Senate Bill No. 503, An Act Revising Certain Motor Vehicle Laws introduced by the Transportation Committee, including International Registration Plan (IRP) regulations to address the most recent, up-to-date, version of the IRP registration reciprocity agreement among participating jurisdictions, technical suspension-related changes concerning Commercial Driver License (CDL) permits, citations concerning oversize/overweight vehicles and citations given to the operators and the vehicle owners, and insurance compliance changes for commercial motor vehicles and the associated establishment of a pilot program for an electronic insurance verification system. Mr. Yacavone also discussed efforts to address the failure of operators to remove snow and ice from vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles, with the Transportation and Judiciary Committees, a three-minute vehicle idling limitation, with exemptions, and consideration, by the Public Safety Committee, of additional hours of operation for commercial vehicle operators. Mr. Yacavone also discussed exemptions for wreckers towing overweight vehicles.

DRS Tax Unit Manager Marc Papandrea addressed an upcoming increase in the petroleum per gallon excise tax from 7% to 7½% on July 1, 2008 and an increase in the 37¢ per gallon diesel fuel tax. Mr. Papandrea added that he was recently at a Federal Highway Administration conference during which it was noted that there is a projected \$3.2 billion shortfall for the Highway Trust Fund in 2009. Robert Hammersley noted that Connecticut may receive \$45 million less this year from the Highway Trust Fund.

Motor Carrier Industry

MTAC President Michael Riley addressed Motor Transport Association legislative issues and distributed a Connecticut General Assembly Public Bill Tracking document listing 20 House and Senate bills. Mr. Riley discussed several issues including progress concerning effective options for removing snow and ice from commercial vehicles and a comprehensive study being performed by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. to review current technologies. Mr. Riley addressed House Bill No. 5310 to provide funding for the purchase of a vehicle and equipment necessary for local law enforcement participation in the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program for completing commercial motor vehicle inspections that are compliant with FMCSA standards and requirements. He also noted legislative efforts to allow local law enforcement to collect a \$25 surcharge on citations issued at the local level, a proposal for automated ticket issuing on I-95 and support, with three additional exemption provisions, including one related to weight tolerances for retro-fitted vehicles, for idling restrictions and alternative fuel technologies. Mr. Riley noted that increased hours for weigh and inspection

stations are under consideration and discussed DMV and DPS weigh station activity summary reports for the July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 period that are now available.

DMV Commissioner Robert Ward noted commercial vehicle safety-related statutory changes that are being pursued for consideration, including an emphasis upon vehicle operations, rather than solely upon inspections of vehicle equipment, and one of the top administration priorities: to secure much-needed, additional commercial vehicle inspectors.

COSTA Executive Director Bill Moore noted bio-diesel-related provisions that impact school buses and associated retrofitting costs and FMCSA-proposed driver training requirements, including an increase to 90 hours of vehicle-related training. Jeffrey Cimahosky addressed Certified Training Program requirements, with comments to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking now extended to May 24, 2008, and encouraged all affected parties to submit their comments and suggestions by the response deadline.

Other legislative issues noted included the open container law, with an exemption for certain vehicles such as in-service limousines, bark sprayers and non-preference for out-of-state vehicles, and the review of laws and regulations regarding taxis being examined by the Program Review and Investigations Committee.

V. Intelligent Transportation Systems/Commercial Vehicle Operations

US DOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

State FMCSA Director Jeff Cimahosky provided an FMCSA activities update including recent comments made by DOT Secretary Mary Peters regarding an increase in seat belt use by commercial vehicle drivers from 48% to 65%, the CSA 2010 initiative that addresses quality assurance issues, and the COMPASS Program initiative that is a comprehensive overhaul of the way FMCSA and its partners collect, manage and convey safety information, Mr. Cimahosky also noted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that includes substantial changes to Commercial Driver License testing, with comments due by June 9, 2008, and progress concerning a \$50,000, no-match, PRISM grant to Connecticut for the implementation of an automatic alert for FMCSA out-of-service notifications.

Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP)

DMV Commercial Vehicle Safety Lieutenant Don Bridge distributed a MCSAP overview, including an Operation Safe Driver Enforcement Report for October 24, 2007, motor carrier process and qualifying requirements for State contract awards and information, if not recommended, to improve, along with SAFETYNET inspection statistics, including levels and types of inspections, driver/vehicle out-of-service violations/rates, types of violations regarding driver, vehicle and hazardous materials violations, for the January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 period. Lieutenant Bridge emphasized ongoing activities to reduce the number and severity of highway crashes. Concerning DMV processes for motor carrier safety fitness performance reviews for State contract awards, Commissioner Ward noted that motor carrier performance analysis are objective, historically based, date-in-time scores, and John Yacavone noted that the DMV approach targets its examinations on a contract-by-contract basis.

