

MINUTES

KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY SAFETY COMMITTEE

**(2ND Floor Conference Room, County Administration Building,
189 E. Court Street, Kankakee, IL 60901)**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013 @ 10:00 A.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chad Gessner, Kankakee County Sheriff's Office; Mark Rogers and Steve Blanchette, Kankakee County Highway Department; Josh Clyden, Kurtz/St. Mary's Ambulance Service; Bob Gessner, Eric Cavender and Stephanie Jackson, Kankakee County Coroner's Office; Joel Greer, MG2A/Village of Bradley; Deputy Chief John Gerard and Sgt. Sam Miller, Kankakee City Police Department; Gregg Murphy, I-KAN Regional Office of Education; John Donovan, Federal Highway Administration; Chief Mike Whalen, Limestone Fire Department; Nicole Leonhardt, The Daily Journal; Kevin Hack, Riverside EMS; Trp. David Verkler and Trp. Steven Sigler, Illinois State Police; Rick Lalumendre, Olivet Nazarene University; David Tyson, Tyson Engineering, Inc.; Assistant Chief Phil Perkins, Kankakee City Fire Department; Lt. Mike Johnston, Bradley Police Department; Courtney Koning, River Valley *METRO* Mass Transit District; Chief Jim Baird, Bradley Fire Department; Roger Blakley and Tom Caldwell, Illinois Department of Transportation; Chief James Phelps, Bourbonnais Police Department; Laurie Cyr, Village of Bourbonnais; Beth Wilcox, Herscher CUSD # 2; Chief Ed St. Louis, Bourbonnais Fire Department; Mike Lammey, Jim Greenstreet and Ashley Skimerhorn, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lammey called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comment forms filed.

INTRODUCTION OF CURRENT MEMBERS

Mr. Lammey introduced the currently appointed member of the Committee. Mr. Greenstreet introduced additional persons who had agreed to be members and will be appointed by the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) at their May 8, 2013 meeting. Others present were encouraged to let Mr. Lammey or Mr. Greenstreet know as soon as possible if they would like to serve as a Committee member. Mr. Lammey also explained that this Committee must follow the Open Meetings Act. Therefore, all who are appointed as members of the Committee must complete Open Meetings Act training and provide a copy of their Certificate to Mr. Greenstreet to maintain on file.

EFFORTS TO BROADEN MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Lammey addressed the Committee about the need to bring others in to serve on this committee. We are seeking to include more people from education, to include school transportation directors, driver's education instructors and others.

MEETING NOTES FROM MARCH 13 & 15

Combined meeting notes from the two meetings were presented for review. This is the first official meeting, so the prior meetings have no official minutes.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Lammey explained that this Committee will report to the Kankakee Area Transportation Study (KATS) MPO Policy Committee. Mr. Lammey stated that since Mr. Tyson attends those meetings regularly, it would be logical for him to also report on this Committee to the MPO Policy Committee. Mr. Blakley nominated Mr. Tyson, seconded by Ms. Jackson. There were no other nominations. Mr. Tyson was elected.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. Tyson asked who would be interested in serving as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Lammey stated that Lt. Carnahan has expressed a willingness to serve in that capacity. Mr. Rogers nominated Lt. Carnahan, seconded by Chief Phelps. There were no other nominations. Lt. Carnahan was elected.

PRESENTATION ON OPERATION CLEAR

Coroner Gessner reported to the Committee that the 18 traffic fatalities in Kankakee County in 2012 has prompted a joint effort with the Coroner's Office, the Illinois State Police and every local law enforcement agency in Kankakee County to address four fatal factors:

- Speeding
- Distracted Driving
- Impaired Driving
- Not Wearing Seat Belts (Driver and Passengers)

PRESENTATIONS TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Coroner Gessner reported he has done presentations in schools about the hazards of texting while driving. On April 17 the Coroner's Office participated with the State Police, Herscher Fire and Police Departments and others to present a simulated multiple fatality crash scene to the entire Herscher High School. An underage, intoxicated driver was arrested. A parent of one came to the scene. Other parents were notified at home, and after being shown their child's driver's license, called their child's cellular phone to try to disprove the bad news. The phone rang unanswered at the crash site.

Another school presentation will be at Manteno High School May 2, 2013. There will be a simulated crash scene in the morning and a simulated court trial in the afternoon. There will be similar programs in the fall at Bishop McNamara High School and at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

Mr. Lammey showed a presentation on crash reports explaining how the reports are coded for seriousness of injuries and how and where the records are kept. Fatal crash reports for 2011 were given to those present to review, with personal identification information redacted.

There is a need to access the data more quickly, as the reports obtained by the Planning Department from IDOT are nearly two years old. IDOT wants to make available to the various highway departments and engineers the crash reports in real time, but the computer enhancements are not possible with their current budget. Electronic access to the police crash reports in Kankakee County would be a step forward.

Mr. Greenstreet explained that crash report quality is important and we are working with IDOT Traffic Safety to do another series of classes for police officers to clearly report details of how the crash occurred, as we did in 2008. Some Police Chiefs had requested this class.

Mr. Lammey then showed a presentation on creating a County Safety Plan. One task for this Committee is to develop a county safety plan. Mr. Blakley had forwarded access to Federal Highway text titled Developing Safety Plans, which was distributed to those present. The Safety Committee was already doing many of the suggested steps identified in this document and will consider using more ideas found in it.

Mr. Gessner brought up his recent discussions with Limestone Fire Chief Whalen concerning Warner Bridge Road, especially at 2000 N Rd, where a fire fighter lost his life. A major factor in that crash was unusually heavy fog, but other crashes have occurred along that segment. County Highway Department and IDOT representatives at the meeting discussed ways to review the situation, up to possibly doing a roadway safety assessment (RSA) at the intersection. Other factors on the road reportedly include high speed driving on Warner Bridge Road and drivers at the stop signs not properly perceiving the high speed of the approaching traffic.

Trp. Sigler asked if there might be consideration of breaking this large Committee into sub-committees. This will be considered.

Mr. Tyson explained to all that under the Open Meetings Act, everything to be discussed at the meetings will need to be on future agendas. Everyone who has a topic for discussion at future meetings will need to forward the topic to Mr. Lammey or Mr. Greenstreet two weeks before the meeting to make it onto the Agenda prior to it being posted for public awareness.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on June 5, 2013 at 9:00 AM. The location is yet to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tyson adjourned the meeting at 10:49 AM