

**CONNECTICUT  
MOTOR CARRIER ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Department of Motor Vehicles  
60 State Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Multi-Media Room  
Wethersfield, Connecticut  
Thursday, March 1, 2012  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** MCAC Chairperson James Rio, Sharon Geanuracos, Michael Bzdyra, George White, Lieutenant Donald Bridge, Jr., Lieutenant Garfield Green, Lieutenant Christopher Smith, Dennis Walsh, Rosemary Rivers, Vanita Smith and Richard Gebo; Marc Papandrea, Department of Revenue Services; Richard Van Allen, Connecticut Department of Transportation; Steve Casey; Department of Administrative Services; Ruth Craig, Judicial Branch; Jeff Cimahosky and Karl Boehm, U.S. Department of Transportation; Michael Riley, Motor Transport Association of Connecticut, Inc.; Matthew Hallisey, Connecticut Construction Industries, Inc.; Joan Nichols, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association; and Steven Shore, Shore Associates

**I. Call to Order**

MCAC Chairperson James Rio called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

**II. Approval of the June 30, 2011 MCAC Minutes**

Marc Papandrea, DRS Audit Division Manager, made the motion to accept the minutes as distributed, Lieutenant Donald Bridge, State Motor Carrier Safety Program Coordinator, DMV Commercial Vehicle Safety Division, seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**III. Chairperson's Remarks**

Chairperson Rio, Division Chief of the DMV Commercial Vehicle Safety Division (CVSD) welcomed all in attendance and introduced two CVSD safety enforcement Sergeants who were recently promoted to Lieutenant – Lieutenant Christopher Smith and Lieutenant Garfield Green. He noted that Lieutenant Smith will primarily address DMV Dealers and Repairers Division-related matters, while Lieutenant Green will focus his efforts upon school transportation-related issues. Chairperson Rio also reported that DMV CVSD Lieutenant Donald Bridge will continue his oversight of the States' Truck Inspection Squads.

DMV Legal Counsel Sharon Geanuracos introduced Richard Gebo, a Paralegal in the DMV Legal Services Division.

Chairperson Rio noted that a draft version of the study – *Alternative Methods for Safety Analysis and Intervention for Use by Conn DOT for Contracting Vehicles and Drivers for Transportation Projects and Services* – is under development by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, Inc. The report – expected to be released before the May 31<sup>st</sup> MCAC meeting – will address current processes for reviewing motor carrier safety profiles for State contracts, as well as identifying alternatives and making recommendations for improvements.

Discussion took place concerning new roadside technologies, including the use of smartphones by commercial motor vehicle operators for electronic screening and bypass services. It was noted

that an on-site demonstration of a smartphone application took place on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Weigh and Inspection Facility in Union, Connecticut.

#### **IV. Review of Legislative Proposals for the 2012 Regular Session of the General Assembly**

##### **State Agencies**

DMV Legal Counsel Sharon Geanuracos distributed a listing of legislative proposals affecting the motor carrier industry and school transportation, including the following DMV proposals:

HB 5164 – *An Act Concerning Revisions to the Motor Vehicle Laws*;

HB 5167- *An Act Concerning Minor and Technical Revisions to the Motor Vehicle Laws*;

HB 5168 – *An Act Concerning the Documentation of Dealer Safety Inspections*; and

HB 5169 – *An Act Establishing Instruction Permits and Eliminating an Obsolete Fee*;

and the following other (non-DMV) proposals:

HB 5373 – *An Act Waiving the Commercial Driver’s Licenses Knowledge and Skills Test for Veterans with Equivalent Military Licenses*;

HB 5368 – *An Act Concerning the Modernization of the State’s Taxicab Industry*; and

SB 149 – *An Act Concerning the Denial of Unemployment Compensation Benefits to Certain Drivers Who are Unemployed as a Result of a Drug or Alcohol Test*.

She asked that legislative questions be directed to her or to Michael Bzdyra, Executive Assistant to DMV Commissioner Currey, at (860) 263-5130.

Ruth Craig, Judicial Branch Centralized Infractions Bureau Program Manager, noted potential changes to Section 14-140 of the *Connecticut General Statutes* that addresses payments of fines, fees, surcharges and costs.

DRS Audit Division Manager Marc Papandrea and Steven Casey, DAS Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology Director of Business Development – Safety and Judicial, noted that their respective agencies have not submitted legislative proposals impacting the motor carrier industry.

Richard Van Allen, Conn DOT Manager of Bridge Operations, Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations, noted that legislative changes are under consideration concerning the legal widths of snowplows, including widths for plows in operational use vs. in transport.

##### **Motor Carrier Industry**

Michael Riley, President of the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut, Inc., noted that efforts are underway to better define issues surrounding the owner operator/independent contractor relationship. State Department of Labor auditors have found that, in some instances, Independent Contractors have been misclassified as employees of motor carriers – necessitating retroactive income tax payments and unemployment compensation assessments, along with penalties and interest. The proposed legislation would define the independent contractor-motor carrier relationship by listing the conditions under which it may be legally used and would not prohibit independent contractors from working for one motor carrier.

