



City of Newport News

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

CAPT. W. T. STURGIS
VICE CHAIRMAN

MELVIN BAILEY
CHAIRMAN

DAVID T. WILKINSON
SECRETARY-COORDINATOR

November 18, 2008

To: The Honorable City Council
From: Chairman, Newport News Transportation Safety Commission
Subject: 2008 Annual Report

The Transportation Safety Commission consists of fourteen (14) regular members. Those presently serving active terms are as follows:

Membership:

- The Honorable Alfred O. Masters, Jr----- Judge, Gen. Dist. Court-Traffic Div.
- David T. Wilkinson, E.I.T.----- Department of Engineering
- G. E. (Dick) Tyson ----- Director of Dr. Ed./Athletics NN Public Schools
- The Honorable Sharon P. Scott ----- Newport News Council Member
- Captain W. T. Sturgis----- Newport News Police Department
- Captain Tom L. Phillips ----- Newport News Fire Department
- Milton Hilliard----- US Army Transportation Center
- Mel Bailey----- Citizen
- Edward J. Curran ----- Citizen
- Karl R. Dahlen ----- Citizen
- John Gergely ----- Citizen
- Jean Montane ----- Citizen
- Gabriel A. Morgan, Sr. ----- Citizen
- Brianne Thomas ----- Student

The Commission meets quarterly (February, May, August, and October) in a pre-determined location, typically the Department of Engineering Conference room on the 7th floor at City Hall. The meetings are open to the public and citizen input is encouraged. Contact persons are the Secretary-Coordinator, David T. Wilkinson (926-8690) or the Chairman, Mr. Mel Bailey (877-7882).

Summary of 2008 Activities and Accomplishments

The Committee is currently working on an “Incident Management” video segment that will provide an insight as to how motorists should react when emergency equipment approaches. In addition, the Committee is looking at alternative transportation methods that would assist in alleviating congestion on the city corridors. This evaluation process

Safety is never an afterthought... it is planned for.



City of Newport News

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION

CAPT. W. T. STURGIS
VICE CHAIRMAN

MELVIN BAILEY
CHAIRMAN

DAVID T. WILKINSON
SECRETARY-COORDINATOR

will include presentations by HRT, CSX, and other agencies dedicated to transportation. These presentations will be conducted during the quarterly meetings in 2009.

There was one major meeting event to be reported to the City Council that the Committee participated in or sponsored in 2008 which was a legislative bill review at the Military Civilian Workshop at Fort Eustis.

Members of the Commission attended the annual Virginia Military Civilian Transportation Safety Workshop at Fort Eustis in October. The hi-lites of this workshop included a review of Transportation bills pending before the next General Assembly meeting in Richmond. A detailed summary of endorsed Transportation bills from the workshop attendees, along with four selective endorsements by the Transportation Safety Commission, were directed to City Council for presentation to our legislators. The four recommended endorsements were:

- Primary seat belt enforcement with penalties for each unbelted occupant
- Oppose repeal of the motorcycle helmet laws and provide standardization and uniformity to the Department of Transportation (DOT) helmet requirements
- Reenact the Habitual Offender Law
- Mandatory ignition locks for 2 or more DUI offenses

During the year, the Commission has received briefings from the Engineering Department on the transportation safety aspects of major upgrades to our City streets. These briefings included the Red Light Camera initiative, the Warwick Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue improvement projects, and the proposed Middle Ground Boulevard extension, which would relieve congestion along the Warwick Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue corridors. Another major initiative is the combined partnership between city and state agencies to reduce collisions at major intersections.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Bailey, Chairman

MB/wts

pc: City Clerk

Safety is never an afterthought... it is planned for.