Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee (STRAC) Annual Report
2009 Annual Report
June 16, 2009-June 14, 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Colorado Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee (STRAC) had a productive year despite significant challenges related to the State budget.

Colorado completed Phase I of the Virtual Data Warehouse project, providing insight into how such a product could benefit Colorado, the challenges and estimates for cost. Though the warehouse project is on hold due to cost constraints, Colorado did move forward with a project to complete the statewide traffic data dictionary for use in future planning and development.

The committee planned, coordinated and participated in the NHTSA sponsored Traffic Records Assessment that exposed existing strengths and weaknesses within our state's traffic record system and provided recommendations for next steps.

STRAC took the recommendations of the assessment, devised a stakeholder questionnaire to serve as the guiding documents for strategic planning and began the strategic planning process. The committee also drafted revisions to the existing bylaws to reform the committee along traffic records functional areas.

MISSION

The Committee assists in coordinating the interagency acquisition and disbursement of accurate, timely and accessible motor vehicle traffic data and related information for use in identifying solving transportation safety and engineering problems.

STRAC RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Adopt requirements for file structure and data integration.
2. Assess capabilities and resources.
3. Establish goals for improving the traffic records system.
4. Evaluate the system.
5. Develop cooperation and support from major stakeholders.

6. Ensure that high quality and timely data will be available for all qualified users.

The National Agenda for the Improvement of Highway Safety Information Systems, a product of the National Safety Council's Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) states: *"Highway safety information systems provide the information which is critical to the development of policies and programs that maintain the safety and the operation of the nation's roadway transportation network." A* well coordinated traffic records system is necessary for problem identification, planning, and management of Colorado's roadway safety activities.

MEMBERSHIP

The committee is composed of representatives from the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), the Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Colorado Judicial Department (CJD). Each of these agencies both contributes to and utilizes motor vehicle traffic data and information. CDOT serves as the coordinating agency.

2009 STRAC ACTIVITIES

Four quarterly meetings and numerous subcommittee meetings were held. Minutes of the quarterly meetings are incorporated into this report.

Meeting on July 23, 2009 (See Attachment A STRAC Meeting Minutes)

Meeting on October 22, 2009 (See Attachment B STRAC Meeting Minutes)

Meeting on February 25, 2010 (See Attachment C STRAC Meeting Minutes)

Meeting on April 29, 2010 (See Attachment D STRAC Meeting Minutes)

2009 STRAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Leadership
> Elected new Officers:
  Chair – Steve Hooper (CDOR)
  Co-Chair – Holly Hedegaard (CDPHE)
  Secretary – Glenn Davis (CDOT)

Virtual Data Warehouse Project
  o Completed Phase I of the Virtual Data Warehouse (VDW), held final briefing with VDW stakeholders regarding

recommendations for future development, procurement, and cost estimates
- o Determined that further exploration of VDW was cost prohibitive at this time
- o Building on the efforts of Phase I of the Virtual Data Warehouse project, initiated a more focused effort regarding the development of a statewide traffic records existing Data Dictionary and data attributes.

Traffic Records Assessment
- ➢ Formed STRAC Traffic Records Assessment subcommittee to prepare for assessment
- ➢ Coordinated responses from STRAC agencies to the pre-assessment questionnaire and organized participation in the assessment with representatives of entire statewide traffic records community
- ➢ Responded to the assessment report and accepted the recommendations of assessment
- ➢ Restructured the STRAC Committee by traffic record system functional areas and accepted nominations for team leaders
- ➢ Developed the questionnaire based on assessment recommendations by functional area that will serve as a foundation for strategic plan.

Strategic Planning and Organization
- ➢ Initiated Strategic Planning based on responses to the Assessment questionnaire
- ➢ Drafted revisions to the bylaws for the STRAC.

Grant Application
- ➢ Prepared the NHTSA 408 Grant Application and received preliminary approval by demonstrating progress on complying with performance measures.

