



**May 29, 2014**  
**The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute**

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## Executive Summary

The Maryland Traffic Records Forum was held May 29, 2014 at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Maryland from 9:00am -4:00pm. Approximately 75 traffic records system leaders (crash, driver, vehicle, roadway, citation and adjudication, and injury surveillance) from across the State gathered. The Forum provided the partners with the opportunity to share their experiences in supporting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's vision in promoting a comprehensive, efficient traffic records system. The opening ceremony included the signing of the newly formed Maryland Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) Charter by State data partners. The Charter symbolizes the group's willingness to work collaboratively in building a strong system together.

The opening plenary set the stage for the remainder of the day with information being shared from the National perspective on Traffic Records and included representatives from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Additional concurrent sessions shared information on the accessibility of the data and the protection of personally identifiable information, Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) mapping and analysis, and the integration of data between data partners. The success of this event will serve as the foundation for next year's State Forum which will lead into Baltimore's hosting of the 2016 International Forum.

## Overview

Through funds and support provided by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO), the University of Maryland Baltimore, National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Services (NSC) coordinated the first Maryland Traffic Records Forum. The Forum was held on May 29, 2014 at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Maryland. The event began with a registration at 8:00 a.m. and the event kicking-off at 9:00 a.m. Approximately 75 partners from across the State participated in the conference. Partners represented all of the six (6) traffic records component systems (crash, driver, vehicle, roadway, citation and adjudication, and injury surveillance).

The Maryland Traffic Records Forum provided an opportunity for traffic records partners to share their experiences in supporting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's vision in promoting a comprehensive, efficient traffic records system. A high quality State traffic records system is critical to traffic safety programming, operational management, and strategic planning.

## Forum Objectives

Maryland's Forum gathered traffic records professionals from the core traffic records disciplines (crash, driver, vehicle, roadway, citation and adjudication, and injury surveillance). The individuals shared and discussed their experiences, innovations, studies, and concerns in an effort to strengthen the bridges of Maryland's Traffic Records System to make it structurally sound and the best that it can be. The event took time to focus specifically on the following defined objectives:

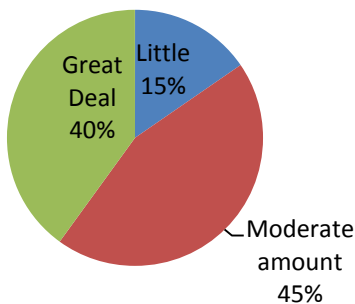
- Share the broad scope of the traffic records system in Maryland, including the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee, allowing partners to understand the importance of each of the six data components and the value of the six performance metrics.
- Identify the benefits of data integration within and between components of the traffic records system and understand the many uses of integrated data sets for problem identification, program evaluation, and resource allocation.
- Learn about challenges related to data accessibility, primarily policies and statutes related to the protection of personal information, and methods for obtaining analyses of those data through research collaboration.
- Introduce new and innovative approaches to the geospatial representation and analysis of traffic records data.

## Evaluation Results

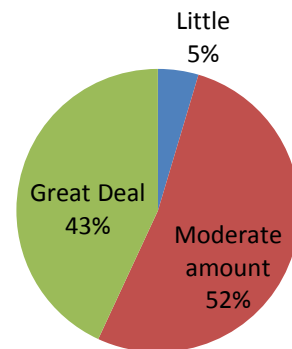
A pre-survey was conducted during the registration process to understand the participants' baseline understanding relative to the conference objectives. From the results found below, conference objectives were set appropriately, allowing room for growth and learning by participants.

**Figures 1-4:** Pre-conference Participant Survey Results

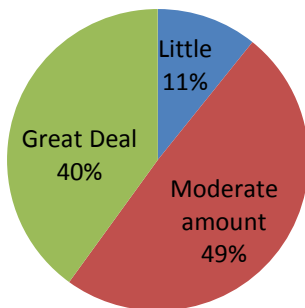
**How would you rate your understanding of your agency's role within the Traffic Records System?**  
N=65



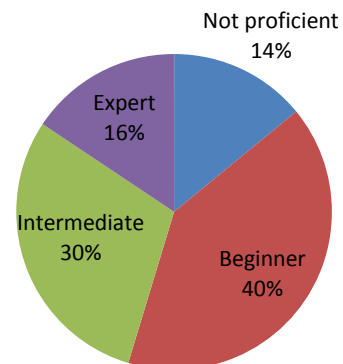
**How well would you say you understand the concept of data integration?**  
N=65



**Describe your understanding of the polices that protect the data and personal identifiers.**  
N=65



**Describe your level of proficiency in understanding GIS Mapped data to satisfy your data related questions.**  
N=64



Forum sessions were planned around the overarching objectives and concurrent sessions selected to address the objectives.

