

# **State Traffic Records Advisory Committee (STRAC)**



**Quarterly Meeting –Thursday, May 23, 2014**

**Colorado Department of Transportation**

**4201 E. Arkansas Ave.**

**Denver, CO 80222**

STRAC Quarterly Meeting May 23, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Cheri Urda, Dept. Of Revenue; Justine Gonzales, Dept. of Revenue; Charles Meyer, CDOT; Bill Copley, FMCSA; Jan Hart, CDPHE; Tamara Hoxworth, CDPHE; Jeff Turner, Aurora PD; Kevin Dischler, Aurora PD; Dianna Anderson, OIT; Phyllis Snider, CDOT; Rahim Marandi, CDOT; Scott Burton, JeffCo; Maria D'Andrea, Jeffco; Don DeVeux, Plus Solutions; David, Bourget, CDOT; Toni Vedovati (Meeting Minutes), CDOT; Glenn Davis (Secretary), CDOT.

## Agenda:

Motion to approve last meeting minutes.

Motion Approved.

Note: Suggestion to have notes distributed within same week as meeting made by R. Marandi. Secretary acknowledged as appropriate when possible.

### MOU Signature Follow Up:

Signatures have been completed by all agencies.

Electronic copies sent via email.

Hard copy presented to agency.

Note: Judicial and Behavioral Science has been unable to attend meetings.

Strategic Plan to become incorporated into document.

### Grant Status Report (Marandi):

A. December 2013 in process.

CDOT will provide a final report to STRAC upon completion of this grant cycle as to money used and success or failure of project.

Some have no invoices yet.

Predict there will be \$50,000 – 75,000 in rollover effective October 2013.

\$500,000 expected by May, 2014.

New projects approved total \$524,000. Sufficient funds exist, with rollover monies, to fund all STRAC approved.

B. Castle Rock Electronic Ticket Process was originally approved at \$90,000. Application was increased by \$28,000 Suggest we fund the original \$90,000.

Current projects all using current E- citation grant applicants are working on the current judicial schema.

Marandi will provide information to vendors and OIT.

Dept. of Revenue will provide scope of E-Citation to all committee members via email (Urda).

C. One CDOT project approved (during phone conference) – TARS (Traffic Accident Report System); the other was not approved and will not be resubmitted.

A white paper on this project was requested and agreed to with a due date of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Note: Consideration of a re-vote on Castle Rock project was dismissed (Urda).

Suggestion for committee to develop a more strategic monetary plan for FY15 was discussed briefly. All agreed to further discuss at future meetings (Urda).

Suggestion to begin FY15 Grant Cycle during last quarterly meeting (December, 2013). No vote was taken, however, all agreed.

Suggestion to begin solicitation in fall (next meeting). No vote taken, however, all agreed. Discussion included: high consideration of STRAC mission; Grantee Match can be soft and should be 25% and increase on a sliding scale; Focus on Data Accuracy, Timeliness and Accessibility.

### Denver Post Article:

[Denver agencies must share traffic data to curb traffic collisions, experts say - By Joey Bunch](#)

*The Denver Post*

Public planners who strive to keep Denver streets accident-free don't benefit from the kind of systematic sharing of information that experts say is critical in preventing collisions between motorists and pedestrians.

[http://www.denverpost.com/circare/html/sca\\_template.jsp?sortBy=mngi&aff=3&query=Denver+agencies+must+share+traffic+data+to+curb+traffic+collisions%2C+experts+say+By+Joey+Bunch&view=entiresitesppublished&skin=100&searchbutton.x=7&searchbutton.y=12](http://www.denverpost.com/circare/html/sca_template.jsp?sortBy=mngi&aff=3&query=Denver+agencies+must+share+traffic+data+to+curb+traffic+collisions%2C+experts+say+By+Joey+Bunch&view=entiresitesppublished&skin=100&searchbutton.x=7&searchbutton.y=12)

Article focused on Traffic Data linked to collisions. STRAC's efforts were not realized or recognized within the article. Floor was opened to comments:

Primary mission of STRAC is to effect and save lives through data to improve the process.

