

**STEBEN COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**

*Friday, September 30, 2016*

*10:00 a.m.*

*F-1 Conference Room*

*Steuben County Office Building*

*Bath, New York*

**\*\*MINUTES\*\***

**PRESENT:** Chief Chad Mullen, Chair, Bath Police Department  
Undersheriff James Allard, Sheriff's Office  
Chief Jeff Spaulding, Corning City Police Department  
Justice Cathy Rouse-Nicholson, Magistrate's Association  
Carol Ferratella, Legislator, District 13  
Tim Marshall, Director, Emergency Management Office  
Dan Kahabka, GIS Coordinator, Planning Office  
Steve Catherman, Public Works  
Sgt. Richard Feely, NYSP  
Martin Butler, NYS Department of Transportation  
Noel Terwilliger, District Attorney's Office  
Lorelei Wagner, Public Health Educator, Public Health  
Eric Tyner, Sheriff's Office

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chief Mullen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2016, MEETING MADE BY UNDERSHERIFF ALLARD, SECONDED BY MRS. FERRATELLA AND DULY CARRIED.**

**III. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, December 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in the South Conference Room.

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. *Speed Request – Town of Corning* – Mr. Catherman explained the Town is looking to lower the speed limit to 45mph on a port of College Avenue. We have looked at this. There is a beagle club on CR 45 and the residents have requested a reduction from 55mph to 45mph from Gorton Road to the Quackenbush Hill Church. They are also requesting a reduction on a section of Markel Hollow Road. This request has been forwarded to the NYS Department of Transportation for their review.

Mr. Butler commented they have received the request and it is on the schedule to be reviewed within the next week or so. Mrs. Ferratella commented that she attended a Town of Corning board meeting and there were a number of residents who are concerned about this. Mr. Catherman stated cars are doing less than the posted limit of 55mph. We had also suggested the town look at putting in crosswalks at the beagle club and the church. We would endorse that request and typically we would have the Town purchase and maintain the signs, but we would put them if they wanted us to.

B. *Speed Request – Town of Prattsburgh* – Mr. Butler stated this has been a long-standing issue. We have talked with the Superintendent of Prattsburgh School several times. We do not feel that a speed reduction is warranted, however, we can offer them a school speed limit. The Supervisor was in favor of that. This is a County road and

therefore the County would be coordinating the signage. We also suggested that a beacon be associated with those signs. When the beacons are flashing, the speed zone is in effect.

Mr. Catherman stated typically we would only provide the signs. When a flashing beacon is requested, that is usually provided by the school. We will work with the school on this. The town is in favor of this solution.

**V. DEPARTMENT/AGENCY/MEMBERSHIP REPORTS**

A. Sheriff's Office

- Undersheriff Allard stated that we have certified 10 officers have taken the bicycle patrol course and been certified.
- Our office has submitted and received a number of grants.
- The Wineglass Marathon is coming up on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The STEP Grant is out and we are waiting for the next round. This funding was used across the County pretty effectively this year.

B. Corning Police Department

- Chief Spaulding stated that they also had officers attend the bike patrol school and they have also been certified. They will be using their pedestrian safety grant money to offer more bicycle patrols in the downtown business district to enforce pedestrian safety.
- The Wineglass Marathon will be a big even this weekend.

C. District Attorney's Office

- Mr. Terwilliger he had nothing to report
- Justice Rouse-Nicholson asked for an update on the Driver Diversion Program. Mr. Terwilliger stated that they have partnered with the Sheriff's Office and it seems to be going well.

D. Magistrate's Association

- Justice Rouse-Nicholson stated several months ago we discussed issues the local courts are having with felony DWI downloads to us; they are showing up as misdemeanors. This has been happening all over the county and we have decided that it is a software problem. She stated she has talked with Sgt. Feeley about this to see if it is a statewide problem. Sgt. Feeley stated that T-sled is not concerned because it gets replaced with the felony complaint. Justice Rouse-Nicholson stated that the local court judges have been fixing the information on their systems.
- The Sheriff's Office held their first road check on SR 53.
- Justice Rouse-Nicholson stated that she is a member of the Arkport H.O.G. group and they recently participated in a Ride for the Red event. The New York State Police did a fabulous job.

E. Planning

- Mr. Kahabka introduced himself as the GIS Coordinator. While listening to all of the discussion about roads, there is a lot that can be planned utilizing GIS software, with advance notice. We have access to traffic count information and that can be made available online. We also can include ALIS (accident location information system) information.

