

The Traffic Safety Record



The Official Newsletter of the Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals
A member Committee of the National Safety Council, Highway Traffic Safety Division
www.atsip.org

Special Points Of Interest:

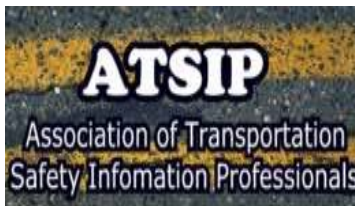
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ATTENTION:

If you would like to add content to this newsletter or request a copy please send info to Danielle Rundio at drundio@tsass.com. (If you are requesting a copy please leave a name and full address.)



Greetings ATSIP

Since this is the first newsletter since the Forum, let me begin by stating that it is an honor and privilege to serve as your ATSIP President for the coming year. I pledge to you that I will continue the efforts of my predecessors.



It is hard to believe that it has been four months since the 2003 Traffic Records Forum and just seven months away from the 2004 and 30th Annual Traffic Records Forum in Nashville! I know everyone will join me in a special thanks to Bob Scopatz for putting together an excellent program for the Forum. As a past program chairman, I know that it takes a lot of help from many people to put on such an event. So, many thanks to all the moderators, speakers and individuals that developed the numerous sessions.



An expression of appreciation goes to our following Federal Partners as well: FHWA, NHTSA, FMCSA and BTS. And, of course, the Forum is not possible without the endless hours, hard work and dedication of the National Safety Council Staff. We all know them as Harold and Andrea Thompson and Barbara Johnson. And finally to all our members and friends who attend the Forum. Our members and friends make the Forum what it is – a success.

And speaking of successes, everyone keep in mind – Nashville is just seven months away! Jim Davis is the Program Chairman for the 2004 Forum and has the program well underway. The Best Practices Committee under the direction of Joyce Emery is soliciting projects worthy of the ATSIP Best Practice Award. If you want to nominate a project, I know Joyce would love to hear from you.



Now for some quick updates - our last Executive Board meeting was held in Chicago, IL, on September 6th and 7th in conjunction with the National Safety Congress. The next Executive Board meeting will be held on January 10, 2004, in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the Transportation Research Board's Annual Meeting. If you will be attending TRB, please feel free to drop in and observe the meeting. If there are any issues that you want the board to discuss, please forward them to me for inclusion on the agenda.

With the holidays fast approaching I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Happy Holidays,

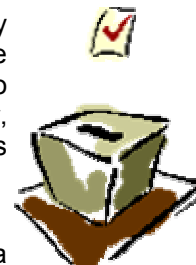
Dan Magri



Possible Changes in the ATSIP Elections Process

The Board is considering a proposed amendment to the ATSIP Constitution to change the process of electing the officers of the Association and the at-large members of the Executive Board. If the Board approves this proposal, the amendment would then be voted on by the membership, where a 2/3 majority would be required for adoption.

At present, the constitution requires that the officers and at-large members of the Board be officially nominated and elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association that is held in conjunction with the Traffic Records Forum. The nominating committee identifies nominees for each open position who are then officially nominated at the Annual Meeting. Other nominations may be made from the floor, although that has been uncommon. The vote is then held, and the nominee getting the most votes is elected.



A number of members have pointed out that under this process, only those members who attend a given Annual Meeting have a voice in the election process that year. To involve more of the membership in the election process, the Board is in the process of drafting an amendment to the constitution that would change the election process.

The election process under consideration is:

1. The nominating committee will identify one or more nominees for each open position. This list of nominations would be distributed to the membership at least four months before the Annual Meeting (around the end of March in most years).
2. There will be a period of time for nominations by petition. To be nominated, a nominating petition with valid signatures from at least 40 Voting Members must be returned to the Association before the end of that period. After verification that a nominee is eligible for the position, the nominee will be contacted to verify his or her willingness to serve if elected.
3. A letter ballot listing all nominees (with biographical information) will be sent to each Voting Member with adequate time to respond before the Annual Meeting. Ballots would be accepted up to the beginning of the Annual Meeting.

