

VERMONT GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Bi Monthly Newsletter 2016

January / February 2016

Welcome to our New GHSP Newsletter

Vermont Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) awards federal highway safety grant funds to local, state and not-for-profit agencies for projects to Improve highway safety and reduce deaths and serious injuries due to crashes. The staff of the GHSP manage the state highway safety program by reviewing and monitoring grant programs, coordinating special programs such as the Child Passenger Safety or the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) programs, and by providing guidance and oversight to state and local agencies. The GHSP also works closely within a network of state and local agencies, non-profit organizations and private-sector partners to deliver quality traffic safety projects, services, and information across the state. It is our goal to provide a monthly publication to update our highway safety partners with the most up-to-date information about our programs, grants process, campaigns, statistics, as well as other relevant information.

GHSP completes VTrans LEAN Process

The Governors Highway Safety Program (GHSP) moved to VTrans from DPS in April 2015. Since the move, the GHSP immediately took advantage of the new LEAN program in order to improve our grants process. *"LEAN is a collection of principles and methods that focus on identification and elimination of waste in any process."* Teaming up with Paul Keegan and Ashley Jonas of the LEAN program, we looked at the many aspects of our grant approval and payment process. Completing this will help us fulfill our goal to increase customer satisfaction, decrease duplication of efforts and waste, and build capacity for the expansion of existing programs.



In Photo Left to Right—Scott Davidson, Jim Baraw, Betsy Ross, Danielle Record, Donna Luce, Evelyn McFarlane, Tricia Scribner, Ashley Jonas, Paul Keegan, Trevor Lewis (Not in photo – John Filipek and Tom Fields)

Our Mission Statement

*"Working toward the goal of
"Zero Deaths" by promoting high-
way safety awareness through
education and enforcement,
thereby reducing crashes, saving
lives, and improving the overall
quality of life for those using
Vermont's roadways."*

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National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

HISTORY The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), under the U.S. Department of Transportation, was established by the Highway Safety Act of 1970, as the successor to the National Highway Safety Bureau, to carry out safety programs under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and the Highway Safety Act of 1966.

NHTSA is responsible for reducing deaths, injuries and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes. This is accomplished by setting and enforcing safety performance standards for motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment, and through grants to state and local governments that enable them to conduct effective local highway safety programs.

NHTSA investigates safety defects in motor vehicles, sets and enforces fuel economy standards, helps states and local communities reduce the threat of drunk drivers, promotes the use of safety belts, child safety seats and air bags, investigates odometer fraud, establishes and enforces vehicle anti-theft regulations and provides consumer information on motor vehicle safety topics.

NHTSA also conducts research on driver behavior and traffic safety, to develop the most efficient and effective means of bringing about safety improvements. (2016, NHTSA Website)

Vermont's Governor Highway Safety Program (GHSP) falls under NHTSA's Region 1 office in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For more information about NHTSA, please visit www.nhtsa.gov

Occupant Protection Assessment 2016

The State of Vermont, in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), underwent an Occupant Protection Program Assessment in January. During this week long assessment, over fifty of our highway safety partners testified before a panel of six subject matter experts. These experts represented several different areas of expertise; Program Management, Legislation, Regulation and Policy, Law Enforcement, Communication Programs, Occupant Protection for Children, Outreach Programs, Data and Evaluation Programs. This assessment evaluated all the programs funded by the GHSP related to Occupant Protection, identified strengths and made recommendations on where we can approve. The GHSP looks forward to the final report in order to use it as a guide to improve the Occupant Protection Programs in Vermont.

We would like to say thank you to the assessment team, Jana Simpler, Dan Schulte, Carol Meidinger, Robin Mayer, Stephen Walsh, and Belinda Oh. Special thanks to Angie Byrne of NHTSA Region 1 for all of her support and guidance, as well as Regional Administrator Michael Geraci for his leadership.

Estimated One in Four Car Crashes Involves Cell Phone Use

Many distractions exist while driving, but cell phones are a top distraction because so many drivers use them for long periods of time each day. Almost everyone has seen a driver distracted by a cell phone, but when you are the one who is distracted, you often don't realize that driver is you.

Top 10 Driver Distractions (NHTSA - VTII Study)

1. Using a wireless device, such as a cell phone,
2. Talking to and interacting with passengers,
3. Reaching for food, falling objects or other internal distractions,
4. Programming radio stations or tinkering with dashboard controls,
5. Using an electric razor, applying makeup or other personal hygiene-related actions,
6. Unwrapping food, opening a drink or other movements when eating at the wheel,
7. External distractions such as pointing out objects, or pedestrians,
8. Talking or singing to oneself,
9. Smoking,
10. Daydreaming

Deaths on Vermont Roadways

Year	Fatalities
2008	73
2009	73
2010	71
2011	54
2012	77
2013	71
2014	44
2015	57

3 Death as of February 1st, 2016

The dedicated team of the Governors Highway Safety Program



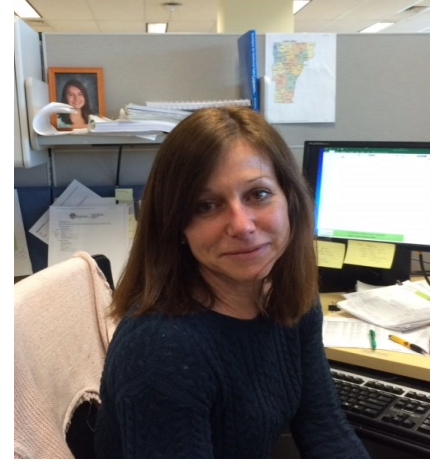
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As the Grants Management Specialist, Danielle specializes in the financial aspect of the GHSP. She tracks our grant funding, grantee expenditures, and match. She also works with multiple departments throughout VTrans to ensure grant agreements/MOU's are executed. Danielle also manages the processing and reconciliation of grantee invoices, as well as the final yearly financial close out.



