

# CDL Town Hall Meeting June 25, 2020

Organizer: Stacey Thompson, Program Administrator, Driver Training Program Office

Attendees: Julia Tipple, Administrative Professional, Driver Training Program Office

Lt. Herb Homan, Ohio Traffic Safety Office

Brian Watkins, Swift Driving Academy

Jeff Huth, Hamrick Truck Driving School

Brian Beckett, EGCC Truck Driving School

Mike Moscinski, Trainco Truck Driving Schools

Tony Huffman, The Career Center Truck Driving Academy

Jeff Woodington, Roadmasters Drivers School Of Ohio Inc

Jackie Marshall, Ohio Business College

Micah French, Apollo Truck Driving School

Kimberly Klohe, Driver's Edge, LLC

JT Smith, Southern State Community College

## Topic 1: Instructor Licensing Process: what is the good and what is the bad, what would make your lives easier?

Micah: I think it is fine the way that it currently is. They get everything they need.

Mike: Cumbersome for documentation. It would be nicer if there was a way to streamline the process for documentation. It takes a long time to document and less time to train.

Stacey: Do you have any ways to make that easier?

Mike: We get so hung up on the time watching we lose the effectiveness of the training.

Stacey: Is that just behind the wheel?

Mike: I feel like it is in all of the forms and aspects of training.

Jeff W: I think most of us have our own internal training that we have to do, so I think a lot of duplication goes on.

Jeff H: I think the biggest problem that I have with it is the BIC. Having to do that as the training and having to send the certificate out then right back again takes over two weeks.

Stacey: Are there any other aspects of the training that need fixed?

## Topic 2: Basic Instructor Course: the pain points?

Stacey: Does everyone agree that paper certificates are annoying?

Everyone: Yes

Mike: I think that the course should be done online, but maybe in modules. I don't like that the training is done in person, and that the courses are not held often enough. It seems like I am always waiting on another one to be held.

Kim: The ones I have sent through have all come back with positive feedback. I do agree that they are not held often enough.

Jeff H: It would also be helpful if it was not always held in Columbus. It is expensive for me to have to send instructors to Columbus.

## Topic 3: Continuing Education: What is the good and bad? Suggestions?

Kim: Right now we only have one continuing education class per year? It might be more beneficial to hold more than one, it doesn't always work out for us to cancel class and send myself and my instructors.

Mike: I think there needs to be more frequency. If the department cannot put them on then it would be nice if someone would find courses for us that we can use as continuing education.

Micah: It would help as well if they were moved around to different parts of the state.

## Topic 4: Non-English Speaking Students: what are the pain points of training these students?

Kim: I had a gentleman that came in last week who had to bring an interpreter to register. I had to explain to him that if he could not speak in English to me then it would be very hard for him to learn in the classroom and on the range. We cannot discriminate against people coming, but if we cannot understand them and they cannot understand us, what are we supposed to do?

JT: We don't get that very often so I cannot really help.

Jeff W: We get that very often but it is so difficult. It would be nice if there was something before they get to us that they had to take. I am always on the lookout for Spanish speaking instructors or other language speaking instructors, but they are few and far between. It would just be really nice if there was a pre-requisite course for them in their language.

Kim: I have a lot of people who have only been in the country for a few months and have never driven a car or have only driven a few months. I think it would be nice if they have a rule where they have to hold a license for a certain amount of time before they can drive a truck.

Jeff W: We put in place an entrance exam to use if they cannot provide us with a GED. It is a 30 question test and they have to get at least 21 questions right. It just makes sure that they can read and write at least at a sixth to eighth grade level. If they fail they can take another version the same day, they have two chances to pass one of the two versions, if they don't pass then they have to come back in six months and try again. We usually send them to a Basic English course.

Jeff H: Up here we have a lot of people from the foreign soviet republics, he could understand English just fine, but once he got into the yard he would not take any instruction from a female instructor. But once we got him away, it was fine.

## Topic 5: Annual Physical Requirement

Kim: I always get a two year and it costs me extra money every year to have to get one done on my off year. I think that if we are certified for two years from the DOT then it should be enough.

Mike: I don't feel like we should need to get an extra physical if the doctor is certifying we are fit to drive a truck, then we are fit to sit in a truck or classroom to teach.

Stacey: How much does this tend to cost you?

Micah: About \$80

Mike: My throwback to this is, how many people have been disqualified because they are not qualified physically?

Stacey: This rule actually came into effect on the Class D side and then trickled down to you guys since you are in the same chapter of rules. I understand where you guys are coming from though because you guys have always had to do the DOT.