



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Division of Motor Vehicles**

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**Byrd E. White, III**  
Secretary of Transportation

January 7, 2020

The Honorable Lee Cassis, Clerk  
West Virginia Senate  
State Capitol, Room M-211  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

The Honorable Steve Harrison, Clerk  
West Virginia House of Delegates  
State Capitol, Room M-212  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Mr. Clerk:

In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-1D-8(b), I am providing a report on the activities related to the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Program Board in 2019.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Frazier".

Everett Frazier  
Commissioner

/nh

# 2019 WVMSP Report

To minimize the risk and maximize the fun of motorcycling, the West Virginia Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Program (WVMSP) focuses its efforts on enhancing public motorcycle safety awareness, promoting alcohol and drug effect awareness for motorcyclists, rider improvement, licensing improvement, program promotions, through education.

The Motorcycle Safety Program as a Board of Directors comprised of 8 individuals from state agencies, law enforcement, and other highway safety programs and advocacy groups. This make up is established in accordance with West Virginia Code §17B-1D-8

Additionally, the West Virginia Motorcycle Safety Program has a single training vendor; the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). The MSF provides motorcycle training, technical assistance, and all the required equipment and training materials to each of the seven training sites located throughout the state. The combination of efforts between the WVMSP and the MSF has reduced the cost of individual training to \$100 out of pocket cost to the WV resident rider. This training is conducted by "RiderCoaches" that are nationally certified by the MSF. Representatives from the MSF wrote the curriculum that is taught in West Virginia. The motorcycle training contract was re-awarded to MSF in 2018 through the state bid process. After the purchasing bid process was complete, MSF was awarded the training contract on an annual renewable basis for the next three years.

Analyzing several years of West Virginia motorcycle crash data revealed that as many as 75% motorcycle operators did not have a motorcycle endorsement in fatal crashes. Recognizing that professional motorcycle training is key in motorcycle crash avoidance and survival, the Motorcycle Safety Board voted to approve out of state class completions for courses outside of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation curriculum as long as that state used an acceptable introductory rider curricula that was compliant with provisions in Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Additionally, the state must have had a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) approved 405(f) grant application. This compliant public meeting was held on April 10, 2019, with a quorum met.

## **Motorcycle Safety Foundation**

There are currently 41 Certified RiderCoaches in West Virginia. Seven of the Certified RiderCoaches are Site coordinators, one for each of the seven sites around the state. 9 Military RiderCoaches provide the Basic Rider Course (BRC) and Experienced Rider Course (ERC) Training to military personnel.

## **WVMSP Numbers at a Glance**

Motorcycle registrations for FY 2019 total 54,982. The Training Program had a 98% pass rate in the BRC and a 100% pass rate in the ERC. RiderCoaches have trained over 19,800 students since 2001. There are more than 101,000 drivers in the state with an “F” (motorcycle) endorsement. Training classes were also offered for the state's rural areas of Romney and Franklin and taught out of the Program’s mobile unit. If not for the mobile unit, these riders would have needed to travel to a permanent training site causing them to incur the cost of at least one night in hotel, food, and other travel expenses. The mobile unit allowed these riders, who may not have been able to incur the cost, to become properly trained.

## **2019 Highlights**

The WVMSP participated in a number of motorcycle-related events and rallies this past year. In July, the McKee Sky Ranch Vintage Motorcycle Rally in Terra Alta, WV provided an opportunity to project the Motorcycle Safety message to a unique group of riders who may not have been aware of the WVMSP mission. The McKee Ranch event included a dual sport motorcycle ride that drew more than 50 riders culminating in a safety skills competition that was judged by one of the program's RiderCoaches. In September, a similar event was supported in Ripley, WV where the international motorcycle club, Road Riders for Jesus (RRJ) conducted their annual event. This was the third year that RRJ selected WV as their event location and have committed to have the annual event in WV for the foreseeable future. This 5-day event drew over 500 in state and out of state riders. The Program also sponsored or participated in other regional automotive or motorcycle themed events such as “Rod Run and Doo Wop,” “Dagger’s Toy Run,” Capitol City FOP , Donel C. Kinnard Memorial Run, and the MSP Staff participated in the Capitol stop of the “Run for the Wall” event. This annual event is very popular, drawing riders from across the nation. In FY 2020, the WVMSP will continue its participation or sponsorship of these events, as well as other regional events across the state as approved by the board to improve its exposure and safety influence on the riding community.

Additionally, more than \$102,000 of state motorcycle safety funds were spent on radio media packages aired during a variety of the most popular sports programs and news slots heard on up to 28 local stations, throughout the year. The 2019 billboard campaign focused on the “Ride Straight” and “Ride with Us First” messages. The primary focus of these messages was the enforcement elements of helmet use and impaired-free riding, as well as efforts to encourage potential and future riders to obtain their motorcycle endorsement by taking the BRC prior to experiencing riding on our public roads. During the month of May, Governor Jim Justice issued a proclamation declaring the month of May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month.

## **Program Budget**

The WVMSP is primarily funded as prescribed in WV Code §17B-1D-7, which creates a special designated fund, the “Motorcycle Safety Fund.” The fund was established in 2001 and receives all

monies from motorcycle endorsement fees, except, for \$5.50 from instruction permit fees. It is a special revolving fund. Additionally, the WVMSP utilizes residual federal funding from federal 405(f) funds to operate its programs.