

Region 13 Transportation Supervisors Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, December 13, 2011  
Meeting was held at the Lenawee Intermediate School District Offices, Adrian, Michigan

In attendance were: Mike Connor (Hanover Horton), Jaki Smith (Lenawee ISD), Shawn Murphy (Napoleon), Joann Crater (Hudson), Jim Fellabaum (Pittsford), Marshal Mattson (Lenawee Christian), Bill Bradley (Columbia Central), Larry Ostrander (Jackson ISD), Stan Johnson (Jackson ISD), Doug Moeckel (Grass Lake)

### **Random Drug Testing –**

We learned that Tom Allen Enterprises will no longer be performing on-site random drug testing, for which a number of our represented schools were using them for (JCISD, Concord, Napoleon, Jackson, and Columbia). Alternatives were discussed as to where other districts were receiving their services from. Some of us send our drivers into collections points, such as WorkWell in Jackson. Jim Acker (Springport) volunteered that he has been using C. E. & A Professional Services out of Mason (517-969-5010). Jim informed us by phone that they come to his site four times per year to take samples at times that are convenient for him. An inquiry has been posted on the MSBO transportation listserv. Information from C. E. & A. Professional Services is attached to these minutes.

### **Scam Notices -**

Area districts have received an official looking form telling them that they need to pay money to be compliant with drug and alcohol sampling policies and procedures, as their compliance deadline is approaching. It's a scam and should be ignored. The following is a response to an inquiry made with Tom Allen Enterprises about the issue:

“Yes we have seen several of these and have had many phone calls regarding it. It’s a total scam. The requirement for training is 2 hours a year. Most of our clients have purchased our Training CD and they pop it in their computer and watch it once a year to fulfill the requirement. There is no way an outside company would know if you were compliant or not. They are trying to scare you into paying \$99 to do their online class. That seal on the letterhead is pathetic as is the company name. Please help spread the word.”

### **Bus Evacuations -**

At a previous meeting there had been discussion about where drivers should be located during the three different evacuation types. (Front, Rear, Front-Rear) *I would appreciate a follow-up on these instructions and invite further discussion to make sure we are all in agreement and the instructions are accurate. **Before beginning any evacuation make sure you have the students’ full attention and make sure the radio microphone has been put outside of the window for exterior access after the evacuation is complete.*** While evacuation drills are not required, they are recommended.

1. For **front door evacuations** stay in the front of the bus and inform students where they are to go (A location 100’ from the bus.) As you are facing backward from the front of the bus, release the students in the front seat to your right, then the students in the front seat to your left, and continue this process until all students have been evacuated from the bus.
2. For **rear door evacuations**, the driver should go to the rear of the bus and direct their two aides to exit and prepare to assist other students. Inform them where the students should be directed to. The driver should position themselves in the open seat to their right as they are facing forward and begin releasing students seat by seat, rear to front, beginning with the seat immediately to their right, and continue this process until all students have been evacuated from the bus.
3. For **front/rear door evacuations**, the driver should move to the middle of the bus, direct their aides to the doors and begin releasing students from the seats that are closest to the door through which they will exit until all students have exited, with the students in the middle of the bus being the last to exit.

### **Diabetic Driver Appeals -**

If a diabetic driver is someone you feel is needed and they do not currently qualify to driver under new rules for diabetics, Larry Ostrander informs us that there is an appeal board in Lansing that will hear your case. In some instances the diabetic driver may be allowed to be hired by a school district

### **Zero Tolerance Discussion –**

In the event of a pending court case to decide a ruling on a driver's part in an accident outside of the work place when alcohol/drug use is suspected, but not confirmed, it is recommended that the driver be taken off the bus and given other duties until the case has been finalized and a ruling has been made.

If a driver is guilty of a DWI (BAC of .08+) on or off duty, their CDL is pulled for one year. Marshal informed us of a new "Super Drunk" law, with much stiffer penalties than before.

From <http://www.superdrunklaw.net/>

"For someone in a traditional drunk driving case—that is, with a BAC below .17%—you could face a maximum of 93 days in jail. The maximum jail sentence for a Super Drunk case is 180 days—almost double! The length of a driver's license suspension is also increased. For a traditional conviction, you could be ordered to 30 days without driving and 150 days of restricted driving. For Super Drunk, there is absolutely no driving for 45 days and 320 days of restricted driving. However, unlike a tradition OUI charge, a person charged with Super Drunk driving must have an ignition interlock device installed for the entire period of restricted driving.

The fines for a Super Drunk charge are also increased. While the fines for traditional drunk driving are \$100-\$500, the fines for Super Drunk are \$200-\$700. In addition, a person charged with Super Drunk driving is required to receive alcohol treatment for at least one year."

### **Safety Training for Students –**

While working with our students to train them for safety, Mike Connor indicates that he shows training videos to his District's Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Joann Crater uses "Buster the Bus" and facilitates coloring contests that use safety-type drawings. Doug Moeckel speaks with each K-2 classroom on the bus during the first week of school to go over all bus rules and expectations.

