

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

Thursday, April 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Transportation Safety Division

4040 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, Oregon



Members Present: Chris Henry, Peggy Munsell, David Peterson, Bob Reichenberg, Peter Russell, Ted Tracy, Debbie Weber

Staff: Troy Costales, Rachele Nelson, Michele O'Leary

Guests: Bret Barnum (Portland Police Bureau), Steve Garets (TEAM OREGON), Pat Hahn (TEAM OREGON), Paula Leslie (BikePAC of Oregon), Jason Lindland (Oregon State Police), Brian Mortensen (Oregon Army National Guard), Graham Munsell (GWRRA), Becky Renninger (Driver and Motor Vehicle Services), Doug Tiller (BikePAC of Oregon), Don Wall (No Affiliation)

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Bob Reichenberg called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Chair Reichenberg asked if there were any additions or changes to the March 19, 2015 minutes. Chair Reichenberg noted a correction to the chair report. The Committee requested more detail to be included in future minutes.

MOTION: Chris Henry moved to approve the March 19, 2015 minutes as amended. Peter Russell seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed with no dissenting votes. Chair Reichenberg did not vote. [Absent: Van Moore.]

III. REPORTS

Chair Report

On behalf of the Committee Chair Reichenberg gave testimony in opposition to SB 533-A, the "dead red" bill, before the House Transportation and Economic Development Committee at their March 30, 2015 hearing. He also gave testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of the lane splitting bill on April 1, 2015. Chair Reichenberg further reported that he participated in presenting the eRider™ curriculum to the Oregon Transportation Safety Committee on April 14, 2015. The OTSC approved the curriculum. He further shared his experience serving on the panel for the Maine motorcycle safety program assessment.

Rider Education Report

Steve Garets expressed his appreciation for the Committee's assistance in the eRider™ curriculum review and approval process. He then reviewed his written report with the Committee. The report covered an update on training; operations; instructor training, and communications and outreach.

Oregon Army National Guard Report

Brian Mortensen reported that there are hundreds of troops rotating through Fort Hood, Texas coming back from mobilization. There is concern that many of the troops will spend their money on motorcycles that they do not know how to ride. However, there is a program called the “Yellow Ribbon Event” that helps to re-acclimate soldiers returning home which includes TEAM OREGON training for those who need it. He further shared that the Air National Guard has kicked off their training early due to the good weather.

TSD Report

Michele O’Leary reviewed her written report and reviewed it with the Committee. The report covered current motorcycle fatalities; the upcoming media plan for the motorcycle safety program; a response to the Committee request to post the legislative tracking sheet to the internet, and an update on the items she plans to accomplish prior to her retirement. She also covered Committee membership terms and a conference call she had with the National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators.

Troy Costales gave an update on the recruitment for Ms. O’Leary’s successor.

Motorcycle Organizations Report

Paula Leslie read a letter to the Committee from the BikePAC of Oregon and herself regarding the issue of inappropriate name dropping of the Committee that occurred previously at a legislative hearing.

Graham Munsell reported that the Goldwing Road Rider’s Association is kicking off their training the weekend following this meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

2015 Legislative Session

Mr. Costales addressed confusion that occurred regarding ODOT testimony on one of the lane splitting/filtering bills. Accusations were made that ODOT intentionally falsified information regarding a study on lane splitting/filtering being unavailable at this time. He clarified that the testimony by ODOT was in fact correct. Since that hearing, Mr. Costales has individually spoken with each of the legislators that heard that incorrect accusation in order to clear it up.

Ms. O’Leary updated the Committee on the legislative process deadlines and legislative bills of interest. Details can be found on the tracking sheet she distributed to the Committee.

Towards the end of the agenda, Ms. O’Leary realized that the two legislative bills that had been amended should be revisited. Before the meeting concluded, she asked for direction on those two legislative bills.

The first legislative bill they re-visited was SB 533-A, the “dead red” bill.

