



# The Traffic Safety Record

Volume 4, Issue 3

October 13, 2005

## Inside this Issue:

- Homeland Security and the Traffic Records Forum
- The 2005 Traffic Records Forum – Buffalo, New York – July 31 – August 4, 2005
- 2006 Traffic Records Forum – Palm Desert, California – July 30 – August 3, 2006
- The 2005 Traffic Records Forum Survey
- 2007 and 2008 Traffic Records Forums
- 2009 Traffic Records Forum – West Region
- Websites You Need to See!
- National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS)
- Working Group on DWI System Improvements Proceedings Available
- Improving the DWI System -- Share your Successes with Other Professionals
- Best Practices Challenge of 2006

## Homeland Security and the Traffic Records Forum

By G. Thomas Steele, First Vice President, ATSIP

The 2005 forum presented the first opportunity for participants to fully grasp the impact and value of traffic data on the needs of homeland security. All too frequently the public only relates traffic records to crash reports. The value of the other information collected and processed for operational purposes as well as analysis generally goes un-noticed. However, the keynote address by Director McMahon, Homeland Security for the State of New York and retired Superintendent, New York State Police, squarely put the finger on the importance of the traffic records. The role of homeland security is not just to guard against and respond to terrorist activities. Homeland security is basically the need to monitor and evaluate the daily activity and trends that may indicate the evolvement of both manmade and natural occurrences. Included in this is monitoring public health statistics for the potential trend in communicable diseases. In transportation is the use of false documents for operating vehicles as well as the contents that may be hazardous if stolen or exposed to the public through accident or purpose.

Throughout the Forum there were instances of the practical application of this data to the needs of homeland security. Notable were presentations on the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMIS), the National Capital Region (NCR) First Responders Partnership Initiative and, Homeland Security, Car Crashes and Traffic Incident Data; Killing Three Birds with One IT Architecture.

The importances of these homeland security presentations are obvious in light of the recent disasters in AL, MS, LA, and TX. All three of the above systems would have provided immense value to the identification and processing of the victims of the hurricanes. The value of the National Capital Responder system to identify authorized first responders would have saved time, resources and property if it had been available and activated. The National Emergency Medical Services Information System is another application that would have had significant application for the health and welfare of victims.

No longer is the Traffic Records Forum only for the statistical minded. Today and in the future this forum has the potential to grow and blossom into a significant return on investment not only for its historical purpose, but also when applied to the changing needs of society for the overall safety of our citizens and country.

### **The 2005 Traffic Records Forum – Buffalo, New York – July 31 – August 4, 2005**

The 2005 Traffic Records Forum was a great success! Here is a snapshot of the event:

Number of Attendees:	467
Number of Booths:	26
Number of Organizations Represented:	246

Countries Represented:

United States:	48 States, District of Columbia and 3 Territories
Canada:	3 Government Agencies
France:	Dept. of Transportation
Belgium:	University

The Program consisted of 48 Sessions with over 120 speakers and 4 General Sessions.

The Forum Sponsors:

Silver Level:	EDS – Electronic Data Systems Corporation	<a href="http://www.eds.com">www.eds.com</a>
Bronze Level:	Carfax	<a href="http://www.carfax.com">www.carfax.com</a>
	Itronix	<a href="http://www.itronix.com">www.itronix.com</a>
	Motorola	<a href="http://www.motorola.com">www.motorola.com</a>

### **2006 Traffic Records Forum – Palm Desert, California – July 30 – August 3, 2006**

We are pleased to announce that the 2006 Traffic Records Forum will be held at the JW Marriott Desert Springs in Palm Desert California. [www.desertspringsresort.com/](http://www.desertspringsresort.com/)

The Forum will be held July 30 - August 3, 2006. A tentative schedule of events will be available in late Fall. Our room rate will be \$115.00 per night Single, Double, Triple and Quad, plus any applicable taxes.

An “All Access Pass” will be offered during hotel check in. It is currently \$18.00 per day and covers your in room internet usage, all telephone calls and allows you to access the fitness center. It is only available at the time of check in and must be used for the entire length of your stay.

Joan Vecchi, Acting Senior Director of the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles, is this year’s Program Chair. Work has already begun on the Program direction and processes.

The 2006 Traffic Records Forum Page on the ATSIP website will grow considerably as further information is available. Please check it for updates.

### **The 2005 Traffic Records Forum Survey**

In order to continue to improve the Traffic Records Forum, we need your feedback. As of September 27, 2005, 130 of our 467 attendees have responded to the survey. We would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to help us make this event better!

The survey is still available online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=380321292956>.

The Forum Partners are carefully reviewing the results and will use them in decision making for 2006 and beyond.

### **2007 and 2008 Traffic Records Forums**

The growth of the Forum over the past few years has made it necessary to accelerate the site selection process. Selecting locations 12 to 14 months in advance was greatly limiting the options that were available to the Forum and our attendees.