Crash Records Data Collection
- ➢ Continued work on EMS data collection (CDPHE) demonstrating improvement in completeness and timeliness.
- ➢ DOR entered crash records information into the Electronic Accident Report System database (DOR), eliminating its entire backlog of paper crash records.
- ➢ CDOT continues to monitor efforts by temporary employees to provide location coding to crash data which also improved the timeliness of reports (CDOT).

2010 – 2011 STRAC GOALS

Strategic Planning and Organization

> ➢ Complete revisions to the STRAC Strategic Plan assuring that plan is in alignment with recommendations contained in 2009 Traffic Records Assessment
> ➢ Complete restructuring of STRAC with revised bylaws and new Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) among participants

Traffic Records and Project Proposals
> ➢ STRAC will take a more active role in traffic records project solicitation and approval
> ➢ Develop methodology for soliciting proposals from locals that are consistent with emphasis areas outlined in strategic plan
> ➢ Strengthen the relationship with the Local Law Enforcement Agencies regarding the need for data and its accuracy
> ➢ Acquire a Traffic Records Coordinator and charge this person with the maintenance of a project management system and the continual monitoring and reporting of project activities including the 408 grant program
> ➢ Improve project oversight through the STRAC
> ➢ Continue to diversify STRAC membership to reflect needs of Traffic Records System
> ➢ Increase electronic accident reporting from current level of 30% to 60%
> ➢ Improve data quality metrics on accident records
> ➢ Finalize the various components of a statewide electronic citation process such as a data dictionary, business (validation) rules, quality metrics, etc. for use by agencies and vendors.

Attachment A: July 23, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:
DOR:Steve Hooper; Judicial: Stacey Kirk; FMCSA: Bill Copley; CSP/CDPS: Ron Woods, Cindy Richey, Korby Johnson; Weld County: Paul Wood; CDPHE: Holly Hedegaard; CDOT: Bryan Allery, Charles Keep, Mike Nugent, Rahim Marandi; Glenn Davis, Gina Guerrero.

CDOT/DOR Accident Data Entry Project:
Records must be saved as an image before being edited and entered into the EARS database. As of today, only 6,500 accidents reports still need to be scanned, and 30,100 remain to be entered. DOR estimated the entry will be completed by August, 2010. The goal is to have accident information entered within three days of reports being submitted to DOR. Two grants are funding temporary staff to assist with data entry. A second EMS and Trauma data analyst will be hired in September.

We will develop an interface so law enforcement agencies who don't have electronic connectivity can enter data directly into the data base.

Colorado EMS and Trauma Registry:
The data from 30 Level I, II and III hospitals is currently being received. A data entry program will be created to capture data from smaller hospitals to give in-depth information on trauma for all patients and is expected to be operational by 2010. We are moving toward collecting Emergency Department Data from hospitals statewide. DOR estimates there will 4 million records when all hospitals are reporting.

Currently 144 of 190 EMS transport agencies in Colorado are submitting data to the state EMS database (MATRIX).

Virtual Data Warehouse:
Phase one Draft of Warehouse was completed in July, and STRAC members need to stay involved to make sure vendor meets our needs.

There is concern that the accuracy rate of data entry is not high enough to meet compliance requirements. We believe that the most recent review by Angie Schmidt may not have considered the mapping to data and database aspects that would reveal that we are gathering more data elements. Steve Hooper will look into how that evaluation is being used and he will chase down more information to assure we are being given credit for both partial compliance on the elements and for the linked elements.

Traffic Records Enhancements:
Use of GPS data system for identifying accident locations is working well. Temporary staff is still needed to update crash records from 2005-06 reports to meet SAFETEA-LU requirements for accuracy and uniformity, integration and accessibility of State data.

Traffic Records Forum:

Staff received information on a CODES system to link databases that determine level of severity of injuries due to motor vehicle crashes. Colorado doesn't have this system but has requested a 408 grant to cover the $3,000 for licensure and to cover a pilot study to see if we can link several databases.

Traffic Records Assessment:
All of the Assessors are lined up. STRAC members will need to give input to them. Staff will send them copies of last year's assessment. The Assessment will take place October 4-9, 2009.

