National Road Safety Committee

21st November 2023
10:00 – 11:25

Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure
Cayman Islands Government

Attendees (in no particular order):

- David Dixon, Director DVDL
- Durk Banks, Director Public Transport Union
- Edward Howard, Director NRA
- Tristan Hydes, Deputy Chief Officer Ministry PAHI
- Eric Bush, Chief Officer Ministry PAHI – *Chair*
- Michael Ebanks, Chief Officer Home Affairs
- Tristan Hydes, Deputy Chief Officer Ministry PAHI
- Marion Pandohie, Transportation Planner/ Information Manager NRA
- Anne Kensington-Lott, Head of Communications Ministry PAHI
- Kee Sims, Senior Policy Advisor Ministry PAHI
- Cheryl Neblett, First Legislative Counsel of Legislative Drafting Department
- Annick Jackman, Head of Content & Production (deputising for Mrs. Oneisha Richards)

Apologies:

- Julian Lewis, Deputy Chief Officer Home Affairs
- Oneisha Richards, Director Department of Communications
- Kurt Walton, Commissioner RCIPS
- Sean Vasquez, Acting Director Department for Public Safety and Communications

1. Introduction and apologies

The Chair was running a little bit late, so Mr. Hydes, the Chair's Deputy, opened the meeting in his absence, informing the members that apologies were received from Commissioner Walton, Mrs. Oneisha Richards and Mr. Julian Lewis.

2. Review of Action Items and approval of minutes from the last meeting

Nobody raised concerns with the minutes from the last meeting, and so Mr. Hydes considered them approved. The Chair, Mr. Eric Bush, joined the meeting. The action items from the last meeting were reviewed, and a discussion on the status of each item was included as part of the meeting agenda.

2. ARC system – data analysis and findings by sub-committees

Mr. Michael Ebanks/Home Affairs summarised the work that had been done to back-populate the ArcGIS system. The data owned by RCIPS had some gaps and those were now filled and a narrative had been integrated following conversations with investigators that handled the data at the time of the incident. Mr. Ebanks confirmed that all the information on road fatalities is now complete.

He also added that Mr. Sean Vasquez/DPSC has sent out a new link to the ArcGIS system which was more mobile-user friendly.

The Chair reminded everyone that the sub-committee Champions were meant to inform the Committee today of the data analysis and provide a meaningful update on the findings.

From an Engineering & Standards perspective, this work hadn't yet been done due to time constraints, however Mr. Edward Howard/NRA said that he started looking at the fatality data, and sees that the majority of fatalities concerns motorcycles and pedestrians, specifically between Savannah and Spotts Newlands.

However, on South Church street where the road is narrow with relatively many pedestrians, the system showed that there are more motor vehicle and motorcycle fatalities which was unexpected. Mr. Howard said that doing that extra analysis through the system reveals clusters of fatalities in certain areas.

The Chair asked Mr. Howard how much time would be needed to identify concrete proposals for actions based on the data, to which Mr. Howard replied a couple of weeks.

From an Education perspective, Ms. Annick Jackman, who was deputising for Mrs. Oneisha Richards, didn't have anything specific to report but would check with the Director what work had been done in terms of the data analysis.

From an Emergency Response perspective, Mr. Ebanks said that the priorities would be on triage capabilities and training, either bringing in a trainer or providing it locally.

The Chair suggested that from all 72 fatalities, it would help Emergency Response to include the time when it happened, when a call was made, when the emergency service was dispatched, when it arrived, when patient arrived at the hospital. Mr. Ebanks agreed and said he would bring it to the DPSC's attention.

It was noted that there was no Enforcement representative, so an update from the Enforcement sub-committee couldn't be provided.

The Chair raised that this was the fourth meeting since the Committee was set up, and that one fatality was recorded since then.

3. National Road Safety campaign

The National Road Safety Strategy was launched on Friday 17 November, and the Chair said he had seen some pick-up of it in the media, but it wasn't something that people are talking about (yet).

Mrs. Anne Kensington-Lott/PAHI explained to the members that the launch was picked up by the Cayman Compass as well as several social media channels. She also said that she had received calls in regards to it, and expects more coverage soon. She confirmed that Hon Minister Jay Ebanks will appear on radio, including Compass stations, DMS, and OC.

The full campaign is scheduled to launch on 27 November. The Internal comms has gone out, including posters in the GAB elevators. Mrs. Kensington-Lott informed the members that the launch and the campaign were integrated into one plan and that this will be shared with the Committee for information.