The ballots will be counted and officers and board members officially elected at the Annual Meeting. There will be no nominations from the floor.

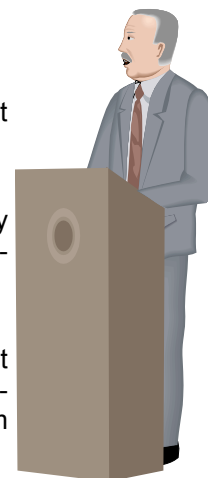
The Board will consider this issue further at the January Board meeting. If you have comments or concerns about this, please contact Jim Davis (jwdavis@unm.edu) before January 7, 2004.

2004 Traffic Records Forum – Call for Presentations

The 30th International Forum on Traffic Records and Highway Information Systems will be held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tennessee on July 25 – 29, 2004.

Plan to join us as we celebrate 30 years of tremendous progress in traffic records (and probably lament a few of the same old problems that have been with us forever). There is much to celebrate, and we are poised for further progress as the technology of traffic records advances.

To have your presentation included in the program, please submit your proposed presentation at www.atsip.org. The deadline for submitting presentations is January 16, 2004, but sooner is better. Please fill in all parts of the form on the web page. If you have questions, please contact Jim Davis, program chair: jwdavis@unm.edu.



Best Practices Competition – 2004

Each year ATSIP recognizes the best new safety data improvement projects. This year Joyce Emery has taken over the role of Chair on this effort.

Joyce Emery

Best Practices Chair 2003-4

Program Manager

Iowa DOT Office of Traffic and Safety

515-239-1016

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The 2004 nomination process is under way and the goal is to identify as many good projects as possible by the first of the year. A detailed discussion of the nomination process and the nomination forms are being posted to the Best Practices page at the ATSIP web site (www.atsip.org). This year Joyce has gone on record to her committee of reviewers that she intends to do everything possible to identify a long list of excellent projects. In general, the guidelines for a nominated project are as follow:



- 1) The project must be a public agency effort (sorry, no vendor / contractor recognition)
- 2) The project must be implemented, not planned or under development.
- 3) The project must show significant improvement in the quality, timeliness or accessibility of the safety data and / or a major improvement in the safety data process within the agency.
- 4) The project should be nominated in the form of how it addresses one or more of the items in the National Agenda.



Those projects that are selected for recognition will be invited to make a presentation on their effort at the 2004 Forum. They will receive complimentary registration to the forum, a free exhibit space or poster session display, and will receive formal recognition during an awards ceremony during the forum. Of course, they will be asked to give a presentation on their project at the Forum as well.

If you know of a candidate project, or have been involved in one yourself, check out the Best Practices page at the ATSIP web site and / or contact Joyce should you have questions.

We look forward to your nominations.

2003-2004 Committees & Contacts

President

Dan Magri
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Vice-President

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ANSI D-20 Data Element Dictionary for Traffic Records Systems

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Second Vice-President

James Davis
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Strategic Planning

Robert Thompson
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Secretary

Martha Florey
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Best Practices Awards

Joyce Emery
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Data Quality

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Electronic Communication

Angie Schmit
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Professional Development/Certification

Jack Zogby
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Membership

Richard Paddock
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2004 Forum Program

Jim Davis
jwdavis@unm.edu

Nominations

Larry Holestine
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Constitution/Business Plan

James Davis
jwdavis@unm.edu

2004 Forum Vendor/State Exhibitors

ATSIP Brochure Updated

by David Bozak

ATSIP's new updated brochure reflects the Safety Council "green" compared to the red-white-and-blue of the past couple years. This makes it much easier as well as cost effective to reprint 100's of copies at the National Safety Council for distribution at conferences, state meetings or other special events.

Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals

◆ATSIP◆

Traffic Records Committee

Year - July 2003 to July 2004

www.atsip.org



National
Safety
Council®

A Committee of the
Highway Traffic
Safety Division

Purpose

The purpose of ATSIP (previously known as Traffic Records Committee) has remained as it was when the Committee was formed during the early 1970's - To advise and assist the National Safety Council in the development and implementation of Council positions, programs, and activities related to the design, development, and use of traffic records systems which support the traffic accident reduction and prevention goals of the Division, the Council and the U.S.