Attachment B: October 22, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:
DOR: Steve Hooper, Judicial: Stacy Kirk; CSP/CDPS: Ron Woods, Cindy Richey; CDOT: Charles Keep; Glenn Davis, Mike Nugent; CDPHE: Holly Hedegaard. (Complete attendance roster is unavailable.)

Traffic Records Assessment Review:
This will be a vehicle to promote traffic safety and will help improve each participating agency's operations. It will take place in October.

Grant Funding process:
For 408 Funding, the Traffic Records has its own process separate from other safety grants. An overview of Evaluation Measures, Budget, Grantee Match, and Application Process were presented by Glenn Davis. Grant requests should be under $100,000 so CDOT can use a Purchase Order process instead of the contract process which takes longer. Applications for FY 2011 projects will be in the spring of 2010. Once an application is accepted, the grantee will have to notify CDOT if they will be able to spend the dollars granted to them. The grant making process is delayed this year due to the Traffic Records Assessment timing.

Data Base Linkage:
CDPHE has received grant funds for a project using Linksolv software to link and analyze health data (death certificates, hospital discharge data, trauma registry and EMS data) with traffic records report data. The project to be completed by September 2010

Traffic Records Assessment:
Participants will review the draft report. The Strategic Plan will then be developed, naming a list of who should be involved and group leaders. STRAC will identify how it can be simple, timely and usable, and funded at a higher level. Team leaders should work to create timelines and identify short and long term priorities.

Strategic Planning Summary:
Should address short term (within 3 years) and longer term (within 5 years) goals. Core group should get input from representatives of specialty areas and then the draft plan should be sent to the traffic records community for their comments and feedback. It should be finalized prior to next round of 408 funding applications. The five Team Leaders were chosen for areas of Injury Surveillance, Citation, Crash Records and STRAC. By-laws and committee restructuring should be done by January and ready to present to stakeholders.

Virtual Data Warehouse:
Proposal from Dye management Company will be reviewed to compare scope of work with final product and report back to STRAC to determine next steps.

Attachment C: February 25, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:
CSP: Korby Johnson, Ron Woods, Cindy Richey; FHWA: Dahir Egal; CDOT: Charles Keep, David Bourget, Mike Nugent, Glenn Davis, Terry Huddleston, Bo Quinn, Rahim Marandi; City and County of Denver: David Weaver; DOR: Stephen Hooper, Susan Woods; CDPHE: Holly Hedegaard; CRM Plus Solutions(vendor): Don DeVaux, Chris Wright.

By Laws changes:
Election of Officers was deferred to next meeting. We need to define duties, get agency commitments, and plan to extend length of term in office to two years. It is proposed that election will be in October, terms will begin in January, 2011. New MOUs will be needed to accommodate the changes.

Organizational structure:
There was discussion on the Team Leader concept versus Subcommittees. A workgroup will address these changes and how to have involvement from a user level.

Strategic Planning:
The Strategic Plan needs to reflect the Traffic Records Assessment recommendations. The existing workgroup will incorporate the minor changes and create job descriptions for officers. Korby Johnson will help write up the plan, which can be developed in two four-hour sessions. It was not clear when the last Strategic Plan was presented to Executive Directors of departments represented on STRAC.

Traffic Records Assessment:
Team leaders will prioritize recommendations areas and how to go forward with these on the Strategic plan.

Data Entry Project: Location Coding Effort:
CDOT will look at error frequency, error type, and consider simpler terms for identifying location, collecting and reporting data. Analysis will be chronological.

Problem Driver Task Force issues:
The Task Force needs to define who is the problem driver and do a GAP analysis of data. We need to take a broad approach, and look at getting data at front end, citation, driving behavior, and enhanced prosecution. This may be a high profile committee to help the efforts of STRAC. The report should be due in 15 months.

2011 Grant Project Applications:
An interim report to NHTSA is needed. An annual report for 2009-2010 can be combined with the STRAC report. It should also contain MMUCC Certification and NEMISIS Compliance, and clarify how much has been spent and what is carryover.
A draft of projects for 408 funding is due May 15, with final application due June 15, 2010.