The pre-survey evaluation questions were followed-up at the conclusion of the program with a set of modified but closely related questions to gauge participants improved understanding in each of the 4 areas. Results from that survey are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Evaluation of participants’ understanding at the conclusion of the Traffic Record Forum

	<b>How well did this Forum improve your understanding of your agency's role in the Traffic Records System?</b>	<b>How well did this Forum improve your understanding of data integration?</b>	<b>How well did this Forum improve your understanding of the policies that protect the data?</b>	<b>How well did this Forum improve your proficiency in understanding GIS mapping?</b>
Not at all	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.57%
A little	3.03%	3.03%	6.06%	7.14%
Some	21.21%	18.18%	30.30%	21.43%
Moderate amount	45.45%	57.58%	42.42%	32.14%
Great Deal	30.30%	21.21%	21.21%	35.71%

## Forum Sessions

Following, is a brief synopsis of each of the Forum sessions and the outcomes of each.

### Opening Plenary Session – National Perspectives on Traffic Records Systems

Moderator: Cynthia Burch, MPH, National Study Center for Trauma & EMS  
 Speakers: Esther Strawder, Federal Highway Administration  
 Scott Valentine, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
 Sean McLaurin, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
 Anders Longthorne, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

The opening plenary session included a variety of presentations from partners representing three of the transportation modes in the Department of Transportation. Mr. Longthorne demonstrated recent developments and future plans for analysis and mapping capabilities in the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Mr. Valentine provided information about the many data quality improvement programs and resources available from the FMCSA. He also explained the need for and use of commercial motor vehicle crash data. Ms. Strawder detailed the FHWA data quality improvement programs and commended Maryland on their ongoing efforts to work with the FHWA and peer states to improve systems. Finally, Mr. McLaurin presented information from the NHTSA Traffic Records team related to Crash Data Improvement Program (CDIP) and Traffic Records Assessment efforts. He also gave a short preview of the upcoming Maryland Traffic Records Assessment that will commence in August, 2014.

<b>At the conclusion of the session are you able to:</b>	<b>Average Rating</b>
<b>Describe traffic records from the national perspective?</b>	3.88
<b>Were the speakers knowledgeable about the subject?</b>	4.31
<b>Did the moderator use time effectively?</b>	4.39
<b>Was the session relevant to your traffic records work?</b>	4.20

## **Geographic Information Systems (GIS): An introduction to geospatial analyses**

Moderator: Angela Comer, MPH, National Study Center for Trauma & EMS  
Speakers: Julie Spangler, GISP, JMT Technology Group  
Candice Ottley-Francois, PMP, GISP, Albrecht Engineering, Inc.

This session was a basic introduction to GIS. It explained the basic components of how GIS is used and what it could be used for in research and evaluation. In addition, some basic functionality of GIS programming displays was shared through the use of relevant examples.

### **Session Objectives:**

1. Describe some of the basic features of GIS
2. Describe how to prepare an appropriate data request for a GIS programmer
3. Explain what data outputs can look like and how these types of outputs can be used

<b>At the conclusion of the session are you able to:</b>	<b>Average Rating</b>
<b>Describe some of the basic features of GIS programming?</b>	4.46
<b>Describe how to prepare an appropriate data request for a GIS programmer?</b>	4.23
<b>Explain what data outputs can look like and how these types of outputs can be used?</b>	4.31
<b>Were the speakers knowledgeable about the subject?</b>	4.92
<b>Did the moderator use time effectively?</b>	4.62
<b>Was the session relevant to your traffic records work?</b>	4.54

## **Road to Traffic Records Data: the Accessibility of Maryland's Data**

Moderator: Kathleen Hoke, JD, University of Maryland School of Law  
Speakers: Danielle Bradshaw-Lee, Maryland Transportation Authority Police  
Oscar Ibarra, Health Services Cost Review Commission  
John New, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems  
Eric Tabacek, Maryland State Highway Administration  
Al Short, Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration

This session addressed the policies and some of the challenges that are faced when it comes to accessing data from within the traffic records systems; data protection, and methods for accessing analytical results from research partners. Representatives from several traffic records data systems were available as a panel to discuss their unique policies and regulations related to data protection.

Specific attention was paid to agency privacy rules, the importance of protecting personal information, current laws. A presentation was made available by Mr. Ibarra and is accessible on the TRCC Forum website. Mr. New, Mr. Tabacek, Mr. Short, and Capt. Bradshaw-Lee provided further information about what data is collected within each agency and how recent laws affect the release of that data.