At TRB in January, the cities for 2007 were identified at the ATSIP Board Meeting. Those cities were Houston, TX, St. Louis, MO, Minneapolis, MN and Chicago, IL. Site visits for 2007 were conducted in June. The hotel, city and room rate will be announced as soon as the hotel is under contract.

The Site Selection Committee for 2008 was also formed at TRB and asked to identify the cities for 2008 by the end of March 2005. The committee identified one city for site selection – Orlando, FL.

Site visits for 2008 were conducted in September while the Forum Partners were meeting in Orlando at the National Safety Council's Annual Congress. The hotel and room rate will be announced after a contract is signed.

For 2009 and future Forums, we will return to the normal process of identifying one Forum location a year.

### **2009 Traffic Records Forum – West Region**

We are seeking volunteers to serve on the 2009 Site Selection Committee. This Committee does not have to make contacts with Visitor's Bureaus or Hotels – just pick the cities that are to be listed in the Hotel Request for Proposals.

The West Region consists of the following US States: Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Hawaii, Alaska and California.

The cities will be voted on by the ATSIP Board at TRB in January, 2006. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Jim Davis at [jwdavis@unm.edu](mailto:jwdavis@unm.edu).

### Websites You Need to See!

**The U.S. DOT TRCC Website:** <http://www.dottrcc.gov/index.htm>

The U.S. DOT TRCC was formed in October 2004 as a result of the Multidisciplinary Integrated Project Team's (IPT) report *Initiatives to Address Improving Traffic Safety Data, July 2004*. This report, more commonly known as the Data IPT Report, may be found under Information on the web page. Its purpose is to provide a road map for the improvement of traffic safety data systems at both the federal and state levels.

Represented agencies on the U.S. DOT TRCC include the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST), and Research and Innovative Technologies Administration (RITA)

Visit the [State Data System Improvement Q & A's](#) button located under "Our Goal". This link will bring you to an important page specifically about Section 408 State Traffic Safety System Improvements.

**The ITS Joint Program Office's ITS Deployment Statistics Website:** [www.itsdeployment.its.dot.gov](http://www.itsdeployment.its.dot.gov)

This site has been redesigned and has the new 2004 deployment data gathered from the national survey done in 2004.

**From TIRF:**

[http://www.trafficinjuryresearch.com/DWI\\_systemImprovements/stateSpecificInformation.cfm](http://www.trafficinjuryresearch.com/DWI_systemImprovements/stateSpecificInformation.cfm)

State-specific results from four national surveys of criminal justice professionals on the issue of impaired driving are now available from TIRF. Sample size permitting, jurisdictions that participated in these national surveys can now request results specific to their state that will assist them in identifying priority problems and practical solutions.

Survey participants included: 2700 police officers from 16 states; 390 prosecutors from 35 states; 900 judges from 44 states and 890 probation and parole officers from 41 states. This information can be useful to those states wanting to make improvements in their DWI system or planning to undertake a statewide review of it.

The surveys were part of a comprehensive research project by TIRF that looked at ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the U.S. criminal DWI system for dealing with hard-core drunk drivers.

## National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS)

The National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) is a population-based, patient-centered information system that will start with the emergency medical services (EMS) patient care report, with a subset of that data going to the State EMS information system, then a smaller subset of data being submitted by the State to the National EMS Database. Though NEMSIS data will address all aspects of EMS care, it will provide a true enhancement of traffic records systems as well.

In addition to the many direct benefits of NEMSIS for the EMS community at all levels, NEMSIS will provide some significant information of specific value to highway safety. Some of these are highlighted below:

- Enhanced use of injury data in highway traffic safety decision-making;
- Improved patient and information flow to the trauma center to optimize trauma center response and patient outcome;
- Improved EMS data/injury data for linkage with crash report, trauma registry, etc. for FARS, CODES, CIREN and other coordinated review;
- Improved data for identification of community risk factors that will assist with prevention efforts;
- Improved EMS system evaluation; and
- Improved research related to the impact of EMS on victims of motor vehicle crashes.

From 2001-04, NHTSA and its Federal partners at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) supported the development of the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) through the National Association of State EMS Directors.

The full NEMSIS Data Dictionary (400+ elements) and the NEMSIS XML Standards are complete and 48 States, three Territories and the District of Columbia have signed an MOU documenting their support of NEMSIS and their commitment to move toward NEMSIS compliance in their respective states at the earliest opportunity. The full NEMSIS Data Dictionary, the XML Standards and other related information is available at [www.nemsis.org](http://www.nemsis.org).

NHTSA's NCSA will be housing the National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Database (approximately 70 data elements) and expects to begin publishing the first web-based reports (on the initial 5 States) in 2007. NHTSA has also entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the University of Utah, School of Medicine to house the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center that will provide technical assistance to State and local EMS agencies and EMS software developers as they work toward NEMSIS compliance. The Technical Assistance Center will also collect the NEMSIS data from participating States and provide validation and quality control prior to submitting the data to NCSA.

