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President's Message

Policy Forum Sparks Atmosphere of Cooperation

In early October 2002, Steve Campbell and I attended a FMCSA-hosted meeting in Chicago with Mexico, Canada (CCMTA) and each of the U.S. states represented. There was an enormous turnout of our members. Panel discussions included the New



Lt. Paul Sullivan

Entrant program, the Operating Authority rule, problems that have arisen regarding intrastate violations and an overview of the FMCSA comments on re-authorization.

We all should be proud of the obvious preparation and pertinent comments from the membership and the concerns raised on each issue. The overall atmosphere was one of cooperation; i.e. "How can we make this work?"

FMCSA Administrator Joe Clapp presented strong arguments for each point and a willingness to listen to our concerns. He called for future comments and instructed his staff to accept these comments and work with the jurisdictions to make his strategies succeed. I was a member of the Operating Authority panel and presented the results and survey comments.

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Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Expert Heads FMCSA

Annette M. Sandberg, who was appointed Deputy Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in late November 2002, is now serving as the Acting Administrator. Before joining FMCSA, she was Deputy Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Ms. Sandberg is a nationally recognized expert on law enforcement and traffic safety who attributes her passion for highway safety to serving more than 17 years in a variety of law enforcement, supervisory and administrative posts with the Washington State Patrol. She served as Chief of the Washington State Patrol from 1991 to 1995.

An attorney by training, Ms. Sandberg has a law degree from the University of Puget Sound School of Law and an MBA from City University in Bellevue. She also attended an executive institute at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and the FBI's National Executive Institute.

In 1996, Ms Sandberg. was named "Woman of Achievement" by Women in Communications, Inc. In 1999, she

received the "National Public Service Award" from the American Society for Public Administration and the National Academy of Public Administration. She has served as the Vice President and Executive Board Officer of the

Washington State Patrol Troopers Association and on several national panels dealing with ethnicity and race relations in law enforcement.

Ms. Sandberg's goal is to ensure a smooth transition of agency leadership. "I follow two exceptional highway safety leaders in Administrator Clapp and Chief Safety Officer Julie Cirillo. I welcome the opportunity and will strive to meet

or exceed congressional directives and work tirelessly to reduce fatalities and injuries resulting from large truck and bus crashes."

CVSA Executive Director Stephen Campbell met with Ms. Sandberg shortly after her appointment to convey CVSA's wishes for a close working relationship with FMCSA. She expressed interest in opening the door to more involvement from the states and plans to meet with CVSA officers and staff in January to discuss issues affecting state enforcement.



"I will strive to reduce fatalities and injuries resulting from large truck and bus crashes."

— Annette M. Sandberg

will perform safety reviews of the estimated 1,700 new interstate carriers annually.

In September 2002, New York became the twelfth state to officially join the Highway Watch Program. Both the State Police and NYSDOT are supporting the Motor Truck Association's outreach efforts to train commercial drivers.

The State Police, in cooperation with the New York Motor Truck Association and Price Chopper Markets (the Golub Corporation), have secured a new tractor trailer combination for use in the No Zone campaign statewide.

In early 2003, New York will roll out "OSCAR," the One Stop Credentialing and Registration system that offers motor carriers direct web access to the New York State Departments of Motor Vehicles, Tax and Finance, and Transportation to conduct credentialing activities. OSCAR is the cornerstone of New York's CVISN program and will form the base for New York's CVIEW effort currently in development.

In a parallel effort, NYSDOT is developing a web-based system to handle oversize and overweight permits. Deployment is expected toward the end of 2003 and will eventually be linked to "OSCAR".

The State Police continue to make progress in developing a TRACS based eTicketing system. An electronic accident report is being tested in Warren County.

The New York Energy Research and Development Authority is actively supporting development and deployment of new technologies to help ensure drivers are afforded the opportunity to secure adequate rest without the need to leave their vehicles idling. Idle Aire installations now are in place at two locations on the New York State Thruway and at Hunts Point Terminal Market in the Bronx. A second project to demonstrate the feasibility of using shore power is under development for application at a rest area on the Adirondack Northway.

Increased border initiatives.

New York Governor George E. Pataki has announced a plan to increase the number of commercial vehicle enforcement Troopers to enhance safety and security inspections of commercial vehicles at the United States/Canadian border crossings.

These Troopers will join the 100 Troopers and Supervisors now assigned to the commercial vehicle enforcement unit within the State Police. Enhancement of personnel at the borders will assist with truck safety inspections and commercial vehicle security checks as vehicles enter the U.S. at New York border crossings. An additional benefit to increased inspectors at these locations will be minimizing time commercial vehicles wait in queue to have an inspection conducted on them. This added benefit to efficiency, as well as safety and security measures, should help reduce delays commercial vehicles are experiencing as they enter the State at the U.S. border crossings.

Maryland

State Police Rolls Out Newest Weigh-in-Motion Technology

The Maryland State Police recently deployed new weigh-in-motion scales at the weigh/inspection facility on I-70 at West Friendship. A partnership of regional entities, including the Maryland State Police, the Maryland State Highway Administration and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory participated in months of engineering and design work leading up to the installation of specially-modified [Mettler Toledo scales](#).

These new WIM scales are located in the approach ramp and designed to weigh trucks as they enter the facility. The WIM can determine the class of truck by the axle spacing. Only those trucks that fall within a weight threshold are directed (by overhead electronic signals) to pull onto the static scale.

All others are directed to either the inspection area or the bypass lane. Directing only those trucks that may be overweight to the static scales has eliminated congestion and vehicle back-ups on the ramps. The vehicle screening systems also includes a feature that automatically sets the entrance sign to "CLOSED" as soon as the line of vehicles entering the facility reaches a certain point.

The newest technology featured in this design includes a dynamic calibration standard that enables the WIM scale and the certified static scale to continuously "talk to each other," thereby maintaining optimum screening efficiency. In addition to weights, the WIM system sends other valuable information to the control panel computer. This information includes bridge axle spacing, ramp speed, the vehicle's height and potential axle over-weights. All potential violations are displayed in red on the control panel.

Vehicle-screening information also is collected in a database that's accessible for statistical comparison at a later time. For more effective scheduling, supervisors can review the information and determine the day of the week and the time of day that certain violations are occurring most frequently.

During the first two months of operation (October and November 2002), the West Friendship facility stopped 1,194 overweight trucks, a 79 % increase over the 664 overweight vehicles during the same period in 2001. Because of its highly efficient screening and ramp-management system, the scales operate nearly "hands-off" and personnel are free to devote more attention to inspection and enforcement tasks.

Two Inspectors Supervise Weighing One Million Pound Super Load

Maryland State Police Transportation Inspectors Ron Prematta and Ralph McCardell recently supervised the weighing of a generator that was just under 1,000,000 pounds. The generator, one of four