

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING**

**October 16, 2006 – 1:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Chairman Will Crandall, Saratoga Springs PD; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Dennis Latham, Stillwater PD; Kevin Judd, South Glens Falls PD; Mickey Mahoney, Probation Dept.; Scott McCart, NYSP-Clifton Park; Joe Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Jack Murray, County Auditor; Judy Ekman, The Prevention Council; Joshua Poppel, NY Bicycling Coalition; Jim Kinney, The Saratogian

Chairman Crandall called the meeting to order.

Mr. Murphy stated there are still plenty of funds for DWI patrols for October 27 & 28, November at Thanksgiving time, and December at Christmas time and New Year's. Chairman Crandall mentioned the third highest DWI incident time is Halloween weekend.

Chairman Crandall said the outstanding grant paperwork and final reports have to be in by the end of the month.

Chairman Crandall announced that MADD is putting on a Death Notification Workshop on October 26<sup>th</sup> at Troy/Schenectady Road in Latham. We need to do this right because people remember everything about the tragedy. It is a seminar worth attending, he added.

Chairman Crandall said Saratoga Springs is having a lot of pedestrian accidents. Pedestrians are wearing very dark clothing after dark. Some bicycles are also hard to see after dark, he said. He said bikes without lights can be stopped after dark, and the biggest offenders are adults. He said bright clothing is an absolute must. He said fluorescent red and lime green are the best colors seen by older men. Construction workers are now wearing fluorescent green. He said when they switched from fluorescent orange to lime, it made a huge difference. He introduced Joshua Poppel from the New York Bicycling Coalition. He said he got on Josh's mailing list for their newsletters. In the Fall, 2006 edition, it states nationally, bike/pedestrian deaths account for 13% of all traffic deaths. In New York, they are 25% (copies of the newsletter were distributed to the committee members)..

Mr. Waldron stated probably 10 accidents they have a year involve a pedestrian. We find with bikes, skateboarders, little scooters, etc., kids are jotting in and out of the roadway, and they think they own the whole road, he said. He said it is an issue until we start arresting them.

Mr. Poppel stated just under a quarter of all highway fatalities are attributable to bike/ped. He said the attitude of a lot of motorists is that bikes do not belong on the

roads. He said they are working with the GTSC for a Share The Road Campaign. We are trying to reach out to driver education programs, he said. He said he is certified to teach the National Cycling Education Program. He said he is a fan of give respect, get respect. He said bicyclists should be warned before they are ticketed. There should be pedestrian crosswalk stings, because you cannot just target one audience, he said. He said a majority of the time when a pedestrian is killed, the driver is seldom ticketed. There is never talk about how speed factors into this, he said. Chairman Crandall said if you have people good at accident reconstruction, that makes a big difference.

Mr. Murray mentioned he lives near 9P, and that road has no shoulder. He asked if there was any orientation with bike groups before they go out. That road is risky, he said. Mr. Poppel said there are a lot of bike clubs throughout the State. We are reaching out to the clubs to send the right message. The education that happens is learning as you go or learning by example, he said. Part of it is safety in numbers, he stated. Chairman Crandall said next year, Saratoga Springs wants to buy a lot of flashers and reflectors and hand them out. Mr. Poppel said they give out tons of reflectors and blinkey lights.

Mr. Waldron stated professional bicyclists follow the rules. The ones I am worried about are the juveniles 15 years old or younger, he said. In the elementary level, there needs to be education on bicycle safety, he added. Mr. Poppel requested a letter of support for a program be sent to GTSC. He asked what the procedure was for kids when they do not wear a helmet. Mr. Waldron said they go after the parents. Chairman Crandall suggesting confiscating their bikes. Mrs. Ekman suggested having them attend Youth Court to get it back. Mr. Poppel said they also have a 9-hour cycling class. Chairman Crandall stated Saratoga Springs also has a bicycle ordinance to register bikes. We had so many bikes at one time that the Council wanted to address it. We need to remind our bike shops to remind the people to register their bikes, he said. Mr. Mahoney asked what the procedure was for registering a bike. Chairman Crandall said just bring the bike to the police department, and they will issue it a number.

Chairman Crandall said they are working on signage for alternate routes and bike signs to try to keep people from where they should not be, he said. Mr. Murray mentioned it seems like New England does a much better job highlighting where the cyclists should go. He stated Montreal has a timer that lets you know how much time you have to cross.

Chairman Crandall said Saratoga Springs' major problems are in June, July and August. Mr. Poppel said motorists should be told they are breaking the law for not stopping for cyclists. Attitudes in this country, in general, are very different, he said. We are a motorist culture. In other countries, if you hit a pedestrian, you will lose your license.

Chairman Crandall invited Mr. Poppel to come back to the Committee meetings from time to time.

**\*\* NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann