



MINUTES

Thursday, December 18, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Virtual

Advisory Board Members Present: William Dyson (Chair), Andrew Clark, Gail Hardy, Charles Green (for Rashad Glass), Chief Neil Dryfe, Michael Gailor, Colonel Daniel Loughman, Werner Oyanadel, Chief John Drumm, Lt. Colonel Mark Davison, Stacey Manware, Commissioner Ronnell Higgins, Chief L.J. Fusaro, Tanya Hughes, Chelsea Infinity-Gonzalez, Shannon Trice

Staff: Ken Barone, Jim Fazzalaro, Erica Escobar

Guests: Sarah Karwan

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. and members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of October 24, 2024, meeting minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from October 24, 2024. The minutes were unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

III. Subcommittee Reports

a. Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality

Stacey Manware provided two recommendations from the subcommittee clarifying data collection protocols. In particular, parking violations involving unoccupied or stationary vehicles do not require data collection, but violations involving vehicles stopped for a parking violation that are in transit when stopped should be reported. The subcommittee also confirmed that traffic stops involving commercial vehicles must be reported, except in cases like truck weighing operations or commercial safety inspections. Additionally, it was recommended that approximately 1,000 traffic stop records submitted by former Trooper Melanson, which CSP found to be false and inaccurate should be excluded from the database and future analysis. All three recommendations were unanimously approved by the board.

b. Policy

Tanya Hughes provided an update on the subcommittee's review of the traffic stop reform bill proposal. The subcommittee aims to reach consensus on the proposal before presenting it to the full board.

In November, the subcommittee approved a statement supporting a bill aimed at strengthening police data reporting, which had been raised in the previous legislative session and amended by the Judiciary Committee. The subcommittee supports the bill as amended and recommends it be raised again this year. The board reviewed and unanimously approved the statement, with no further comments or questions.

Additionally, the subcommittee plans to draft bylaws for the Advisory Board in 2025, outlining the governance structure and processes for forming subcommittees. This initiative is considered long overdue, and the subcommittee will begin working on the draft later this year.

c. Community Outreach

The Community Outreach Subcommittee did not meet in November or December but co-hosted a public forum on November 6th at UConn Law, with panelists including Chief Fusaro, Cheryl Sharp, and Chairman Dyson. The next forum will be on January 30th at Cheshire Public Library, followed by others in March and May, with a fourth forum at UConn Law in early March focused on law students and legal groups.

The subcommittee is working with the Chief State's Attorney's Office to update the CTRP 3 website, ensuring it reflects current information about the law and the complaint process. The DMV website, which already hosts project information, has also been successfully updated. Additionally, the Connecticut Data Collaborative is refreshing its data website to simplify the download process and improve access to raw and summary data.

Both the updated racial profiling and data websites are expected to be launched in early 2025 after feedback from the subcommittee. A flyer outlining all public forum dates for the first half of 2025 will be distributed for easy reference.

IV. Old Business

a. Database modification implementation timeline

An update was provided on the database modification implementation. The board approved several changes to the data collection system this past spring, and technical instructions were given to police databases over the summer. Recently, vendors were consulted about the timeline for implementing the changes. While the original goal was a January launch, the changes will enter

development and testing in January and February. The rollout to agencies will begin in March and continue through May, with full implementation expected by July 1, 2025. During this transition, some agencies will report the updated data fields before others.

b. 2023 Traffic Stop Data Analysis Report update

The analysis of the 2023 traffic stop records is underway, with preliminary findings expected to be shared with the Advisory Board in the Spring.

Efforts have also been made to advance the methodology for evaluating traffic stops, particularly through the use of mobility data (cell phone data) to better understand real-time driving populations. This research, using state police data, aims to refine the evaluation process. While the methodology is not yet ready for integration into the annual analysis, an academic paper on the findings is expected to be released early next year.

V. New Business

a. 2024 Traffic Stop Data Quarterly Update

The Data Subcommittee provided a quarterly update on traffic stop data. In October, it was suggested that the frequency, format, and presentation of data be reviewed. After several meetings, the subcommittee recommended providing quarterly updates rather than monthly ones. The updates will include statewide totals by month, with individual agency data available through the public reporting tool.

The latest data shows a 9% increase in statewide traffic enforcement in 2024 compared to 2023, with a notable rise in Hispanic drivers being stopped (nearly 17%), while stops for White and Black drivers increased by 9% and 4.5%, respectively. The largest decrease in stop types is seen in misdemeanors, with a 30% reduction, while infractions and warnings are up by 16% and 9%, respectively. Speed enforcement has increased by 11%, and there has been a 20% rise in administrative enforcement, primarily related to unregistered vehicles. There was a slight decrease in equipment-related enforcement.

The subcommittee recommends continuing with this quarterly format for data updates, which will be presented to the board throughout the year. There was no objection to providing updated on this frequency.

VI. General Discussion

a. 2025 Meeting Schedule

The meeting dates for the 2025 calendar year have been set, with the goal of meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM. July and August will

typically be off, but additional meetings can be scheduled if needed. The schedule includes 10 meetings, with 8 held virtually and 2 in person (April and October). Subcommittees will also meet at least 10 times during the year, generally following the same format, with summer meetings being limited.

A list of committee members and their assigned subcommittees was shared, including non-Advisory Board members who have been invited to participate due to their expertise. Members are expected to continue serving on the same subcommittees as last year, though anyone wishing to switch subcommittees can request a change.

There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.