NHTSA is excited about this opportunity to support the National EMS Information System because it has long been needed for the EMS system at all levels. We also know it will help all of us in the highway safety community to gain an enhanced understanding of the injury problem and the importance of post-crash care to the victims of motor vehicle crashes.

## Working Group on DWI System Improvements Proceedings Available

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the *Working Group on DWI System Improvements*, a coalition of criminal justice professionals formed by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF), was held April 10-12, 2005 in Orlando, Florida. In attendance were the [Members](#) of the *Working Group*, representing 14 criminal justice organizations as well as representatives of several other agencies. New members of the Working Group are Judge Harvey Hoffman, representing the National Judicial College, Colonel Paul McClellan of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and Stephen Talpins, the new Director of the National Traffic Law Center.

Other agencies that deal with the issue of impaired driving who were represented at the meeting included:

- Alcohol Monitoring Systems
- Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals
- Governors' Highway Safety Association
- Journal of Offender Monitoring
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- National Institute of Justice
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

A full Meeting Summary, Presentations and other information is available at [www.tirf.org](http://www.tirf.org) under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting Link.

### Improving the DWI System -- Share your Successes with Other Professionals

It is now widely acknowledged that DWI system improvements are needed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal DWI system and prevent offenders from slipping through the cracks. Repeat offenders in particular are savvy to the weaknesses and loopholes in the system and know how to avoid the sanctions and programs designed to protect the public from them. In an effort to close these loopholes and streamline the DWI system, priority problems and solutions have been extensively documented at all levels of the system -- enforcement, prosecution, sanctioning, and supervision -- as part of a unique, multi-year study by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) involving several thousand front-line professionals across the country.

Promoting practical, widely-supported solutions to these problems has become a priority of a newly formed coalition -- The Working Group on DWI System Improvements -- involving 14 different criminal justice organizations from across the country ([www.tirf.org](http://www.tirf.org)). Led by TIRF and supported by a charitable contribution from Anheuser-Busch, this coalition is spearheading efforts to make the DWI system more effective. A core activity of the coalition involves the creation of an inventory of programs, practices, and policies that address system problems -- i.e., who is doing what, and where, to make the system work better.

The recently launched, electronic inventory is designed to be a resource for professionals, practitioners, legislators, and others who are seeking information about unique, practical and effective ways to address problems in the DWI system. Entries are organized according to six priority areas where criminal justice professionals believe improvements are needed -- communication and cooperation, training and education, technology, records, legislation and resources. The inventory includes national, state-wide, regional, and local initiatives. Each is clearly identified in terms of its relevancy to the various professional groups - police, prosecutors, judges and supervision - and includes a brief description of the initiative along with other relevant information such as the agency administering it, the target group, where it operates, who funds it, and who to contact for more information.

You are encouraged to submit information about your programs, policies and practices that are designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the DWI system. Others can benefit directly from your experiences and successes.

Submissions can be made electronically at [www.tirf.org](http://www.tirf.org). Click on the inventory of initiatives and follow the "submit information" link.

### **Best Practices Challenge of 2006**

How does your project match up to the competition this year? Go ahead - throw your hat in the ring - Submit your application and find out!!

The 32nd Traffic Records Forum, July 30-August 3, 2006 in Palm Springs, California, will once again showcase state-of-the-art projects that improve the collection, quality and application of safety data. Nationwide, governmental agencies at all levels continue to develop new, innovative Traffic Records Systems. These systems provide the information safety experts need to plan, develop, monitor and evaluate programs to reduce the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes on the nation's roadways. It is important that the benefits these projects offer are shared with other traffic records experts. The Best Practices competition is open to governmental agencies only - although vendor participation in a project's development is fine.

One **Best Practice** winner as well as a runner-up project will be selected and recognized during the forum. It is certainly an honor to have a project recognized before this association.

### **Best Web Site Award**

ATSIP will also be recognizing one governmental agency at the 2006 Forum for the best designed web page that most effectively makes traffic safety data available to the [public](#). As with Best Practice, the second place agency in Best Web Site will be recognized for their accomplishments. Access to relevant data provides the foundation for planning, managing, and evaluating most projects we administer. Submissions for **Best Web Site** of traffic records data will be rated for ease in accessing the site, user friendliness, availability of crash data, querying data, ease of navigation, and availability of multiple years of data.

**Submitting a proposal:**

**Best Practice Projects** and **Best Web Site** applications should be submitted via e-mail as attachments to Al Tindall at [Al.Tindall@LPS.STATE.NJ.US](mailto:Al.Tindall@LPS.STATE.NJ.US). Both **Best Practices** and **Best Web Site** applications will soon be found at the ATSIP web page, in the 2006 Forum section.

Proposals for both the **Best Practices** and **Best Web site** should be received by March 3, 2006. The ATSIP Best Practices committee will review all operational projects only. If your project is still in the planning or development stages, please wait until next year.

**Submissions for the December 2005 Newsletter can be made via email to Nicole Pappas at [pappasn@nsc.org](mailto:pappasn@nsc.org).**