

MOTOR CARRIER ADVISORY COUNCIL
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles
60 State Street, 2nd Floor Multi-Media Room
Wethersfield, Connecticut
Thursday, March 5, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: MCAC Chairman Christopher Smith, Deputy Commissioner Guerrero, Lieutenant Donald Bridge, Cindy Zuerblis, Vanita Smith, Sharon Geanuracos, Iliana Rodriguez, Lynn Zelek, Sandi Bianco, Joe Ciotto, Robert Shopey, DMV; Chris Henry, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; Joan Nichols, CT Farm Bureau; Joe Miller, Taxicab Livery Council; Steven Shore, Shore Associates; Don Braman; DOT; Paul Farrell, CT DEEP; Brandon O'Brien, UCONN/CTSRC; Richard Henderson, Connecticut State Police

I. Call to Order

Motor Carrier Advisory Council (MCAC) Chairperson Christopher Smith called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. asking if there were any changes regarding minutes from the last meeting on June 27, 2019. No Changes were stated.

II. Approval of MCAC Meeting Minutes

Adam Grippo and Joe Ciotto from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2019 meeting. Sharon Geanuracos from DMV seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Smith welcomed everyone in attendance and began staff introductions.

IV. Review of the Legislative Session of the General Assembly

State Agencies

DMV – Attorney Sharon Geanuracos from DMV distributed a summary of DMV's legislative proposed changes. Sharon went over all of the bills stated in the attached handout. She stated that 14-29 amends the statute governing insurance for school buses, student transport, taxis, livery vehicles, motor buses and service vehicles. She also discussed the repeal of 14-163f. This statute no longer applies to the process of the motor carrier review for state contracts. Sharon raised a concern regarding erasure bill 403 which would remove misdemeanor offences from a person's driving record after 7 years instead of 12.

Cindy Zuerblis stated that by the end of the month a new query will be available enabling bus companies to check driver histories on-line.

Joe Ciotto – Researching having school bus driver training online.

DEEP - Paul Farrell discussed senate bill 10 which requires DEEP to assess California emission standards for HDDE vehicles. After providing background on Connecticut's air quality and climate goals, DEEP believes it needs the authority to adopt the same standards in Connecticut. At this time, Connecticut needs to do more to protect public health and the environment from HDDE emissions. CVSD is looking at purchasing laptops to do more OBD testing. The unit began testing diesel vehicles on 1/1/2020

DOT – Don Braman submitted a proposal regarding the Bridges post weight situation and citation amounts.

Motor Carrier Industry

Connecticut Farm Bureau – Joan Nichols from Connecticut Farm Bureau did not have any legislative proposals to discuss at this time.

Taxicab and Livery Council

- Joe Miller watching DOT and DMV bills 14-29.
- Regarding V endorsement; processing employees' fingerprints are at 11 weeks. He stated the DMV has been very accommodating in every way.
- Deputy Commissioner Guerrero stated that the Department of Public Safety has a back log of 15 days for completion of background checks for school bus drivers. The DMV is thinking of giving someone from DMV to help CSP with prints.

Shore Associates

- Steven Shore from Shore Associates stated that the Celtic renewal system has many issues that are not getting resolved. These have been mentioned to Kelly O'Connell and Lori Druan. These issues concern delays in renewal and the inability to upload documents. Sharon Geanuracos has not heard of these issues and asked if other states are having issues. Steve said "no, something is wrong here."

Connecticut Bus Association/COSTA

- No attendees from COSTA attended.

V. Intelligent Transportation Systems/Commercial Vehicle Operations (ITS/CVO)

Revised 6/10/2020 SB

Innovative Technology Deployment (ITD) Program

Vanita Smith from DMV reported that 40,348 carriers viewed the new CVO Portal and there were 1200 uploads to date. Vanita stated that users are very happy with this new system. Vanita and her staff are now working on the new ENS Employee Notification System.

Performance Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM) Safety Program

Vanita Smith stated that Connecticut is on an enhanced level of PRISM. The Feds have asked the DMV for our process because it is so good.

U.S. DOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

Chris Henry from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) began by thanking everyone for everything they are doing and stated CVSD is doing a great job. Connecticut has seen a decline in crashed three years in a row where other states statics have risen.

- Grant Money – Mr. Henry reported that the state of Connecticut has 12 grants totaling 15.9 million. Chris noted that the government is looking at “burn rate” – we should invoice regularly. Chris is working with Sharon Geanuracos on legal proposals, this should not affect CDL grants.
- Mr. Henry’s new address is: 450 Main St Room 524, Hartford CT

Connecticut Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP)

Lieutenant Bridge of the CVSD unit passed out a hand outs that focuses on high crash areas. He is working with DOT and CSP on several projects and is waiting for a response.

VII. Adjourn

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.