

# MINUTES

## KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

### SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

**Wednesday, June 18, 2014 @ 9:00 A.M.**

#### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chief St. Louis, Bourbonnais Fire Department; Master Sergeant LoCoco and Trooper Verkler, Illinois State Police; Mr. Koning, River Valley METRO; Mr. Greer, MG2A; Chief O'Brien, Manteno Fire Department; Mr. O'Keefe, Manteno; Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Blakley, IDOT; Mr. Tyson, Tyson Engineering; Mr. Lalumendre, Olivet Nazarene University; Chief Travis, Bradley Fire Department, Mr. Blanchette, Kankakee County Highway Department.

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Meyer, URS Corporation; Mr. Greenstreet, Mr. Lammey, and Mr. 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 April 30 12, 2014 meeting for approval. Mr. Blanchette made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. O'Keefe. Motion carried. Chairman Tyson offered the minutes of the June 2, 2014 road closure discussion meeting for approval. Chief St. Louis made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Trooper Verkler. Motion carried.

#### TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Chief St. Louis announced that there will be a Traffic Incident Management Training on July 17, 2014 for those who are interested. There will be enough seating for up to 50 attendees. He is also planning to schedule two more trainings for those who cannot make it to the July 17 training. The dates were not yet scheduled for the other sessions, but the next one will be in the evening for the firefighters. The third will be in the daytime. The dates for those two trainings will be announced when they become available.

#### 2007 - 2011 CRASH DATA

Mr. Lammey explained that data shown on the maps attached to the memo that was sent to the

committee and available at the meeting. The maps showed fatal and serious injury crashes throughout Kankakee County. He noted that there were a higher number of fatal crashes in the eastern side of the county. The most notable roads where fatalities occurred were on IL-17 east of Grant Park, IL-114 east of Momence, and IL-1 north of St. Anne. Mr. Lammey also commented on the finding that there are very few crashes in the Herscher area. This finding is likely the result of increased driver's education at Herscher High School because in the past there had been a number of high school student fatalities. Chief St. Louis suggested presenting this information to the Herscher High School Board because it was difficult to implement this increased driver's education in the curriculum.

## **VISION, MISSION STATEMENT, GOALS EXERCISE**

Mr. Meyer presented the draft version of the vision, mission statement, and goals for the committee. At the last meeting, the committee split up into groups of the four E's (engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency services) to discuss what they felt were important ideas and goals for the safety committee.

The proposed vision statement is "Partnering to create the safest countywide transportation system for users of all ages, abilities, and modes." The proposed mission statement regards the mission of the committee to be to proactively address multimodal transportation safety issues with the goal of reducing crashes within Kankakee County. Some of the proposed action items for the committee are to collaborate and effectively implement the four E's. Analyze crash data and trends to develop recommendations to increase traffic safety. Provide guidance and recommendations to the Kankakee Area Transportation Study Technical and Policy Committees to assist in MAP-21 compliance and achieving a 5% reduction in fatalities and serious crashes each year.

The creation of a Safety Subcommittee is still in the planning stages. Mr. Meyer asked if the committee thought only engineers should be on the subcommittee, or if others should be included too. Members of the committee said it would be better to include members from all four E's to collaborate and analyze crash data to reach better recommendations.

Mr. Blanchette asked if there were any other safety committees in Illinois. Mr. Caldwell responded that Champaign County had safety plans, but it may have been a year or more since their safety committee had met. He also said that this committee was the first of its kind for Illinois MPOs and as such is serving as the model for other areas. He stated that perhaps the trucking companies might be interested in being involved with the safety committee because of the fatalities and serious injuries involving trucks. Mr. Lammey said he was also interested in finding out if the towing and construction companies might be interested, too.

Chief O'Brien reported that there is a computer aided dispatch (CAD) software system that will be implemented starting January 1, 2015, which will allow preliminary real-time data on crashes in Kankakee County. He said the data wouldn't have any detail, just when and where crashes are occurring. This kind of data would help the committee address immediate safety issues concerning transportation safety, rather than waiting several months or years for crash data to become available through other means. Mr. Lammey asked if it would be possible to add this to

the regular agenda items for the committee and Chief O'Brien responded that he would be able to.

Mr. O'Keefe asked if there was a process on how to implement new safety measures after an incident has occurred. He stated that on their village roadways they receive direct communication from the police and can do immediate road repairs or place additional signage. He explained that it can be very difficult to get changes in the roadways after a crash happens, if a change is made at all on non-village roadways. Trooper Verkler explained that Illinois State Police can receive help from the state safety engineer to increase signage on roads. Mr. O'Keefe thought it would be a good idea to add an action item to the goals of the committee to create a process on how to increase safety after an incident occurs.

Trooper Verkler explained that IDOT has received a 3-year grant to fund a total of sixteen crash reconstructionists from Illinois State Police. There are four districts of crash reconstructionists in Illinois and there are four crash reconstructionists for each district. Mr. Lammey asked if it would be possible to receive crash reconstruction reports to aid in the understanding of crashes in the county. Trooper Verkler said it would be possible, but not all would be available. He explained that any crashes that may be pending a criminal investigation are not released to anyone.

### **REPORT ON HANDS FREE CELL ENFORCEMENT ISSUE AND MORE**

There was no news regarding the enforcement of hands free cellphone use. Master Sergeant LoCoco explained that the law was still new and would require more time before a decrease in cellphone use was noticeable. He compared it to the seatbelt law, which he said took quite a while before drivers changed their habits regarding seat belts.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be August 13, 2014 at 9:00 AM, at the Bourbonnais Fire Department Training Room.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Tyson adjourned the meeting at 10:12 AM.