

**From:** London, Sarah [Sarah.London@vermont.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 3:56 PM  
**To:** Marshia, Kevin; Minter, Sue  
**CC:** Tetreault, Richard  
**Subject:** RE: draft EO

Thanks so much Kevin, this is extremely helpful.

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**From:** Marshia, Kevin  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 3:31 PM  
**To:** Minter, Sue; London, Sarah  
**Cc:** Tetreault, Richard  
**Subject:** RE: draft EO

Hello Sarah,

In response to your request for some background for the transition of the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) from the Department of Public Safety to the Agency of Transportation, I offer the following:

- There are five permanent positions that are being transferred to VTrans. Three of those positions are vacant and are under various forms of recruitment. The two incumbents from DPS are currently scheduled to transfer on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Both of these individuals are excited by the opportunities provided by this change.
- As GHSP works very closely with law enforcement, VTrans is very sensitive to that relationship with all levels of law enforcement. In fact today we are holding interviews for the vacant position of Chief of GHSP. There is a member from the Chiefs Association, the Sheriff's Association and DMV Enforcement on the interview panel. While there is some worry of change, in general I have heard positive things from the law enforcement community regarding this change. The program has two contract Law Enforcement Liaisons that work with every law enforcement entity in the State. We have been meeting almost weekly with these two gentlemen (both retired state troopers) as they are the eyes and ears of the program in the law enforcement community. No major concerns have been raised to them that I am aware of. So, overall, my perspective is that the law enforcement community is satisfied with this change.
- Years ago the GHSP was located at DMV and nearly fifteen years ago the program was transitioned to DPS. For the past ten years, safety partners from various organizations have recognized that efficiencies could be gained if the program was transferred to VTrans. Several attempts have been made, however, the transition was not supported due to various reasons.
- In 2006, VTrans led an effort to adopt Vermont's first Strategic Highway Safety Plan which incorporates strategies to reduce crashes in all areas of highway safety (education, enforcement, engineering and EMS).
- In 2012, VTrans led an effort to establish the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance, a non-profit organization that relies on a public and private partnership to reduce crashes on our

highways. State government partners on the Board of the Alliance are, VTrans, DMV, DPS, Health, Education and GHSP.

- The stated objective of the GHSP is “*The Governor's Highway Safety Program facilitates and supports, with federal grants, a statewide network to promote safe driving behavior on Vermont highways.*” which falls directly in line with “*VTrans' mission is to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.*” Our organizational goals are in direct alignment with one another.
- For a number of years, GHSP has not been fully staffed. By aligning our various safety programs we bring about the opportunity to be more effective and efficient in our collective missions. This includes reducing redundant activities and providing better customer service.
- The VHSA and related efforts are becoming known regionally and nationally as an excellent model that engages both public and private partners in reducing crashes. This combined organizational structure strengthens that model.

Having led the safety programs at VTrans and the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan for nearly a decade, I can say with confidence that this transition will have a significant positive impact on the State's ability to effectively and efficiently improve safety on our highways.

There is a lot more and I am happy to provide more background if necessary, please let me know.

Thanks,

Kevin

Kevin S. Marshia, P.E.  
Deputy Chief Engineer  
Highway Division  
VT Agency of Transportation  
One National Life Drive  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001  
Telephone: (802) 828-2932

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**From:** Minter, Sue  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 2:50 PM  
**To:** London, Sarah  
**Cc:** Marshia, Kevin; Tetreault, Richard  
**Subject:** RE: draft EO

Sarah: Thanks for your note, I will have staff (copied here) develop a memo for you on this. Good to know what is needed from your end. I did not know that you had not received info from DPS.

As background, Keith Flynn “offered” this idea to me/ VTrans following a Cabinet meeting and as a strategy for him to address some of his \$\$ challenges. Our team has long desired for this change. The

federal highway administration is now requiring DOTs to reduce highway crashes as a national performance standard. For that reason alone, it would be beneficial for VTrans to manage this program (which is generally managed by DOTs across the country – though not everywhere). For many years we were doing concurrent activities which, within the last 2 years, have become better coordinated due to the Highway Safety Alliance, which was initiated and lead by VTrans, Kevin Marsia.

Kevin will fill you in on more details.

Thanks!

Sue

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**From:** London, Sarah  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 2:33 PM  
**To:** Minter, Sue  
**Subject:** draft EO

Sue, I can talk to Keith about this next week as well (believe he is still out). I'm not sure folks here have much background on the proposed move of Governor's Highway Safety from DPS to AOT. Questions include what is reaction of local law enforcement, etc? How many positions will actually be transferred? Any kind of cover memo outlining rationale, etc would help here. Do you have background on this, or do you know who does? (Justin is also out this week, so if all of this was run through him, sorry for making you repeat yourself.) Happy to talk by phone whenever, 279-7215.

Sarah London  
Counsel to the Governor  
802-828-3333  
[sarah.london@state.vt.us](mailto:sarah.london@state.vt.us)