

MINUTES
KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
SAFETY COMMITTEE
ROAD CLOSURE DISCUSSION GROUP
Bourbonnais Fire Department Training Room
1080 Armour Road, Bourbonnais, IL
Monday, June 2, 2014 @ 1:30 PM

IN ATTENDANCE

Mark Rogers and Steve Blanchette, Kankakee County Highway Department; Chief Scott O'Brien, Manteno Fire Department; Chief Ed St. Louis, Deputy Chief Jim Keener and Lt. Mileen Joines, Bourbonnais Fire Department; Chief Jim Phelps, Bourbonnais Police Department; Trooper David Verkler and Lt. Jason LoCoco of the Illinois State Police; Deputy Chief John Gerard, Kankakee Police Department; Chief Jim Travis and Deputy Chief Laverne Learned, Bradley Fire Department; Mike Chamness, Village of Bourbonnais; Chief Ed Leeson, Matteson Fire Department; Roger Blakley, IDOT D-3 Local Roads; Bruce Hucker, IDOT D-3 Operations Engineer; Assistant Chief Phil Perkins, Kankakee Fire Department; Al Ponton, Riverside Ambulance Service; Jim Greenstreet, Mike Lammey and Geoff Olson, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lammey called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everybody introduced themselves and their agency.

DISCUSSION OF INTERSTATE / OTHER ROAD CLOSURES

Mr. Lammey explained that this meeting has been requested to discuss what can be done to make the on-scene personnel safer and to reduce the chances of additional crashes in backed-up traffic. Chief St. Louis introduced Deputy Chief Jim Keener. Chief Keener explained the scene on I-57 where there was a south-bound road-closure car fire followed by a multi-vehicle crash that spilled across the median at the end of the curve north of the 315 entrance ramps. Fire equipment had to relocate to the north-bound inside lane and block that lane, with high speed vehicles coming around the curve. The question is how can the scene be made safer for the personnel and the motoring public in these type situations?

Mr. Lammey introduced Mr. Bruce Hucker, Operations Manager for IDOT District 3. Mr. Hucker explained the need for IDOT to be notified in case of any lane closure or roadway closure on the Federally funded roadways, such as the Interstate. The first-on-scene personnel need to notify dispatch to notify the Illinois State Police District 21 Ashkum to inform IDOT. They need to be told the expected duration of the lane/road closure and what assistance may be needed from IDOT.

For short duration closures, IDOT recommends Fire and Police personnel effect blocking and

traffic direction as needed. Mr. Hucker also recommended that if it's possible to permit traffic to continue through the crash scene, even if it's a mere 20 MPH on the shoulder, it can help make the crash scene a little safer for the backup up motorists.

For longer duration events, if/when crews become available, IDOT can bring trucks with crash attenuators and message/arrow boards and barricades. Portable message/arrow board trailers could be deployed for longer duration crash scenes. During regular work days, crews will need to be called in to their garage to pick up the right equipment and then go to the scene. After hours, crews will need to be called in to secure the right equipment to take to the scene. So, there can be a 1 to 2 hour response time by IDOT crews. If crews are all plowing snow, they will typically not be available for traffic control.

Mr. Hucker also explained if the first agency to arrive is the fire department, they have the authority to close a road. The road would remain closed until they open it back up, or Illinois State Police arrive, or the owner of the roadway arrives.

Mr. Hucker inquired about attendance at one of the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Training Program classes now being offered. Trooper Verkler stated he had attended and just completed the instructor training course as well. The class was created as a joint effort with IDOT, IEMA, Illinois Towing and Recovery Association, Fire, EMS and Police personnel. The goal of the class is to provide responders with information and best practices that improve safety at traffic incident scenes. Some recommendations include having 6 traffic cones in every police car, fire truck and ambulance and having portable flexible signs to deploy on approaches to crash scenes. Classes can be scheduled through the local Emergency Management Agency, a Fire or Police Department or Sheriff's Department, as long as a significant number of personnel will attend from at least two different groups (Fire, EMS, Police, Towing, EMA). Mr Hucker also explained the benefit of doing inter-agency trainings because all personnel is familiar with the abilities of the other agencies also on the scene.

Mr. Lammey stated he would help secure a TIM Class locally.

Mr. Hucker also recommended having a MABAS Box Alarm Card for mutual aid from adjacent Fire Departments for manpower and equipment for traffic control for Interstate and other road closures.

The new message boards located north of Manteno for south bound traffic and south of Kankakee for north bound traffic are available to give warning to motorists of lane and road closures of a longer duration. It may take 30 to 60 minutes to get the message onto the board(s). And it is important to cancel the message promptly when the roadway lanes are opened. Nine new message boards were erected in District 3 at a cost of \$1.9 million.

Mounting any signs or lighted signs onto overpasses will be difficult as the structural integrity of the overpass cannot be compromised and the risk of the mounted signage breaking loose and falling onto traffic is significant. Similarly, hanging a temporary banner is risky as it could fall onto a windshield and blind a driver and cause a crash.

If an IDOT bridge structure or railroad bridge structure over an IDOT roadway is hit by

anything, IDOT must be notified to inspect the bridge for structural integrity. If any other bridge is hit, the owner of the bridge must be notified. Not notifying may leave the Fire or Police service liable for future failure of the structure.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lammey adjourned the meeting at 2:42 PM.