Attachment D: April 29, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): Dahir Egal; CDOT: Charles Keep; David
Bourget; Mike Nugent; Glenn Davis; Bo Quinn; Bryan Allery, Kevin Dietrick, George
Atencio; DOR: Stephen Hooper, Susan Woods; CDPHE: Holly Hedegaard; Colorado
Judicial Branch: Jason Bergbower, Chris Meints; CRM Plus Solutions: Don DeVeux.

Election of Officers:
Officers were nominated and elected to serve for the remainder of this calendar year:
- Chair- Steve Hooper, DOR
- Vice Chair- Holly Hedegaard, CDPHE
- Secretary- Glenn Davis, CDOT

Accident Data Entry Project:
There are concerns over the drop in 2009 crash entries showing 91,000 Colorado crashes
reported to the EARS database, a drop from the annual average of 120,000 to 130,000
crash reports. CSP data also shows a drop by nearly half compared to previous years.
STRAC will pursue an investigation into the variance, and an action plan to see if all
reports are being included, a reconciliation of records with CSP Records Management
Systems, and a comparison to historical averages.

We are making good progress on crash file record enhancement. Files for 2006 are
completed, and 2007 is in progress.

Accident Records Enhancement:
The Federal Crash Data Improvement Program (CDIP) provides technical assistance to
states to improve timeliness, accuracy & completeness of crash data. Many federal
transportation agencies depend on state crash data to guide their programs. CDIP will
work with state crash data stakeholders to identify areas for improvement in data
collection, data processing, and data reporting. CDIP will award participating states
$50,000 to help conduct workshops on addressing identified weaknesses. We will look at
more focused approach for Colorado that incorporates our recent traffic records
submission to the 408 Assessment team and their final report.

2010 Traffic Records Project Update:
The E-Citation project is progressing in Weld County; the Sheriff Department has ten E-
Citation units deployed in their traffic section, and Greely Police have fifteen units
deployed. The State Judicial is receiving reports, and they held open house to orient law
enforcement agencies about how to get involved. E-citations constitute 45% of Colorado
tickets. E Citation is core element n improving officer safety by decreasing exposure
time on our roads.

Data Dictionary Project:

The Kickoff meeting was held with the Contractor. The enterprise architecture and templates were distributed and on line input may be available.

Online Crash Reporting:
The interface is designed for smaller law enforcement agencies to submit their crash records online to DOR. The tool is effective. Lakewood and Aurora Police Departments are in "test" mode for taking accident reports on the agency software and transmitting data electronically to DOR. DOR has launched website that provides info to Law Enforcement and courts about DMV codes, forms, contact info and Frequently Asked Questions. The website will be presented to STRAC at the July meeting.

Future Traffic Records Projects:
A potential project within the Southern Colorado RETAC involving patient tracking was presented. Each patient would be assigned a unique identifier that would be used by receiving hospitals, EMS and the trauma registry. STRAC endorsed them to proceed with an application for 408 funds.

Traffic Records Assessment - priority recommendations:
STRAC team leaders are in the process of submitting their responses. These will be used as the basis for the next Co Traffic Records Strategic Plan. Status of areas:
- Injury Surveillance – completed
- Citation/ adjudication – Pending
- Accident reports – complete
- Crash files –Team leader TBD, pending
- Driver Records – Pending
- STRAC – Pending

STRAC By-laws - Proposed changes:
STRAC needs to identify a team leader for Crash File functional area.
Other proposed changes were reviewed and final draft of the By-laws will be approved at the next meeting.

Attachment E: STRAC Membership

The STRAC is membership is comprised of state agencies that contribute to and utilize motor vehicle traffic data and information.

The membership is comprised of representatives from the:

- o Colorado State Patrol
- o Colorado Department of Revenue
- o Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- o Colorado Department of Human Services
- o Colorado Department of Transportation
- o Colorado Judicial Department

  - Executive Committee

  - Russell George,
  - CDOT Executive Director

  - Peter Weir,
  - CDPS Executive Director

  - Roxanne Huber,
  - DOR Executive Director

  - Martha E. Rudolph,
  - DPHE Executive Director

  - Karen Beye,
  - CDHS Executive Director

  - Gerald A Marroney,
  - State Court Administrator