### **Narrowband Radios –**

Some districts are still looking at the Nextel/Sprint option. Western School use KCI Communications. Grass Lake has received a quote and will share its direction. Send everyone the KCI costs. Some districts, like the Lenawee ISD share services with local municipalities, such as using a State Police tower to gain broadcast range.

### **Mandatory Supervisor Training Update –**

The second and last segment of our mandatory supervisor training will be the four hour segment being scheduled for February or March, and will be set up for the middle of the week. More information will be coming.

### **Allison Transmission Replacement -**

Mike Connor had an Allison transmission go out on a 2006 bus. \$3,200 replacement cost through Valley Truck Parts.

## 15-Passenger Vans –

Larry is looking into a 15-passenger vans that would be allowed to be used for moving passengers for reasons such as moving students to Career Center work sites or to competitions. Kim Hooper of the Wayne RESA offers the following:

“As the fall and winter driving seasons get under way, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is urging users of 15-passenger vans to take specific steps to keep occupants safe. **Two recent fatal crashes, in New York and Georgia, involving 15-passenger vans that rolled over and resulted in 10 deaths give urgency to this reminder.**

The agency warns that tire maintenance is paramount to preventing tragedies, such as these recent rollover crashes, from occurring. Users of 15-passenger vans need to make sure the vehicles have appropriately-sized tires that are properly inflated before every trip. The agency also points out that tires degrade over time. For this reason, NHTSA recommends that spare tires not be used as replacements for worn tires. In fact, many tire manufacturers recommend that tires older than 10 years not be used at all.

NHTSA said that it is directing this advisory to church groups, other non-profit organizations and colleges that may be keeping older 15-passenger vans in service longer than usual because of tight transportation budgets.

**Pre-primary, primary and secondary schools should not use 15-passenger vans for transporting school children, as they do not provide the same level of safety as school buses. It is also against federal law for schools to buy new 15-passenger vans for school transportation purposes.**

Here are some safety tips for anyone planning a trip in 15-passenger vans:

- If you are an owner, make sure the vehicle is properly maintained.
- Owners should make sure drivers are fully trained and experienced in operating a 15-passenger van and are properly licensed.
- 15-passenger vans are very sensitive to loading and should not be overloaded under any circumstances. Agency research shows overloading not only increases rollover risk but makes the vehicle more unstable in any handling maneuvers.
- Owners should make sure that properly sized tires are being used on their vehicles.
- Before every trip, drivers should check the tires for proper inflation, and make sure there are no signs of wear. Correct tire size and inflation pressure information can be found in the owner's manual.
- If you are a passenger, make sure you buckle up for every trip.”

## Emergency preparedness –

A brief discussion ensued regarding emergency preparedness and how transportation departments are involved. Difference schools have different procedures set up to move students to other school locations, but some do not have plans in the event of needed to move students out of town. What is the procedure for getting the buses in to pick up students? Are the radios used to coordinate? How are parents notified? Homeland Security TSA sent a video to supervisors that Mike Connor has reviewed and informed us that it is a useful video that he will be showing to his drivers.

## MSBO/MAPT December Transportation Meeting -

Jaki Smith reported that she viewed the meeting online and watched a presentation by Michigan State Police Bus Inspection Director Randy Coplin. Coplin stated that inspection funding has been reinstated and that the division has five inspectors now, and will be hiring five more. All funding reinstated.

Darlene Wood of SET SEG discussed risk management. (Can be seen at

[http://www.msbo.org/committees/Trans/2011-12/tran\\_1211\\_riskmgt.pdf](http://www.msbo.org/committees/Trans/2011-12/tran_1211_riskmgt.pdf))

MSBO site risk management checklist on website ([http://www.msbo.org/committees/Trans/2011-12/tran\\_riskmgtchecklist.pdf](http://www.msbo.org/committees/Trans/2011-12/tran_riskmgtchecklist.pdf))

The video presentation of the MSBO meeting can be seen at

<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/launch/play.inlp?sid=2009247&psid=2011-12-02.0633.M.91F298C3442677C84243E807E86B45.vcr>

. There are some audio problems early on.

**Upcoming Region 13 Meetings –**

January 17, 2012 – Hillsdale (Hillsdale ISD (Dean Jennings Bldg.), 3471 Beck Road, Hillsdale) **Guest: Gary Bubar**

**– MAPT Executive Director**

February 21, 2012 – Jackson (In Good Company Restaurant, 9039 US-127, Clarklake)

March 20, 2012 – Adrian (Lenawee ISD, 4107 N. Adrian Hwy., Adrian)

April 17, 2012 – Hillsdale (Warner’s Family Restaurant, 3380 Beck Rd., Jonesville)

May 15, 2012 – Jackson (Jackson ISD Professional Development Room, 6700 Browns Lake Road, Jackson)

Respectfully Submitted

Doug Moeckel

12/24/2011