

Minutes

Racial Profiling Prevention and Data Oversight Board Regular Meeting

Pursuant to section EXECUTIVE BRANCH 20 ILCS 2715
Racial Profiling Prevention and Data Oversight Act
(625 ILCS 5/11-212)

August 21, 2025
10:00 am- 12:00 pm

Location
Via WebEx Video Conference/Teleconference

Call to Order and Roll Call

Jermaine Harris (CO-CHAIR) called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The CO-CHAIR announced a roll call of members. A quorum for the meeting was achieved.

Following roll call, newly appointed Board members Elizabeth Jordan and Craig Futterman introduced themselves.

The CO-CHAIR announced that Karyn Bass-Ehler (CHAIR) will be transitioning to another role, and there is an opportunity to fill the CHAIR position.

Board Members Present & Absent

Member Names	Present	Absent
Jordan, Elizabeth (Attorney General Designee)	x	
Bieneman, Holly (IDOT Designee)	x	
Curran, John (IL State Senator)		x
Davis, William (IL House Representative)	x	
De Jesus, José (IL State Police Designee)	x	
Dominguez, Dulce (Community Org. Representing Minority Interests)	x	
Garcia, Delila (Law Enforcement)		x
Harris, Jermaine (CO-CHAIR – Law Enforcement)	x	
Logan, Phyllis (Community Org. Representing Minority Interests)	x	
Futterman, Craig (Member of the Illinois Academic Community)	x	
Sheehan, Patrick (IL House of Representative)	x	
Thompson, Amy (Community Org. Representing Minority Interests)	x	

Also present were:

IDOT – Jessica Keldermans
Morreale Communications – Berenice Alvarez
The Mountain Whisper-Light – Nirnaya Miljadic
The Mountain Whisper-Light – Nayak Polissar

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The February 20 and June 12, 2025, Board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a vote.

Discussion Items

Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) traffic or pedestrian stops recording in Illinois

The CO-CHAIR opened up the discussion regarding the recording of ICE traffic or pedestrian stops in Illinois. This topic was raised at the previous meeting as an opportunity to submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to access records for the Board to review. It was noted that there is currently no practice or requirement for ICE to submit stop data to the Board, so a FOIA request would be necessary to obtain that information.

Board member Amy Thompson shared that she and Board member Dulce Dominguez connected about submitting a request for ICE traffic stop data. Board member Dominguez asked if submitting the request through the Board would pose a challenge. The CO-CHAIR clarified that there had been an initial discussion at the last meeting about whether the Board wanted to take on the request. Ms. Thompson added that the request is in collaboration with Impact for Equity.

The CO-CHAIR asked whether the Board would support the request Ms. Thompson and Ms. Dominguez are working on as supplement support, or if they would prefer to pursue an independent request.

Ms. Dominguez asked whether the support would come from the Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) or who could assist the Board in processing the data into something digestible.

Holly Bieneman noted that if the Board decides to move forward, the Department will need to handle the process, and she will need to escalate the request for approval. She also suggested that, in some cases, it may be better for an individual or organization to take that on.

Representative William Davis asked what happens to a vehicle when a person is taken into custody during a traffic stop.

The CO-CHAIR referenced a witnessed ICE traffic stop.

Representative Davis noted that under normal circumstances when a person is taken into custody and their car is towed, the person can usually make a phone call, or the local police department may handle the towing.

A staff member from Representative Sheehan's office noted that the vehicle would either be towed or left legally parked.

The CO-CHAIR suggested Board members Thompson and Dominguez look into any support they might need and check back in with the Board.

2024 Annual Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Study key findings and related data

Nirnaya Miljadic and Nayak Polissar from The Mountain Whisper-Light presented the Illinois Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Study 2024 Annual Report. Nirnaya Miljadic provided data on agency compliance with reporting. About 18% of agencies are non-compliant this year, compared to 16% last year, with little change typically seen year to year.

Notably, there were 2,050,405 traffic stops, and 88,019 pedestrian stops, with 94% of pedestrian stops being conducted by the Chicago Police Department. Mr. Miljadic also provided a breakdown of benchmarks used in the study. Each set of benchmarks attempts to model encounters between officers and drivers, and there can be multiple sets used. A notable feature of the benchmark model is its racial distribution. Two benchmarks were reviewed including population-based benchmarks and mileage-based benchmarks, each with limitations. Data comparing citation rates for stops involving minorities versus stops involving whites was also discussed.

Board member Phyllis Logan asked for clarification on who is included as a minority. Mr. Miljadic noted that minorities include Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.

Representative Davis raised concerns about how stops involving contraband, specifically marijuana, were handled in the past. He noted that in white communities, officers often issued local ordinance tickets for marijuana possession, allowing individuals to pay fines at the village hall. However, Black youths were typically given criminal citations, which required them to go to court. Representative Davis asked how these differences were accounted for in the data.

Mr. Miljadic responded that the report does not account for what happens before a stop, only what is reported. He noted that the report includes data on contraband stops, including drugs and alcohol, but it does not necessarily dig into how individual stops are processed or treated differently across communities.