Mr. Riley noted that other upcoming legislative issues include red light cameras, no-through truck violations and reinstatement of tax exemptions for natural gas-powered vehicles. He also

addressed the process for the payment of fines for registration privilege suspensions vs. suspensions of vehicles/fleets. DMV Legal Counsel Sharon Geanuracos recommended that Mr. Riley contact DMV Modernization Program Manager Nancy Dumais as it is expected that the new DMV Connecticut Integrated Vehicle and Licensing System under development will address this issue.

Matthew Hallisey, Director of Government Relations and Legislative Counsel, Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc. (CCIA), reported that CCIA has not submitted any legislative proposals that impact the motor carrier industry.

Government Relations Specialist Joan Nichols reported that the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association has not submitted any legislative proposals that impact the motor carrier industry.

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

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

FMCSA State Program Specialist Karl Boehm reported that the six Connecticut grant applications – including for Basic, New Entrant, High Priority, CVISN and PRISM grants – remain under consideration, with signed funding memorandums for at least some of the grants to be issued soon.

### **Connecticut Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP)**

Lieutenant Donald Bridge of the DMV Commercial Vehicle Safety Division addressed motor carrier safety enforcement activities including safety belt-related efforts and the crash avoidance grant that focuses resources in the four most dangerous corridors (Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury and I-95 south of New Haven). He noted that motor coach inspections remain a high-priority. Lieutenant Bridge reviewed MCSAP safety inspections data for calendar year 2011 – with approximately 20,000 inspections performed, 5,000 vehicle out-of-service orders issued and 2,200 driver out-of-service orders issued – and noted that the most frequently cited violation is for defective equipment related to lights, brakes and tires. He noted that six-month reports for each of the six State weigh and inspections stations can be found on the DMV website under Commercial Vehicles, Reports.

Discussion took place concerning the requirement for possession/presentation of a valid medical card by commercial vehicle operators, with the issuance of a ticket for an initial offense and the issuance of an out-of-service order for a second, documented offense. The Hours of Service of Drivers Final Rule published in the *Federal Register* on December 27, 2011 – and as available on the U.S. DOT FMCSA website – was discussed, including a provision for a mandatory break during the work day. It was noted that while the effective date of the Final Rule is February 27, 2012, the compliance date of selected provisions is July 1, 2013. Chairperson Rio noted that Lieutenant Bridge continues to do an exemplary job in the performance of his duties – particularly since July 1, 2011 when the DMV CVSD assumed responsibility for all six Connecticut weigh and inspection stations, along with the associated statistical reports.

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

CVISN/PRISM Program Sponsor/Manager George White distributed a 4-page update addressing personnel changes, accomplishments since the June 30, 2011 MCAC meeting and activities before the May 31, 2012 MCAC meeting. Mr. White noted that he began serving as State CVISN/PRISM Program Sponsor and Manager in October 2011 and that he received a retirement notification – effective May 1, 2012 – from CVISN/PRISM Program Coordinator Dennis Walsh. Mr. White acknowledged Dennis’ years of dedicated service to the CVISN/PRISM Program and the DMV. Other MCAC members also acknowledged Dennis’ assistance over the years.

Mr. White reviewed the nine FY 2008 and FY 2009 Expanded CVISN Project Initiatives approved February 17 by FMCSA and noted Grant extensions through October 31, 2012 (FY 2008 Grant) and October 1, 2012 (FY 2009 Grant) to expend the \$743,639 in relocated funding. Discussion took place concerning the recently-completed portion of the Oversize/Overweight (OS/OW) Permitting System Local Road Routing Project whereby motor carriers may now electronically apply for, pay for and receive – on a 24/7/365 basis – permits for vehicles with pre-specified dimensions on pre-established, defined, Conn DOT-approved trip routes. Conn DOT Manager of Bridge Operations Richard Van Allen reported that 553 electronic permits – as approved for use over eighteen routes (including some local roads) covering more than 1,000 miles – have been self-issued since the October 25, 2011 production date. Mr. White noted that a DMV-DRS statement of work is under development for the DRS portion of the CVISN Extend Electronic-Payments to Additional Credentials Project to use the Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO) Credentialing System Portal to process electronic automated clearing house (ACH) debit transactions to pay for International Fuel Tax Assistance (IFTA) decals, Motor Carrier Road Tax decals, IFTA quarterly fuel use tax returns and IFTA bill payments. He also noted that approval is awaited from FMCSA regarding the FFY 2012 \$1,000,000 CVISN and \$250,000 PRISM Safety Grant Applications submitted in December of 2011. It was noted, in response to an inquiry, that 32 DMV-authorized users are now able, through the CVISN CVO Credentialing Portal, to perform electronic International Registration Plan interstate vehicle registration transactions.

**VI. Other Business**

Discussion took place concerning license plate readers and the length of time the resulting data is retained. DMV Legal Counsel Sharon Geanuracos noted the DMV does not include vehicle owner-related data when plate-related information is made available for municipal law enforcement.

Discussion took place concerning a \$685,000 FMCSA safety grant for a Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management System – a two-phase approach, with the first phase of funding received by the State. The CAD/RMS includes an electronic citation (e-citation) function which has been developed in conjunction with the Centralized Infractions Bureau.

**VII. Adjourn**

Steven Casey made the motion to adjourn, Marc Papandrea seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
James V. Rio, Chairperson  
Motor Carrier Advisory Council