Contact Info: Dan Kahabka, GIS Coordinator  
3 East Pulteney Square  
Bath, NY 14810  
(607) 664-2460  
[dkahabka@co.steuben.ny.us](mailto:dkahabka@co.steuben.ny.us)

F. Emergency Management Office

- Mr. Marshall stated they have been working on preparations for the upcoming Wineglass Marathon.

- Fire Police class will be taught by the Undersheriff on October 12, 2016. This is open to all fire police.
- They recently held an emergency vehicle operations course with 15-20 attendees.
- The Town of Erwin will be sponsoring a drive safely course which is geared toward the emergency services worker. This course will be held at Sullivan Park.

G. Public Works

- Mr. Catherman stated they are also assisting in preparations for the Wineglass Marathon.
- We will be restricting use of a bridge on CR 21 over the Canisteo River, known as the Cemetery Bridge. This bridge will be reduced to one lane of traffic starting sometime in October.

H. New York State Department of Transportation

- Mr. Butler stated with the Wineglass Marathon we have had extra responsibilities. The SR 415 bridge over I-86 is not complete. We are taking extra measures to try to be ready for any scenario where there may be a serious accident on I-86 because there are no good detours at the present time. We will have the runners on one of our emergency detour routes. We also are trying to redirect truck traffic to I-99 directly to avoid the area. Additionally, we are borrowing 9 VMS boards from other areas to post pertinent information. We will be staging detour signs and having our staff ready to put those signs up in case of an emergency. We also have initiated towing services to help with a quick cleanup if necessary.

We expect the decking on the SR 415 bridge over I-86 to be poured today, weather permitting. It will be another month until the bridge is opened. The project was delayed at start due to the Verizon strike and we were unable to get utilities moved.

- The SR 415 bridge over Meads Creek is scheduled to be poured within the week, again weather permitting. This bridge is on schedule and moving along.
- The I-86 Corning night project paving from Exit 46 to the Chemung County line will be done this year. The remainder of the project will be done next year. This was slated to be a two-year project and is the first night project that we have done in our region.

Mrs. Ferratella commented that the lane changes are pretty scary, especially at night because the lane is very narrow and there is no speed reduction. When you are driving east, the pavement is concrete in one section and pavement in another. The speed is very concerning to her.

I. Public Health

- Ms. Wagner stated they partnered with the Bath Police Department and the New York State Police to offer two car seat check events. We have checked 28 seats and replaced 9. Ardent Solutions out of Allegany County is coming into Steuben and is offering car seat checks at WIC sites. We are very excited about that.

J. New York State Police

- Sgt. Feeley stated with respect to the car seat program, we do have some inventory left, but the way the grant is written, in order for another agency to receive those seats, we need to be involved in the program. We can no longer just transfer them to another agency.
- We submitted our Traffic Safety Plan and the new year begins October 1<sup>st</sup>. The overtime amounts were renewed and we are looking for other agencies that want to participate throughout the year.

One component of the Traffic Safety Plan is the Underage Drinking Initiative and enforcement. If we could partner with other agencies, that would be great. If you have information about a bar or retail establishment serving to underage patrons, please let us know.

- We have three prospective candidates that are eligible to be certified as DRE (Drug Recognition Expert). This is very competitive and it would be nice to get at least one of these individuals certified for our area, if not all three. He will keep everyone updated on this program.

K. Legislature

- Mrs. Ferratella asked if there was any update on the request for a study in the City of Corning at the intersection of Goff Road and SR 352? Mr. Butler replied we did look at this and we do have some recommendations. One is to close one of those driveways associated with the gas station and to add signage.
- Steuben County has been rated #1 in New York State for maintenance of bridges and the Public Works Department deserves many accolades for this as we have the most bridges in the State. Undersheriff Allard added that Public Works has done an excellent job on the road projects they have done this year.

L. Bath Police Department

- Chief Mullen stated he will be submitting a grant application to install enhanced pedestrian crossing signs on West Washington Street, Liberty Street, East Washington Street and Pulteney Square. Originally, we were looking at putting in lighting within the crosswalks in the concrete, however, NYSDOT will be doing a paving project on Washing and Liberty and that will not work. Mr. Butler commented they also have issues with those. Chief Mullen stated that now we are focusing on enhanced striping on the crosswalks and the solar pedestrian kits.

Chief Mullen stated the County Manager was hoping for lighted crosswalks, but the employees are not using the crosswalks. They are crossing in between and are jaywalking. Mr. Butler stated our counterparts in other areas of the state have not had good experiences with the lighted crosswalks. They do not work well with salt/sand and the snowplows. You also will not be able to use the rectangular solar powered crosswalk signs at controlled intersections.