MOTION: Mr. Henry moved that the Committee oppose SB 533-A. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. With no additional discussion, the motion passed with four in favor (Mr. Henry, Mr. Russell, Peggy Munsell and Debbie Weber) and two opposed (David Peterson and Ted Tracy). Chair Reichenberg did not vote. [Absent: Mr. Moore.]

The next legislative bill they addressed was SB 694-1, one of the lane splitting bills. It has had a hearing and has a work session scheduled. The Committee reviewed the amendments and revisited their position on the issue.

MOTION: Mr. Peterson moved that the Committee support SB 694-1. Mr. Tracy seconded the motion. Upon further discussion, the motion failed with three in favor (Mr. Peterson, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Russell) and four opposed (Ms. Munsell, Mr. Henry, Ms. Weber and Mr. Reichenberg). [Absent: Mr. Moore.]

Points made during the discussion:

In Support:

- *This is a benign version of lane splitting that should bring the general public on board with the idea.*
- *The refinements made to SB 694-1 are helpful, but there is a concern about the ability to enforce it.*

In Opposition:

- *There is a concern regarding group riders and three wheel vehicles that may attempt to do this maneuver.*
- *Lane splitting is viable in California, but does not seem necessary in Oregon.*
- *Law enforcement confirmed that the new law would be difficult to enforce.*
- *Law enforcement believes that if this bill is passed, that it will jeopardize the motorcycling community due to a majority that will likely apply it incorrectly.*
- *Law enforcement recommends that the Committee consider the demographic of those who will choose to use lane splitting. Their belief is that responsible riders will be less likely to use this maneuver since the traffic patterns in Oregon does not necessarily support the necessity of it.*

Neutral Input:

- *Law enforcement was asked how often they currently witness lane splitting. They indicate that it is very rare at this time.*

MOTION: Ms. Munsell moved that the Committee oppose SB 694-1. Ms. Weber seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed with four in favor (Ms. Munsell, Mr. Henry, Ms. Weber and Mr. Reichenberg) and three opposed (Mr. Peterson, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Russell). [Absent: Mr. Moore.]

Strategic Plan

This item was tabled.

V. NEW BUSINESS

ART Survey Results

Pat Hahn reviewed the Advanced Rider Training survey results with the Committee.

Oregon Traffic Safety Performance Plan: Transition Report

Ms. O'Leary reviewed the 2016 Oregon Traffic Safety Performance Plan Transition Report with the Committee. The final 2016 Oregon Traffic Safety Performance Plan will be presented to the Committee for their endorsement at the May 21, 2015 meeting. Mr. Henry raised the issue of how can the cornering issue that we have in Oregon be addressed in training so that it helps in reducing the fatalities that are caused by those issues. Mr. Garets responded that the challenge is to get more people in the Advanced Rider Training (ART) as the other courses taught by TEAM OREGON introduce elements related to cornering, but the ART gives the students practical experience.

Transportation Safety Action Plan Update

Mr. Henry gave an update on the Transportation Safety Action Plan update process. So far, the TSAP Policy Advisory Committee has participated in determining their values and vision. The motorcycle safety items that are in the current TSAP are impaired riding, rider training and surface conditions. If the Committee has any interest in exploring other areas, Mr. Henry will take them before the TSAP PAC. Mr. Tracy raised the issue of guard rails being a hazard for motorcyclists. At the next meeting on May 12, 2015, the TSAP PAC will be reviewing data. Mr. Henry requested that Committee members let him know if there is any data that they would like to see that may not currently be available. The Committee discussed having the contractor give a fifteen minute presentation at a future meeting.

Action Item: Add the fifteen minute presentation from Cambridge Systematics, Inc. to a future meeting agenda.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2015, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Transportation Safety Division (4040 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon).

VII. ADJOURN

With no further business brought before the Committee, Chair Reichenberg officially adjourned the GAC on Motorcycle Safety meeting.