Increase in Metro Denver and statewide Pedestrian Fatalities may be an anomaly.

A metro group was formed; Denver Post interviewed Task Force, and response was provided to reporter.

A meeting is scheduled to discuss STRAC and data sharing.

Other states show information better and have more transparency than Colorado.

Discussion developed into options and barriers:

Colorado has Information Marketplace available. City of Chicago (data.cityofchicago.org) uses this and is able to share robust

information. It is a cloud platform and APIs are available to mobile users.

Colorado struggles due to sites already developed; little to no data in raw form; myriad sites to gather from; uncooperative interagency atmosphere; Privacy Regulations; delays getting data share agreements negotiated and completed.

Department of Revenue is steward of crash data per Colorado Statutes.

TARS project will pass information (without private information) Users will submit request for logon, which will determine the type of information to pass to user in a self-help environment. TARS can present a 360 degree view of CDOT's crash records. Data should be available first quarter of 2014.

Suggestions:

- Reaching out to Law Enforcement agencies to present and educate on upcoming project.
- Create a white paper which outlines the process by which accident reports are submitted and data is available to users. Charles Meyers (CDOT) will work on this for presentation at the next meeting as an overview for committee members to share with their contacts.
- Review long form grants to identify opportunities to share information.

#### Traffic Records Forum:

CDOT/Traffic records section has funds from NHTSA to send two STRAC partners (non CDOT) to Traffic Records Forum. Jan Hart from CDPHE will be one representative and the other will be the Diana Anderson from OIT.

A detailed outline of the cycle of traffic data throughout Colorado agencies was presented by DeVeux.

#### Higher Education Involvement:

Discussion of Louisiana's web site.

Involving interns for web development.

Professors seeking government information to involve students.

Need to seek higher education contacts.

Dr. Beth Bean (Higher Education Review Board) and Dr. Zax (Professor of Economics, CU Bolder) were recommended as initial contacts. Also, Dr. Monjong (Professor of Economics, CSU).

Discussed developing a letter as introduction to STRAC mission and projects. Urda (DOR) will take lead on this project.

### STRAC Improvement Project:

Objective is to push the envelope, seek out problems, brain storm as a committee for resolution, repair, and be the "front face" to agencies to promote TARS.

Discussion of external web site included self-managing user access, need to determine active fields for user to filter information, reports generating during non-peak hours to avoid overload, user requested reports generated in FTP format to user, report stored "in the cloud" instead of a link, all data would be cleansed of personal information.

OIT will look into external web site for STRAC. Needs to be discussed further.

User Needs Assessment would be broken into at least two segments: Agencies requesting information for official use to improve/promote safety; and, Media/Citizens.

### By-Laws Change

Currently the Highway Safety Office (HSO)'s Director selects the Secretary. Davis suggests this change to the Engineering/Records Director, Meyer. It is further suggested a Sergeant of Arms position be created to assist the Chair, and the HSO Director would elect this position.

Effective next meeting.

Decided that vote can be delegated to Sergeant of Arms or Secretary when these positions are the only representative's respective departments.

Motion to Approve.

Approved.

### Open Forum:

Turner suggested questioning the validity of information being requested from field officers prior to requesting on official forms.

Turner and Dischler provided update on Project Scanner.

Accident reconstruction issues are being reworked.

Delays due to City beauracracy.

Under Federal bid.

CDPHE advised they have run into issues with the data dictionary being inconsistent from agency to agency. Chair requests CDPHE to address in next meeting if issue appears to be ongoing.

<http://www.coloradodot.info/library/AnnualReports/2012-transportation-safety-and-traffic-engineering-annual-report>

### Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Develop Pilot to develop Higher Education contacts, seek out information and opportunities to present at next meeting (Urda).

Discussion on 2014 NHTSA Traffic Records Assessment which need to be completed by 9/30/14.

Special Invitation to Leslie Taullie from NHTSA for 2014 NHTSA Traffic Records Assessment

Begin discussions for update of Form DR2447 Traffic Accident Report.

Next meeting:

08/15/13 0900-1200

CDOT HQ 4201 E. Arkansas Ave. Denver Co. 80222

Third Floor, Blue Spruce Room