**Session Objectives:**

1. Define and identify personal identifying information
2. Explain Maryland policies in place to protect confidential information in traffic records systems
3. Describe how to obtain data access policies and request forms

	<b>Average Rating</b>
<b>At the conclusion of the session are you able to:</b>	
<b>Define and identify personal identifying information?</b>	4.65
<b>Explain Maryland policies that protect confidential information in traffic records systems?</b>	4.20
<b>Describe how to obtain data access policies and request forms?</b>	3.95
<b>Were the speakers knowledgeable about the subject?</b>	4.8
<b>Did the moderator use time effectively?</b>	4.85
<b>Was the session relevant to your traffic records work?</b>	4.65

## Best Practices in GIS Mapping: Addressing the 4E’s of Traffic Safety

Moderator: Ken Miller, Department of Information Technology

Speakers: Erica McMaster, Washington College  
 Abree Johnson, National Study Center for Trauma & EMS  
 Angela Comer, National Study Center for Trauma & EMS  
 Devang Dave, Montgomery County Traffic Engineer

This session showcased best practices of data using GIS technology to support the SHSP designated Emphasis Areas specific to the 4 Es of traffic safety (enforcement, education, EMS, engineering). In addition to focusing on the 4E’s of traffic safety, presenters incorporated core TRCC performance areas.

**Session Objectives:**

1. Describe how GIS can be used for mapping & analysis to support the 4Es of traffic safety
2. Explain the effect that data accuracy, completeness, and timeliness have in the preparation and presentation of the data using GIS in the 4Es of traffic safety

	<b>Average Rating</b>
<b>At the conclusion of the session are you able to:</b>	
<b>Describe how GIS can be used for mapping &amp; analysis to support the 4Es of traffic safety?</b>	4.30
<b>Explain the effect that data accuracy, completeness, and timeliness have in the preparation and presentation of the data using GIS in the 4Es of traffic safety?</b>	4.30
<b>Were the speakers knowledgeable about the subject?</b>	4.70
<b>Did the moderator use time effectively?</b>	4.50
<b>Was the session relevant to your traffic records work?</b>	4.00



## Working Together to Move Forward: the Benefits of Data Integration

Moderator: Timothy Kerns, MS, National Study Center for Trauma & EMS

Speakers: John New, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems  
Michel Sheffer, Maryland State Highway Administration

This session addressed the needs and benefits of data integration. Representatives from several traffic records data systems discussed agency-specific integration and interface projects. Mr. Sheffer discussed details of their intra-agency integration efforts regarding linkage of various roadway data files for analysis and current plans to incorporate the state and local data into the One Maryland, One Centerline project. Mr. New demonstrated the components and capabilities of the Electronic Maryland EMS Data System (eMEDS) software to collect EMS runsheet information and referenced the abilities of FieldBridge software that links the EMS and trauma registry data systems in real-time. Finally, Mr. Kerns discussed the inter-system integration of crash and hospital data for use in identifying serious injuries resulting from traffic crashes and the need for that analysis to support federal guidelines in MAP-21.

### Objectives:

1. Identify the differences between data interfaces and data integration
2. Describe the importance of quality data collection upfront to improve subsequent integration with other data sets
3. Explain the importance for using integrated data for problem identification and evaluation activities

	Average Rating
<b>At the conclusion of the session are you able to:</b>	
<b>Identify the differences between data interfaces and data integration?</b>	4.36
<b>Describe the importance of quality data collection upfront to improve subsequent integration with other data sets?</b>	4.40
<b>Explain the importance for using integrated data for problem identification and evaluation activities?</b>	4.32
<b>Were the speakers knowledgeable about the subject?</b>	4.72
<b>Did the moderator use time effectively?</b>	4.48
<b>Was the session relevant to your traffic records work?</b>	4.17

