



**Safety and Public Awareness (SPA) Committee  
Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008  
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Staff Liaison: James S. Baron**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **The following reports and presentations were given:**

Tom Flaherty presented the Board Liaison Report and Jim Keaton provided the Government Relations Committee Report.

#### **Unfinished business:**

Taylor Bowlden provided an update of the status of the Roadway Safety Outreach Task Force. A new webpage – housed at ATSSA.com – to “warehouse” the materials was also discussed, and will be on-line by mid-May. The “population” of the new webpage with materials created by the various task forces will occur shortly after the “go live” date. Materials posted will be easily downloadable (PDFs, word documents, etc.).

To gather further support – association wide – Jan Miller, chair of the Roadway Safety Implementation Task Force, agreed to lead two conference calls between the Expo and the Midyear Meeting with members of his task force to discuss strategies to contact members of other committees – as well as Chapter Presidents – to serve as volunteers to help market and distribute educational materials developed by the various task forces. Two conference calls were approved by the committee for this purpose.

#### **New business:**

Two new documents – “*Toward Zero Deaths – A Vision for Safer Roads in America*” (ATSSA’s new reauthorization policy) and the brochure, “*Federal Regulations Impact Signs on Private Property*,” were distributed to all SPA Committee members. Two other versions of the reauthorization document will be developed – the first, an “executive summary,” and the second – a “Menu Card” – which is a two-page abbreviated version of the reauthorization document for members to present to their elected officials during legislative visits on Capitol Hill in September. The brochure regarding signage on private property is available for “members only” at the “Expand Your Business” link of ATSSA.com.

ATSSA's Government Relations Director Bryan Mitchell solicited feedback from the committee as he explores the possibility of establishing a new law – or piggy-backing on an existing law – to create federal penalties and/or significant monetary fines for work zone violators (motorists). There was much discussion in the committee on this idea, including input received from a variety of DOT visitors who were in attendance as guests. For example, a representative from the Michigan-DOT discussed Andy's Law, while another DOT representative said it might be difficult to get all states to "buy in" on such a proposal. Another visitor to the committee suggested getting the "laborers" involved. After a lengthy discussion, the committee requested that Mitchell "dig deeper into the issue, possibly check to see how these types of laws move through the courts, and possibly speak with states' attorneys." At the time of the meeting, Mitchell believed the best approach initially would be "attaching" this proposal for stiffer penalties onto an already existing law. The committee asked Mitchell to investigate partnering with other roadway organizations who may be making similar efforts, and asked that Mitchell report his findings at the September Midyear Meeting. This will be a SPA Committee agenda item in September.

Tom Flaherty provided an update regarding the Part VI Task Force, which led into briefings and presentations by John Leonard (Utah-DOT) and Gene Putman (Colorado-DOT) on the changes to Part 6 of the MUTCD as proposed in the new NPA. Both discussed the "typical applications" (TAs) that were developed by the National Committee but were not included in the MUTCD. Tom Flaherty made a motion which was amended and passed as follows:

The SPA Committee Part VI Task Force recommends that ATSSA support the inclusion of the "Typical Applications" for Incident Management – developed by the National Committee – be included in the appropriate section of the MUTCD. The SPA Committee urges ATSSA to be aware the time is of the essence. *The motion was passed.*

A brief review of the committee strategic plan was conducted and James Baron was asked to post the most recent version of the plan at the SPA Committee page of ATSSA.com prior-to the Midyear Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

An updated, current SPA Committee Task Force List (as of May 1) is attached to this meeting summary.

**Date of next meeting:**

Friday, September 19, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

**SPA Committee Task Force List as of May 1, 2008**

**Hot Topics Task Force**

*Mike Heltzel (Chair)*

Joe Jeffrey

Tom Flaherty

Jan Miller

*(Current topics – vest quality standards,  
positive separation, older drivers,  
ANSI standards, MUTCD Part VI)*

**Roadway Safety Outreach TF “TEAMS”**

***State and Local Elected Officials Team***

*Kathi Holst, Team Leader*

Joe Jeffrey

Paul Wander

**Roadway Safety Outreach Task Force**

*Taylor Bowlden (Chair)*

Kathi Holst

Jim Keaton

Melissa Fisher

Jeff Lowe

Michael Hare

Tom Flaherty

Joe Lasek

David Rush

Jan Miller

Paul Wander

Mike Heltzel

Joe Jeffrey

Frank Newbowles

**State and Local Trans. Officials Team**

*David Rush, Team Leader*

Tom Flaherty

Jan Miller

Frank Newbowles

**Older Drivers Team**

*Taylor Bowlden, Team Leader*

Melissa Fisher

Mike Hare

Joe Lasek

**SPA Workplan Review Team TF**

*Jan Miller (Chair)*

Tom Flaherty

Mike Heltzel

Paul Wander

Joe Jeffrey

**Part VI Task Force**

*Tom Flaherty (Chair)*

Mike Parson

Mike Hare

Jeff Tidaback

David Rush

Frank Newbowles

Jim Keaton

**Take Action Menu Team**

*Jim Keaton, Team Leader*

Mike Heltzel

Jeff Low

**Roadway Safety Implementation TF**

*Jan Miller (Chair)*

Kathi Holst

Joy Shamay

Joe Jeffrey

Taylor Bowlden