- Chief Mullen stated they have two officers certified for bike patrol and will be utilizing them for the Wineglass Marathon. Most of our equipment for the bike patrol was donated by our local businesses. We may put in for an overtime grant next year if we use them more during the summer months.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. *Governor's Traffic Safety Update* – Maureen Kozakiewicz introduced herself as the representative to the GTSC. In her opinion, Steuben County has been underserved for some time. We have a unique situation for the 2017 grant year. Ardent Solutions in Allegany County is doing a first of its kind three-county Child Passenger Safety Grant. She stated that she will be here anytime the committee invites her and she covers 16 counties.

Ms. Kozakiewicz stated you have a very high functioning board, but she like to help this committee and agencies get more money. With regard to the DRE's, how many applicants do you have? Sgt. Feeley stated they currently have two in their zone and have three that are already ARIDE certified. Mr. Tyner stated the Sheriff's Office has one DRE and several that are ARIDE certified. Ms. Kozakiewicz stated DRE school is very difficult. She will make a recommendation for Steuben County and NYSP Zone 3 for seats at the next school which will be held November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Kozakiewicz stated that she has reviewed the minutes of previous meetings. It seems as though slow moving vehicles are an issue as you have a large contingent of Amish in your communities. The GTSC is looking to develop a slow moving vehicle committee. Yates and Chautauqua counties will be represented and we are also looking for some feedback from local agencies about this issue. We would like to do outreach and education with our local agencies and the Amish and Mennonite communities. Pamphlets are being developed that will be distributed to communities. Ms. Kozakiewicz stated the GTSC has a website; [www.safeny.ny.gov](http://www.safeny.ny.gov). There is so much information and free educational materials at your fingertips.

With reference to your earlier discussion about ALIS and GIS mapping, we have the TSSR, which is the Traffic Safety Statistical Repository. This provides all grantees and other individuals the opportunity to download almost real time data. Assuming that everyone participates and uses TRACS, our data is three months behind. Steuben County has a very high compliance with TRACS. With TSSR, each law enforcement agencies will have their own data that will show up. You can also view data countywide or narrow the scope to individual municipalities.

The Pedestrian Safety Action Plan is the Governor's Office statewide initiative addressing localities that have high pedestrian and bicycle crash incidents. Steuben County is not in the at-risk group, but there will be funds available. The idea is to encourage enforcement and education with regard to pedestrian/bicycle safety issues. Enforcement also includes warning tickets. Our website has warning tickets that agencies can use. There is \$110 million available through the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. The Governor's target is the at-risk communities, however, she cannot imagine that those communities will use all of those funds.

She announced the Traffic Safety Symposium will be held October 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> in Lake Place. We would love to see Steuben County represented. The symposium is for law enforcement and any agency participating in highway safety initiatives.

Justice Rouse-Nicholson commented with regard to the Amish and slow moving vehicles, they need to be instructed to follow the road rules. We need to get something out to their communities. Ms. Kozakiewicz stated Ardent Solutions has been very active in their outreach activities and the State is very aware of this issue.

Ms. Kozakiewicz asked what other issues would you like the GTSC to be made aware of? Undersheriff Allard stated our LPR's and radar trailers are shot. We originally purchased them with GTSC funds and there has been no money available for the past several years on the enforcement side. The radar trailers are no longer producing reports. Chief Mullen commented we need new radar in our vehicles. We also have issues with our LPR. It is a \$500 diagnostic fee and if you need to fix it, there is an additional cost. Ms. Kozakiewicz asked the agencies to show her the data and the need and she will support their request for funding. The new 2017 fiscal year started October 1<sup>st</sup>. Start thinking about what you want for 2018 before the May grant application deadline. Undersheriff Allard commented that there has been a discussion statewide about the mining of data from the LPR's. Homeland Security could tie into that, although there is a lot of data that we cannot access now.

Ms. Kozakiewicz reviewed the various grant classifications. The HS1 grants are for use for community-based, broad-based education. The Police Traffic Safety (PTS) marries what were previously known as the BUNY and STEP grants. Child Passenger Safety (CPS) funding for 2017 was cut by the federal government as they view child passenger seats as an entitlement. We fought that and they reversed their decision, however, it was too late for the 2017 fiscal year, so this will be a very lean year. She encouraged the departments to work closely within your jurisdictions to do joint initiatives and see if you can secure private partnerships. In 2018 we think the funding for this program will increase, but not to the levels that have previously been seen. She commented that you may want to consider inviting Ardent Solutions to the table as they will be a great resource for you.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. MARSHALL, SECONDED BY JUSTICE ROUSE-NICHOLSON AND DULY CARRIED.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman  
Deputy Clerk  
Steuben County Legislature