

MOTOR CARRIER ADVISORY COUNCIL
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles
60 State Street, 2nd Floor Multi-Media Room
Wethersfield, Connecticut
Thursday, June 27, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: MCAC Chairman Christopher Smith, Commissioner Magubane, Deputy Commissioner Guerrera, Lieutenant Donald Bridge, Jim Rio, Cindy Zuerblis, Vanita Smith, Michaela Rosenberger, Iliana Rodriguez, Lynn Zelek, Sandi Bianco, Kelly O’Connell, Adam Grippo, DMV; Chris Henry, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; Joan Nichols, CT Farm Bureau; Joe Sculley, MTAC; Joe Miller, Taxicab Livery Council; Steven Shore, Shore Associates; Jean Cronin COSTA; Michael Romeo DRS; David Hiscock; DOT

I. Call to Order

Motor Carrier Advisory Council (MCAC) Chairperson Christopher Smith called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and began the meeting by introducing Commissioner Magubane and Deputy Commissioner Guerrera to the attendees.

II. Approval of MCAC Meeting Minutes

Adam Grippo from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2019 meeting. Chris Henry from FMCSA asked that the second line of page 4 of the minutes stating “however, so far there were two federal investigations.” be removed. Michaela Rosenberger from DMV seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Chairman’s Remarks

Chairman Smith turned the remarks over to Michaela Rosenberger from DMV Legal Services to review summary of legislation for the 2019 session.

IV. Review of the 2018 Legislative Session of the General Assembly

State Agencies

DMV – Attorney Michaela Rosenberger from DMV distributed a summary of DMV’s legislative proposals All bills will be passed as of July 1, 2019 with the exception of 14-296aa which will go into effect 10-1-2019. See attached.

DOT – David Hiscox did not have any legislative updates to provide.

DRS – Michael Romeo stated that their diesel fuel is going up to 46.5 cents which is based on a calculation done yearly.

Motor Carrier Industry

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

MTAC - Joe Sculley from the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut (MTAC) reported that:

- Rest areas will be open 24 hours a day starting July 1, 2019.
- Truck dealers would like to have the opportunity to process new truck registrations in house; no legislation is needed but taxes are a concern with this issue. Kelly O’Connell is reviewing.
- Discussion regarding legislation that would have mandated truck-specific GPS be used on all commercial trucks weighing over 10,000 lbs. There was also discussion on separate legislation that would have imposed a fine of \$500.00 when a truck enters the Merritt Parkway. Those instances are most likely caused by a GPS device directing truck drivers down roads that trucks are prohibited from driving on, such as the Merritt Parkway.
- There was a question regarding roads that have signage stating No Thru Trucks. Lt. Bridge stated the restriction does not apply if the truck has business on that street, for example, delivering to a warehouse. Lt. Bridge will find exact verbiage on DOT website.
- Wine shipments to consumers – UPS and FedEx have to file reports to DRS and DCP when requested.

Taxicab and Livery Council

- Joe Miller from the Taxicab and Livery Council reported there are issues when ordering the B-312 forms. In the past they were able to order from Vanguard with no problems. Since CIVLS deployment there is now a control number on the forms which is making it difficult for companies to order these forms. Joe stated that they can only order in limited quantities now.
- In the last four to six weeks the number of forms that can be validated in branch has become an issue; they are only being allowed to submit three transactions at a time. Commissioner Magubane thinks this may be a branch training issue. To be reviewed by staff.

Shore Associates

- Steven Shore from Shore Associates was disputing the number of transactions that dealers are allowed to submit for processing. He stated they are only allowed two transactions per day and only until 1:00pm. Jim Rio asked if the new IRP system would help, Steve replied

no because he is not an official dealer, he is a service provider. Jim Rio stated they will research this issue and come back with an answer.

Connecticut Bus Association/COSTA

- Jean Cronin of COSTA stated that the time it takes for CSP to process background checks for prospective school bus drivers is getting better, and the backlog has been reduced. Cindy Zuerblis reported that she is receiving the results within two weeks.
- There are issues with the proficiency test. Changes in the test have caused much confusion. Joe Ciotto is working to improve the test.
- There is an issue with the amount of time it takes for a driver, who has failed the test, to be retested. Drivers who fail the exam are unable to drive under CGS 14-276a (b). At present it can take four to five weeks to get another appointment. Part of the problem is a lack of instructors.
- There is concern over a mandate that states 30% of the buses in Connecticut will have to be electric by the year 2030. Clarification regarding charging stations, cost, and carbon emissions is needed.
- The industry is watching the new bus sharing industry (FLIX). The industry needs more clarifications on the regulations regarding this matter.
- They are closely watching proposed tolls of charter buses.
- Chairman Smith brought up the issue of the S.O.S. complaint forms. School bus drivers complete and send the forms to CVSD when drivers illegally pass a standing school bus that is picking up and dropping off children. Mr. Smith suggested the bus companies contact the local police department directly, so a ticket can be issued within a timely manner, instead of waiting and sending a letter to the DMV. Ms. Cronin will check into this idea. She said that many of the buses now have cameras and that should help with catching the offenders. Mr. Smith is also considering issuing a ticket to the offender upon receipt of the first S.O.S. complaint form.

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

Innovative Technology Deployment (ITD) Program

Vanita Smith from DMV reported that part of ITD is the CVO portal, which is a one-stop-shop for all things commercial motor vehicle (CMV).

- UAT testing of the Med Cert portion of the CVO portal has begun.
- Ms. Smith reported that Joe Sculley will be bringing in members to test the CDL Med Cert portal July 16-18.

- Ms. Smith is also in talks with the new administration regarding virtual weigh stations, which will be a joint effort with DOT.

Performance Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM) Safety Program

There were not any comments regarding this program.

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 said that Inspectors Perri and Devine are doing a great job.

- He noted there are over 7,400 interstate motor carriers in Connecticut. The program is larger than that of 19 other states.
- There will be school bus training July 16th and August 15th. Commissioner Magubane said some school bus companies have expressed concern with the qualifications of the training officers. The Commissioner wants to follow up on this concern. She doesn't think trainers are "where they are supposed to be." She also wants to see the agenda for each day and an explanation of how the test is validated.
- Grant Money – Mr. Henry reported that the state of Connecticut has \$16.7 million in grant funding from FMCSA, the bulk of which is at DMV. Once again DMV was reminded to spend the grant money in order to receive more funding.

Connecticut Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP)

Lieutenant Bridge of the CVSD unit explained that the top three concerns of the MCSAP program are brakes, load securement, and tires.

- The CVSD inspectors have just completed a class on human trafficking. The Lieutenant passed out informational material to the attendees from the trucking and bus industries.
- Commissioner Magubane asked whether or not the DMV does safety car safety checks. Lt. Bridge explained that task is left to the local police departments.
- Commercial Vehicle Truck Safety classes are held the first Wednesday of every month at Tunxis Community College. The classes are taught by Inspectors Devine and Perri. Attendance is typically 10 – 15 people per class.

VI. Other Business

- Chris Henry distributed a Save the Date flyers for the Commercial Vehicle Safety Summit on November 19, 2019. See Attached.

- Chairman Smith set the dates for the 2020 MCAC meeting, which are March 5th and June 4th

VII. Adjourn

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.