

MINUTES

KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Training Room, Bourbonnais Fire Department,
1080 Armour Road, Bourbonnais, IL

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 @ 9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Blanchette, Kankakee County Highway Department; Chief Scott O'Brien, Manteno Fire Department; David Tyson, Tyson Engineering, Inc.; Cortney Koning, River Valley *METRO* Mass Transit District; Chief Ed St. Louis, Bourbonnais Fire Department; Deputy Chief Vern Mitchell, Bourbonnais Police Department; Trooper David Verkler of the Illinois State Police; Deputy Chief John Gerard, Kankakee Police Department; Lt. Bill Carnahan, Kankakee County Sheriff's Police; Chief Mike Whalen, Limestone Fire Department; Chief Jim Travis, Bradley Fire Department; Laurie Cyr, Village of Bourbonnais;

OTHERS PRESENT

Sgt. Derek Ryan, Kankakee County Sheriff's Police; Laura McElroy, The Herald; Jim Greenstreet, Mike Lammey and Geoff Olson, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tyson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Tyson offered the minutes of the November 13, 2013 meeting for approval. Mr. Blanchette made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Koning. Motion carried.

CRASH REPORT FORM TRAINING

Mr. Greenstreet announced the training was held January 21, 22 and 23, 2014, with a total of 45 officers attending. In addition to local officers, officers from the Illinois State Police, Lewis University Police Department, Shorewood Police Department and the Plainfield Police Department attended. IDOT updated the power point presentation for our class, but the 2011 version is still on the website. They are working on upgrading their website and will not post the newer version of the power point until that is done. Mr. Lammey stated that IDOT will not be going around the state to teach this class, but Kankakee County will do so.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

Mr. Lammey stated that this was not going as planned. The intention was to get something in the

Daily Journal every other month, at least. It now appears that Mr. Lammey and Mr. Tyson will need to essentially write the articles and submit them to the Daily Journal for printing.

YELLOW DOT CAMPAIGN

Chief Whalen explained the IDOT Yellow Dot program. There was a short IDOT webpage video on the program. (Available at www.yellowdot.org) In order to provide immediate medical information to first responders at the scene of a crash, vehicle owners can place a 3" diameter Yellow Dot on the driver's side rear window, and place a yellow card in their glove compartment with pertinent medical history information. This immediate information may speed up the correct medical treatment and be life-saving. The Yellow Card would also have a recent photo of the person identified by the card to prevent errors. There can be multiple Yellow Cards in the car for different people who regularly drive or ride in the car.

The Yellow Dot packets are currently available at the Limestone Fire Department, the Kankakee County Health Department and the Services of Will, Grundy and Kankakee Counties, Inc. offices at 1015 N. Fifth Avenue in Kankakee. Chief Whalen stated that they distributed the packets at their Open House and they were well received. It was suggested that other Fire and Police Departments in the County request the materials from IDOT to distribute to their citizens.

AUTHORITY FOR INTERSTATE / OTHER ROAD CLOSURES

Chief St. Louis related a recent Interstate 57 situation where they had to close the south-bound lanes due to a car fire with smoke obscuring the roadway, for the safety of people travelling. There was a subsequent injury crash in the backed-up traffic.

Trooper Verkler stated that the law states that in the absence of law enforcement, fire service officers may close the Interstate for safety reasons. Trooper Verkler stated that there is a responsibility that goes with closing the roadway, to provide guidance to safely exit the area. Heavy trucks need to be directed onto suitable load bearing roads to detour. When the need arises, the State Police District Headquarters needs to be notified. They will notify IDOT. The message boards at the north and south ends of the county may be used to notify drivers of road closures, back-ups and detours. For long lane closures, IDOT may be able to bring out barricades, warning signs and arrow boards.

Mr. Blanchette stated that for County Highways, they have a trailer pre-stocked with barricades and signs to take to a scene to make emergency lane or road closures. Each Township would have responsibility for the township roads, as would each municipality, and as IDOT has responsibility for the State Highways and Interstate.

Trooper Verkler reported that they have learned that when a car is available, they could have a police unit back up behind the cue of cars backed up at crash scenes, thus slowing down the traffic and reducing the rear-end collisions at the back of the cue.

REPORT ON HANDS FREE CELL PHONE ENFORCEMENT

Departments present reported that they started issuing warnings in January but are now writing citations. People are still using the phone in their hands, sometimes holding it with it on "speaker-phone" mode, thinking erroneously that is "hands free". The legislature allowed for a

lower fine for first offenders, but the bond on the ticket is still \$120.00. If the police unit can accept your credit card, there is a fee of about \$4.50 on top of that. Some people present indicated some visor mounted voice activated devices can be distracting as they call the wrong numbers.

2007 - 2011 CRASH DATA

Mr. Lammey reported that we have the 2007 to 2011 compiled on a spreadsheet for Fatal and "A" Injury crashes in the County. This information will be made available to the Safety Committee mailing list via e-mail, possibly as a pdf file. The crash locations, date and IDOT SFE Bar-code number are listed on the spreadsheet. This data will be used for the current Long Range Transportation Plan that is currently being written.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 30, 2014 at 9:00 AM, at the Bourbonnais Fire Department Training Room.

NEW BUSINESS

Lt. Carnahan reported that IDOT has informed the County that they are soon to be closing one of the I-57 river bridges, moving traffic to one lane each direction on the other bridge. They will place piers in the river to operate equipment from to remove the closed bridge and rebuild a new bridge. The pier installation will wait until it is certain to not be an ice-jam problem. Also, they will be using dynamite on the old bridge piers.

Mr. Blanchette reported that the piers and bridge structure of the Warner Bridge should be inspected in the next few days. Any damage must be assessed before the bridge can be opened to traffic.

Mr. Blanchette asked about the Vision, Mission and Goals exercise that had been scheduled for a prior meeting. Mr. Lammey reported that will be on a future agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tyson adjourned the meeting at 9:37 AM.