Nayak Polissar noted that there could be further considerations if the analysis were to go deeper.

It was also noted that among larger agencies, those reporting at least 50 stops involving both White and Black drivers, 93% showed that Black drivers were stopped at higher rates.

Data was also presented involving multiple stops of individual drivers.

Ms. Logan asked if the numbers presented in the report, were hypothetical. Mr. Miljadic clarified that the numbers were not hypothetical, only one slide in the presentation used a hypothetical number.

Each agency that submitted stop data receives an advance copy of their tables for review and feedback. This year, 31 agencies commented on their traffic stop tables, and 11 commented on their pedestrian stop tables.

It was emphasized that each benchmark model, when interpreted properly, provides valuable insights into police stops. While no model is perfect, it serves as a starting point for important conversations.

Proposed Legislative Recommendations.

Jessica Keldermans reviewed proposed recommendations with the Board to determine whether it required a legislative change or a form change.

She noted that IDOT's Legislative Affairs advised the Board to pursue the proposed legislative recommendations independently, similar to board members Amy and Dulce's approach with ICE-related data.

Proposed changes include adding a body type category, which would require a legislative change, adjusting the reporting time would require a form change that could be done internally. Adding Middle Eastern and North African as a race category on the stop study forms will require a legislative change. This change will align the race categories listed in the stop study with the U.S. Census race categories. The final item considered was whether to record if an officer wore a body-worn camera, if the stop was captured on an in-car camera, or both. This change would also require legislation.

All proposed changes would need to be incorporated into the public act governing the Illinois Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Statistical Study and IDOT offered support in drafting the revisions.

Board member Amy Thompson asked for clarification on why IDOT recommends pursuing legislative changes independently.

Jessica Keldermans explained that the Legislative Affairs office limits the number of proposals IDOT may submit to the Governor's office each year, which is why pursuing changes independently was advised.

Board member Amy Thompson asked about the timeline for implementing form changes. Ms. Keldermans explained that if the Board votes to proceed and the legislation passes with the Governor's signature by next July, IDOT could complete the necessary form updates in time for law enforcement agencies to implement them by January 2027. This schedule would allow for a full calendar year of data collection.

Ms. Thompson asked for clarification on which items do not require legislative changes and rather form changes.

Ms. Keldermans explained that IDOT's forms team would make the necessary updates and then distribute the revised forms to agencies.

Board member Holly Bieneman asked whether form updates would begin following the approval in November and asked about the timeline.

Ms. Keldermans noted that if the proposed legislation moves forward, the form change could be made all at once. However, if the board wants the form change for 2026, it can be done sooner.

Board member Craig Futterman expressed support for the form changes but also mentioned additional recommendations from the Data Collection Forms subcommittee. Ms. Keldermans noted that, based on last year's process, the subcommittee reviews proposed changes, shares them with the Board, and the Board votes on them. She noted that, since the next meeting is in November, it might not be enough time for agencies to review.

The Board is aligned with the proposed changes. The Data Collection Forms subcommittee will meet separately to review and finalize the legislative form updates, and the Board will identify sponsors for the legislative changes.

Subcommittee Updates

Law Enforcement Compliance

The subcommittee previously conducted surveys and focus groups with agencies to better understand the data submission process, including the incentives and consequences related to compliance and non-compliance.

Representative Sheehan noted that non-compliance may be more common among rural departments with limited personnel potentially being a factor.

Representative Davis expressed concerns regarding the implementation of form changes.

Data Collection Forms

The subcommittee will meet again to review the proposed form changes and discuss next steps for the legislative recommendations.

Model Policies and Training

The CO-CHAIR encouraged board members who are not currently on a subcommittee to consider joining the Model Policies and Training subcommittee.

Public Comment

The meeting was open to public comment.

Mr. Polissar with Mountain-Whisper Light commented that there are agencies that engage in racial profiling stops, and if they do not submit data, they cannot be held accountable, which may be a contributing factor to non-compliance data rates.

Open Discussion

Representative Sheehan noted that some agencies require officers to conduct a certain number of pedestrian and vehicle stops per shift. These are not necessarily citation stops but could include warnings or contact cards. He mentioned that the spring legislative session may be an opportunity for legislators to connect on the quota law and consider possible amendments. He also expressed interest in connecting with Representative Davis on this issue.

Mr. Futterman asked whether, in light of ongoing non-compliance, the Board has considered recommending amendments to the law to make compliance enforceable. The CO-CHAIR responded that the Law Enforcement Compliance subcommittee has previously conducted interviews and surveys to better understand the reasons behind non-compliance and is now looking into potential incentives and penalties.

Ms. Keldermans noted there have been questions about whether bicycle stops are considered pedestrian stops. She stated that, as of now, they are not considered pedestrian stops, but this topic could be looked into further.

New Business

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 20. If members are unable to make this time, please let Ms. Keldermans know in advance so quorum can be made.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. with a formal vote.

Action Items

Agenda items for the next meeting will include an update from board member Amy Thompson and board member Dulce Dominguez on ICE-related data, as well as a review of proposed legislative form changes by the Data Collection Forms subcommittee.