## Appendix 1: Forum Evaluation Results

<b>Forum Overall Evaluation:</b>	<b>Average Rating</b>
How easy was the registration process for the Maryland Traffic Records Forum?	4.88
How would you rate the venue/location?	4.82
How much of the information presented was new?	3.70
Did this Forum increase your knowledge of Traffic Records Systems?	4.18
Did participation increase your professional interest in traffic records systems?	4.15
Did participation expand your ability to locate resources more efficiently?	4.18
How well did this Forum improve your understanding of your agency's role in the Traffic Records System?	4.03
How well did this Forum improve your understanding of data integration?	3.97
How well did this Forum improve your understanding of the policies that protect the data?	3.79
How well did this Forum improve your proficiency in understanding GIS mapping?	3.89
Overall, how would you rate the Forum?	4.50
<b>If you have ideas related to the program, please provide some additional feedback:</b>	
More PowerPoints from panelists	
Take the message to locals by inviting more next time	
Acronyms list in packet; more time for Q&A	
<b>What aspects of this event did you find to be the <u>MOST</u> beneficial?</b>	
Data integration	
Data release & data integration	
Speakers very knowledgeable	
The concurrent sessions in the afternoon	
Technical presentations, networking	
Ability to speak frankly with other data owners	
The breakout sessions were valuable	
GIS & lunch	
Great host and speakers	
GIS	
The ability to interact with others from sister agencies	
GIS best practices workshop	
GIS component in validation of crash data; closing remarks	

<b>What aspects of this event did you find to be the <u>LEAST</u> beneficial?</b>
<b>What related topics would you like to see presented/discussed at future Traffic Records Events?</b>
Local county representation
Live demo of systems currently working: Delta, Emeds, etc.
Training opportunities
What other states are doing
Commercial motor vehicle crash data collection
Expand to regional TRCC event cyber security/clouds/data warehouse/state initiatives/mobile apps/dashboards
Expansion of the six program area and how data collection impact each
Texting while driving traffic simulator
<b>Please share additional comments that could help us in planning future TRCC events:</b>
So far so good
Planners from SHA might be an interesting group to include to discuss data needs
<u>Great Job</u>
Include an attendee list w/info to network; provide PowerPoint presentations on website; do an award for the year; do an open period for presentation submissions

## Appendix 2: Forum Participants

2014 Maryland Traffic Records Forum Attendee		
First Name:	Last Name:	Agency Name:
Bala	Akundi	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Kim	Auman	NSC
George	Bahouth	Impact Research
Kenneth	Beck	University of Maryland
Tennille	Blue	BCDOT-Traffic
Danielle	Bradshaw-Lee	MDTAP
Kevin	Brown	SHA
Cynthia	Burch	National Study Center
Camille	Burke	Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
Milt	Chaffee	Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
Rod	Chu	NHTSA Region 3
Angela	Comer	National Study Center
Christopher	Corea	Maryland State Police
Kaushik	Dutta	MDTA Police
Patrick	Foster	Prince George's County DPW&T
Eric	Garrison	MDTA Police
Melanie	Gertner	MIEMSS
Thomas J	Gianni	MHSO
Dana	Gigliotti	MVA/MHSO
Cindy	Gorenflo	MDTA Police
Kathleen	Graham	MHSO/MVA
Jill	Graygo	Impact Research
Johnny	Harris	Maryland State Police
Shiu	Ho	National Study Center for Trauma/EMS
Kathleen	Hoke	University of Maryland Carey School of Law
Oscar	Ibarra	State of MD- DHMH- Health Services Cost Review Commission
Breck	Jeffers	Federal Highway Administration
Richard	Johnson	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Abree	Johnson	National Study Center for Trauma & EMS
Tim	Kerns	UMB - NSC
KEVIN	KESS	MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Jennifer	Kidd	National Study Center
GARY	KLEIN	SHA
Andrew	Krajewski	MVA
Joe	Kufera	National Study Center for Trauma & EMS
Michael	Kundrat	MDTA Police
Michael	Lane	Harford County Sheriff's Office
Todd	Lang	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Roxanne	Langford	MVA
Jade	Leung	DHMH
Anders	Longthorne	NHTSA
William	MacLeod	SHA
Larry	Martin	Towson University

Sean	McLaurin	U.S. DOT/NHTSA
Erica	McMaster	Washington College
Jacqueline	Milani	UMB, National Study Center for Trauma & EMS
Kenny	Miller	Department of Information Technology
Douglas	Mowbray	Maryland Highway Safety Office
John	New	MIEMSS
Chrissy	Nizer	Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
Candice	Ottley Francois	Albrecht Engineering, Inc
Michael	Pack	UMD CATT Lab
Diedre	Parish	MDTA
Charlene	Rock-Foster	Maryland State Police
Denise	Scherer	MD State Police
Michel	Sheffer	MD SHA
Hyeonshic	Shin	Morgan State University
Al	Short	Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
Gordon	Smith	University of Maryland
Julie	Spangler	JMT TG
Esther	Strawder	FHWA
Scott	Valentine	FMCSA
Jamie	Walter	MD Judiciary
Cedric	Ward	SHA
Ida J.	Williams	Maryland State Police