Betsy Ross
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Impaired Driving
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As Program Coordinator, Betsy specializes in the Impaired Driving aspects of the GHSP. She manages several DUI grants and contracts. She also serves as our media programmer and outreach specialist, and is responsible for the upkeep of the GHSP website.



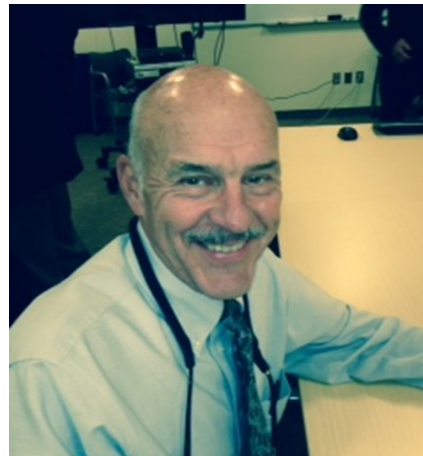
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As the Program Coordinator, Evelyn manages the Law Enforcement grants for DUI, Occupant Protection and Equipment. Her role is to assist law enforcement agencies in all phases of the grant process from applications, to invoicing, to financial close out.



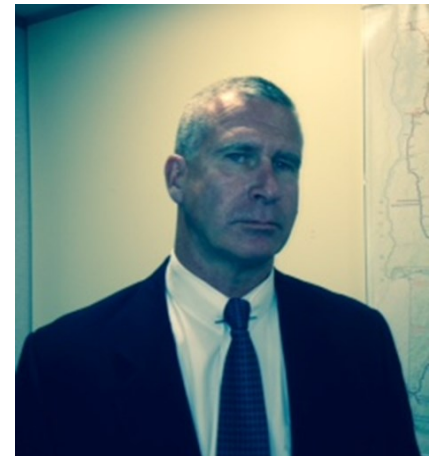
James Baraw
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As Program Coordinator, Jim specializes in the Educational aspects of the GHSP. He deals with management of grants, is also involved with Occupant Protection, Distracted Driving, the annual Drivers Education Summit, TRCC, VHSA's Education Focus Group, CPS Programs, the annual Seatbelt and Attitude Surveys. He is assigned as the State's "Occupant Protection Coordinator."



Tom Fields
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As the southern Law Enforcement Liaison, Tom coordinates the High Visibility Enforcement campaigns throughout the state and gathers statistical information that is reported to NHTSA and used in state to monitor enforcement activity. Tom is also the VHSA Enforcement Focus Group leader and guides the activities of the Impaired Driving Task Force Committee.



John Filipek
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As the Northern Law Enforcement Liaison, John coordinates the High Visibility Enforcement campaigns throughout the state and gathers statistical information that is reported to NHTSA and used in state to monitor enforcement activity. John is also Chair of the OP802 Task Force, and is heavily involved with Law Enforcement Occupant Protection campaigns.

GREAT News for Equipment Grants

The Governors Highway Safety Program is pleased to announce improvements in the "Incentive Grants" program. This program awards equipment grants to agencies that are actively participating in NHTSA enforcement campaigns.

The great news.... This reward based incentive program just got a big fiscal boost. The previous \$5000 award maximum for participating in all four campaigns has been increased to **\$8000**. We recognized that due to inflation, the cost of equipment has risen. We have also had requests for funding of larger pieces of equipment such as speed trailers, and wanted to increase amounts to help with these purchases. Our goal is to assist and reward agencies who are contributing to highway safety on a state wide level. We thank you for your participation.

Agreements will be emailed by the first week of February.

Reminder: Purchase of a single item over \$5000 needs prior approval from the GHSP.

Any Questions you may have, Contact evelyn.mcfarlane@vermont.gov

From the 2016 NHTSA Campaign Calendar

February 7, "Super Bowl 50"

IMPAIRED DRIVING MESSAGE
Fans, Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk

March 17, St. Patrick's Day

IMPAIRED DRIVING MESSAGE
Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving.

Twitter Chat: Buzzed Driving



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DUI Treatment Courts

As a partner of the GHSP, Robert Sands, heads up the Vermont DUI Treatment Court. This project promotes the development of DUI Treatment Courts in Vermont through a major annual conference, community presentations, national trainings, and close working relationships with criminal justice professionals and policy makers throughout Vermont. DUI Treatment Courts are a proven method of reducing recidivism and costs for repeat offense impaired drivers. Highlights of the project over the past year included: an extremely well received conference kicked off by an address by AOT Secretary Chris Cole, at which over 20 judges attended; recruiting, hosting and training ten Vermont criminal justice professionals on the value of the DUI Treatment Court approach in conjunction with the National Center for DUI Courts; the visit by Governor Peter Shumlin to the DUI treatment program in Windsor County; presentations about the program at Vermont Law School; Marlborough College; and to business professionals in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire; and the submission of a comprehensive plan to the Vermont Supreme Court to expand the DUI Treatment Court approach to other parts of Vermont.



Vermont GHSP Leadership



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Governors Highway Safety Program

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