



MINUTES
Public Feedback Meeting
Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan
February 12, 2025
Southern Maryland
6pm

6:00 Introductions and Meeting Expectations

The MD Highway Safety Office introduced their team. Crash Core introduced their team.

6:15 What is the Strategic Highway Safety Plan?

Crash Core explained the need for and the contents of the MD Strategic Highway Safety Plan, including how many agencies in the state of MD collaborate on traffic safety concerns.

6:30 Open Forum: Public Opinion on Traffic Safety Priorities

7:30 Adjourn

Emphasis Area Feedback

Pedestrian and Bicycle

- Request for focus on ped bike VRUs in Baltimore
- Mention of highway expansion plan-concerned about bicycle/ped involvement
 - Recommendation to contact SHA District 5
- Concern around scooters or E-bikes on State highways-Rt 210
- Concern that police can't chase e-bikes
- Concern around scooters on 3 and 4 lane highways
- Discussion on ped bike fatality review that will continue-see link Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities - Infrastructure Review
- Beyond Blame (<https://actionlab.strongtowns.org/hc/en-us/articles/32317922505108-Crash-Analysis-Studio-Report-Beyond-Blame-How-Cities-Can-Learn-from-Crashes-to-Create-Safer-Streets-Today>)
- There is an advisory committee that meets quarterly; public is welcome to attend to review plans
- MHSO is going to check on legislation re riding on roads
- There is existing legislation re registration
- Mentioned 210 and Branch Avenue-MHSO offered to reach out to the people who work on this issue to get their perception on how bad it is
- Calvert County hasn't encountered an issue with e-bikes; more dirt bikes and motorcycles

Impaired/Distracted Driving

- Concern about giant in-vehicle screens being distracting, specifically EVs being a distraction-need a mandate from federal/state gov't
- DADSS program discussion
- Concern about older drivers on multiple meds

Other Topics

CMVs

- Truck companies don't own trucks; their trucks are outsourced
- Force drivers to drive unsafely
- Has to be dealt more on a national level but the states could do something, especially when truck drivers are stopped for inspections
- Educate LE about the systems that are being used by the drivers.
- Constant monitoring may help LE enforce

General

- Statement that no progress toward VZ in Baltimore region
- Questions about why we can't design a transportation system that achieves VZ
 - Need to define elements
 - There are challenges with human involvement in making progress
 - Recommendations that the people try to fine-tune their local SHSPs
- Statement that PRT system in Morgantown West Virginia achieved vision zero in 1975; the system carries 50% for daily riders than the entire Marc train network and has had zero serious injuries or deaths from crashes
- MHSO discussed establishing unconventional partnerships to do the things that MHSO can't directly do
- Concern around Annapolis delegation that will make it harder for LE to pull over a vehicle
- Discussion around plans going in front of the right people: general assembly, transportation committee
 - SHSP executive council exists for this
 - How do we get the right people to read these?
 - Offer of attorney support from attendee
 - Disagreement with House laws (LE drone use restriction example)

AI and Technology

- Mobile app to provide incentives to good walker, drivers and cyclists
- GPS and accelerometers sensors in phones plus detecting users using phones can determine if road users are exhibiting safe behavior
- AI and neuro-evolutionary algorithms can perform entire road network crash risk analysis 1,000 times better than human traffic engineers. Then they can optimize crash mitigation project spends.
 - MHSO can only do education and enforcement
 - Partnerships allow MHSO to do what they can't do
 - Funding is increasing in the past 2 years with the bipartisan infrastructure bill to fund technology
 - MHSO is exploring new technologies

Driver Education

- MHSO described Carfit
- Suggestion that driver's ed be brought back into schools; not for profit