Transportation Strategy Board: Motor Carrier Industry-Related Activities

Transportation Strategy Board Manager Robert Hammersley distributed copies of the January 2007 report *Moving Forward - Connecticut's Transportation Strategy: Report and Recommendations of the Transportation Strategy Board*. Mr. Hammersley presented a brief history of the TSB, noting that the 15-member Board, with Executive representation from OPM, DOT, DECD, DPS and DEP, creates transportation strategies for the State DOT and other State agencies. Aside from motor carrier-specific efforts such as roadway improvements, continued CVISN Program development/build out and resources for truck stops, Mr. Hammersley reported that the TSB addresses numerous transportation mode issues, such as ports, cargo facilities and Bradley International Airport operations, that impact motor carrier operations. Mr. Hammersley noted that current TSB efforts are focusing on strategy implementation monitoring, including ongoing activities to study expected funding source challenges and the exploration of various options, including congestion pricing opportunities, for addressing operating and repair costs.

Connecticut Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN)/ Performance Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM) Program

CVISN/PRISM Program Manager Keith Kennedy reported on Program accomplishments since the September 26, 2007 MCAC meeting including personnel changes, pursuit of no-match PRISM funding, the expected resumption of work for obtaining automated clearinghouse payment functionality in July 2008, oversize/overweight permitting processing improvements/initiatives and weigh stations/electronic screening efforts, including removal of a weigh-in-motion plate in February 2008 and the replacement of the WIM plates with piezoelectric sensors in the April/May, 2008 timeframe.

VI. CVISN FY 2008 Deployment Program Grant Application

Keith Kennedy distributed materials concerning the CVISN FY 2008 Deployment Program Grant Application including February 11, 2008 correspondence sent by U.S. DOT FMCSA Administrator John Hill to DMV Commissioner Robert M. Ward and descriptions of the five projects included in the \$575,000 application. Hal Decker, Jr. made the motion to recommend support for the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN) Program FY 2008 Deployment Program Grant Application, Lieutenant Wack seconded the motion and the motions passed unanimously.

VII. Other Business

Michael Riley presented, for consideration, a Resolution extending appreciation, on behalf of the MCAC members and the representatives of the commercial transportation industry throughout the State of Connecticut, to Delbert N. Cornell for his distinguished 22 year career of dedicated service to the people of the Connecticut and the commercial motor vehicle industry, including his eight year-tenure as MCAC Chairman, with best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement, and expressing the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow public servants, the industry he has regulated, and the citizens of the great state of Connecticut. Marc Papandrea made the motion to approve the Resolution as presented by Mr. Riley, Lawrence Lusardi seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Larry White, representing the limousine industry, provided a written listing of issues for consideration to MCAC Chairman Herman.

VIII. Conn DOT New Road Network Development Efforts Presentation

Connecticut DOT Transportation Supervising Planner James Spencer, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Development and Computer Systems, reviewed the *Road Network Development Efforts* PowerPoint presentation and provided copies. Mr. Spencer addressed several topics including funding sources, the Road Network Data Model to be employed, the selection of the Town of South Windsor, a typical representative town, for the pilot project and integration efforts with the federal Highway Performance Monitoring System submittal deadline of 2010. Mr. Spencer addressed the project time line including completion of the interstate and divided highway portions of the network within the next 4-5 months and the remainder of the entire roadway system, including local roads, within two years. Mr. Spencer demonstrated the pilot project software functions and he encouraged all interested parties to participate in reviewing plans and models as the development and implementation of business plans are finalized. Michael Riley and Don Shubert expressed support for efforts to date and noted their desire to have all roads, including local stub routes, available for 24-hour per/day routing for oversize/overweight permits. Lawrence Lusardi made the motion to support continued DOT road network development efforts, Lieutenant Wack seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Scheduled Meeting

Chairman Herman announced the next scheduled MACA meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2008, at the Department of Motor Vehicles, 60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT at 1:00 pm in the second floor Multi Media Room.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business, Marc Papandrea made the motion to adjourn, Lawrence Lusardi seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted, John E. Herman, Jr., Chairman