

Motorcycle Safety Education Commission Meeting Minutes

December 6th, 2024 – 10:00am

KYTC Offices Frankfort Rm 109 and Zoom Meet - Virtual

Commission Members Present:

Jacob Renner, Chris Baker, Tina Ferguson, Mike Canchola

Transportation Cabinet Representatives

Jay Huber, Brandie Craft, Bill Bell, Ed Harding, Ryan Fisher, John Roberts, Erika Taylor

Guests:

Dinah Meister, Bill Meister, Daryl Kanatzar, Tim Jenne, Carol Olson-Smith, Cassandra Simpson, Lila Payne, Eric Guy, Chelsea Watson, Randy Elkins, Jim Rachlin

Open Session:

Meeting called to order by Jacob Renner at 10:02 am. A quorum was not present at the start but others joined later in the meeting to give a quorum. Motion to accept the previous Meeting Minutes by Jacob Renner, second by Chris Baker. Motion carries.

Public Comment:

None

Marketing:

Our representative with BCH, Susan Bandy has retired. Jay stated he is now working with some new folks at BCH on the marketing items, but they were not able to attend today's meeting. They will be providing a report on the past campaign in terms of the number of click throughs and other statistics that will be forwarded to the Commission members.

As always, we are looking for new and innovative ideas to help draw people into the program. Jacob Renner asked about Tik Tok, but concern was raised over whether we could use funds for it considering the recent ban around the platform.

Budget:

Jay Huber shared the financial data report with the group. Approximately \$157,000 in income for October and a little over \$367,000 for expenses. There is about \$2.4 Million in the rainy-day fund. All invoices should be up to date now after some problems with EMARS. An extra \$50k was added to FY25 bringing the total to \$1,000,000. The accounting team at the Cabinet is looking to add another \$100,000 to FY26 but is waiting for final approval. Bill Bell will discuss it with them considering the amount in the rainy-day fund.

For FY25 there have been about 2600 students through the program so far. The Cost per student is a bit higher than in past years due to raising the reimbursement rate to from \$200 to \$210 per student. There were also some issues with EMARS that moved some of the payments from FY24 into FY25. Currently we are on pace to have about 5,000 students through the program this year barring bad weather issues.

Training:

There was a 3WBRC Training course since the last meeting. Dinah Meister gave a report on the training class. The participants did really well, and everyone had a good time learning the course.

Feb. 15th will be the coaches meeting at ECTC. Jim Rachlin gave a status report on the progress there at ECTC. The RERP paperwork with MSF has been submitted. There were some minor changes due to the sewer drain location. It will be a modified range with an 11 student maximum. They will be getting the range painted in the Spring and ready to go soon thereafter.

There are 2 RCPs for new instructors planned with one in May at Walton and another in June at Bowling Green. Currently there are about 25 applications after a purge of old applications. After I reached out some people has life situations that changed and they could no longer participate and some just simply did not respond to multiple requests.

There is an ARC planned for the existing coaches June 7/8th in Hindman and one more 3WBRC in Walton in September 19-21st.

KOHS:

Discussion about the new motorcycle dashboard collision analysis presented by Ed Harding. Discussion with Chris Baker asking whether the Autocycle Category had been added to the collision form report. He was not aware whether it was on it or not. Ed stated that he has been working with the folks redesigning the form wizard. There are still questions on how to code things such as the Lime scooters, Uber and Lyft as a few examples.

Ed said he is working to get it launched to the public in early 2025. One other safety emphasis will be with Commercial Motor Vehicles.

Jay Huber shared a resource from the GHSA had sent out recently regarding Youth and cell phone / distracted driving efforts. Bill Bell shared that there is a plan to have a bill introduced regarding cell phone usage. The Cabinet is also looking to support a work zone safety bill which would allow speed cameras in work zones. There are over 30 states with similar legislation.

The Cabinet is building a coalition supporting the hands-free bill. Discussion on whether to support the bill and join the coalition. The bill has not yet been filed but is envisioned to be like either the TN or OH versions. Mike Canchola stated since we didn't have language, yet it may be best to wait until the Commission has time to review. Jay Huber stated we can wait until the bill is filed and call an emergency meeting to discuss and vote on it.

State Police / Licensing News:

Chris stated there may be an issue with KYTC Licensing regarding the scores of the written and skills tests being entered into the Licensing system.

Tina stated that from their side they are trying to make it hard for fraud to occur. For that reason for motorcycles only if a person presents the waiver card the line staff ask a supervisor to authorize things so that the line staff and complete the process of issuing the license.

Discussion on the process of updating the data system. Tina said the award was given recently to a vendor which has done similar work for 14 other states. Jay stated that Indiana does a good job to the point that a person doesn't have to come into a local DMV office when updating their license with a motorcycle endorsement. Tina said the new requirement for vision is presenting a similar issue in that how to lessen the number of people coming into the regional offices to do a vision screening. How will people upload the vision test from private doctors, so they don't have to physically come into an office.

Daryl Kanatzar asked about when the vision test was required. Tina stated it is only at the time of renewal so would not affect adding an endorsement or say a lost license. The question was raised whether adding an endorsement constituted a renewal? Chris Baker discussed the fact that KSP does a vision test whenever someone takes a test for motorcycles, CDLs or other endorsements. Tina said she would relay the questions to the KYTC legal team and see what they say. Bill Meister asked how long the vision screening was good for. Tina stated it had to be within 1 year of the license renewal since a vision prescription is good for a year so the bill language mirrored that.

Future Meeting:

Next meeting would be March 7th, at 10am either virtual and/or in person at the KYTC offices.

Motion to adjourn at 11:08am by Chris Baker, seconded by Mike Canchola and approved.