- ACTION 1: Mrs. Anne Kensington-Lott to share the integrated campaign plan with the members for information.

She also informed the Committee that orders had been made for special campaign 'pins' and stickers.

Ms. Jackman said that the DoC is keen to start the campaign on 1 Dec, so it coincides with the festive season, however the Chair expressed his preference for an earlier start and, especially since everything is ready, it was decided that the campaign begins on 27 November.

4. Next steps

The Chair raised concerns that, three months into the programme, the Committee wasn't pushing the sub-committees enough to come up with tangible strategies. As a Committee, what is it we are doing to help reduce road fatalities? With the Christmas holiday fast approaching, he said it would be good to get together as a Committee very soon again, to make sure we don't lose momentum and come up with some tangible actions and decisions before year end and help prevent another road fatality.

Mr. Hydes/PAHI agreed with the Chair that not enough has been done yet, and some concrete decisions would have to be made in the area of engineering in particular, and roll those out quickly.

The Chair asked the NRA Director if data analysis could be prioritised and done quicker, with the view to develop a high-level plan of action. This is not just a task for Engineering & Standards, but for all of the sub-committees, acknowledging that Education was already ahead in terms of a concrete plan as they are about to launch the campaign.

Ms. Neblett pointed out that plans in the area of enforcement (and the work done by the Enforcement sub-committee) is by nature slow. It might look like there is no plan, but any decision requires a lot of discussion, thought and research. She also said that it was up to the Committee itself to developed the plans.

The Chair acknowledged her point made about enforcement, but that a plan could be developed that laid out clear intentions and priorities for the medium to long term. With regards to the development of those plans, the Chair explained that at the last Committee meeting, which Ms. Neblett couldn't attend, the sub-committees were given the lead to formulate plans by giving them access to the data platform ArcGIS. Information and access was given by Mr. Vasquez on 9 November.

Some real steps need to be made, and therefore the Chair proposed to meet again on 6 December and use this meeting to focus solely on the data interrogation done by the sub-committees, and advise on the plans they put forward. Education will give an update and the other E's will give an initial analysis of the data and present the plans that they have formulated around that.

- **ACTION 2:** The Champions to organise the sub-committees to make sure the data on the ArcGIS system is interrogated and analysed through the lens of the 4 E's. The sub-committees have to then create their initial plans on that basis, ready for presentation to the Committee on 6 December.

Mr. Durk Banks/PTU expressed concerns following an Education sub-committee meeting he attended. He said that the focus was on speeding rather than drink driving. The Chair asked Mr. Banks had access to the ArcGIS as the data on this system would reveal what the main cause/causes is/are of road fatalities. If indeed, it turns out that drink driving is the main problem, then it should be part of the communications plan. Mrs. Anne Kensington-Lott explained that at the last Education sub-committee meeting that Mr. Banks was referring to, access to the ArcGIS system had not been provided yet.

Ms. Jackman said that there is a partnership with Purple Ribbon, with a focus on drink driving in the holiday season particularly.

Coming back to his previous point about the lack of progress, the Chair applauded the Committee for the fact that all information needed to tackle road fatalities is now available. Three months ago this wasn't the case, so this is a big step. He said that now real, tangible information has be taken from it, to lay the ground work and the strategy on national road safety which can only be done through interrogation of the data.

Mrs. Anne Kensington-Lott asked everyone to not only publish the link on their respective websites, but to also try to interact on social media, both via the organisation's channels as well as personal. Doing this is a big part of the initial phase, making the campaign more prevalent and getting it on the forefront of people's minds.

Ms. Jackman added that once we start the social media, the next phase is video which helps connect people to the campaign by seeing visuals. She said that DoC is working on this internally – once we start the social, then the next phase is video, connecting people with the campaign, creating ambassadors etc.

The Chair believed that honing in on the deaths will make it real for the general public. Telling people that we had all these deaths on the road and how it happened is going to make an impact, he said.

- **ACTION 3:** Mrs. Sims/PAHI to resend the login details for the ArcGIS to the Champions to share with the sub-committee members, emphasising the importance of the interrogation/analysis of this data to develop plans for each of the E's.

5. [redacted]

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There was some discussion on increased police penalties, that they should be accumulative and based on a point system. [redacted]
These are issues that should all be on the radar of the Enforcement sub-committee.

Mr. Banks raised concerns about the speed limit at Clifton Hunter High School and that the speed limit needs to be reduced. Mr. Hydes responded that the Ministry is working on this.

The meeting finished at 11.25 and the Chair thanked everyone for the contributions.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 December, starting at 10am.