Goal

Continuing improvement of traffic records systems operated in support of state and local highway traffic safety programs.

This singular goal adopted in the early 1970's is still pursued, although, six additional goals (refer to National Agenda) have been added to further define the pursuits of the Association/Committee –

The contents of ATSIP's brochure include purpose, goals and objectives, the National Agenda, and the activities of ATSIP, including a brief synopsis of fifteen different activities in progress under ATSIP's leadership. A contact person and e-mail is listed for each activity for anyone wanting to learn more and/or willing to volunteer their time. The final page of the brochure lists the members of the Executive Board, their agencies and states they represent and contact information. Copies of the brochure may be requested from Harold Thompson, National Safety Council and from the ATSIP web site www.atsip.org. The new brochure is being featured at the upcoming Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA) meeting in New Orleans.

Membership & Outreach Activities –

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, the formal ATSIP membership processes is gearing up. As of July 1, 2004 we will begin collecting dues and the “grandfather” period will end. Until that time, membership is free, and you may immediately qualify for a higher membership grade. All you need to do is to go on line and submit a membership application and professional history. Applications are routed through regional membership review committees who verify the application information and make a recommendation for initial membership grade. Then, at the next Executive Board meeting the new applicants are presented to the Board for approval. Shortly after that we send out the membership certificate. The next Board meeting will be in early January at the Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington, DC. If you are interested in joining, try to have your application submitted by December 1.

We are also working on identifying several working committees and panels that will help ATSIP and our sponsor agencies prepare for the significant increase in emphasis on traffic records data that will likely be within the re-authorization of US-DOT. By all indications there will be some significant funding available for state and local safety data system improvements, but these funds will come with strings. We hope to have some ATSIP resources available to assist the members and their agencies in preparing for the funding application requirements. Watch the ATSIP web page for details on the new initiatives as they formalize. Also, don't be surprised to receive an email soliciting your participation on one or more working groups if you indicated interest in participating on panels and committees when you completed the application.

Recently Dick Paddock (membership Chair) and Harold Thompson (Executive Director) met with the staff of the NHTSA Driver License and Traffic Records Section to discuss plans for the next year. Once again, NHTSA will be sponsoring ATSIP to provide state Traffic Records Coordinating Committees with briefing on the national initiatives relative to state and local traffic safety data systems and to promote membership in ATSIP. These one-day briefings are available free of charge through the National Safety Council and are being facilitated by TSASS, Inc. The briefings will be updated as the re-authorization process progresses and as the provisions for the State Safety data Improvement Program are finalized. We hope to be on the road again in the next few months. If your state has not previously had one of these briefings, or you would like to discuss an update, contact the Project Director, Dick Paddock at 614-539-4100 or rpaddock@tsass.com.

In addition to the state briefings, ATSIP and TSASS will be re-soliciting updates to the NHTSA on-line catalogue of crash report forms, on-line inventory of state traffic records systems, and a new information gathering effort relative to under-reporting of traffic crash data. If you are a state traffic records committee coordinator, a state crash data manager, or the traffic unit commander or traffic engineer for a major city, we will probably be trying to connect with you. Check out the ATSIP web site for information on these information gathering efforts. A new set of pages will be posted about November 15.

For more details about the surveys, or membership activities, contact Dick Paddock at rpaddock@tsass.com

Finally –

If you have not gone to the member Only page at the ATSIP site, and in particular if you have not updated your professional history on line, we ask that you do so. We, and US-DOT are using the professional history data to identify people to assist with panels and committees and we are beginning to develop content specifically for the Members area of the web. In the next month or so we will place several information gathering surveys at the members site and we will begin distributing materials that will be of interest to members relative to ATSIP activities.

Thanks for your interest in, and support of ATSIP.

Dick Paddock
