

MINUTES

KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

WEDNESDAY, October 9, 2013 @ 9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bill Carnahan, Kankakee County Sheriff's Office; Steve Blanchette, Kankakee County Highway Department; Deputy Chief John Gerard, Kankakee City Police Department; Chief Mike Whalen, Limestone Fire Department; Rick Lalumendre, Olivet Nazarene University; Chief Scott O'Brien, Manteno Fire Department; David Tyson, Tyson Engineering, Inc.; Cortney Koning, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Laurie Cyr, Village of Bourbonnais; Chief Ed St. Louis, Bourbonnais Fire Department; Roger Blakley, Illinois Department of Transportation; Chief Jim Phelps and Deputy Chief Vernon Mitchell, Bourbonnais Police Department; Kevin Hack, Riverside EMS; Brian O'Keefe, Village of Manteno Public Works Department; Therese Schultz, Aquinas Catholic Academy; Stephanie Jackson and Eric Cavender, Kankakee County Coroner's Office; and Chief Jim Travis, Bradley Fire Department

OTHERS PRESENT

Diane Redwitz, Kankakee County Highway Department; Matt Baxter, Bradley Police Department; Michael Fenton, The Bourbonnais Herald; Jim Greenstreet, Mike Lammey and Ashley Taetsch, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tyson called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Tyson also reminded those present who have not yet done so, to complete the Open Meetings Act training and to send their certificate to the County Planning Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Tyson offered the minutes of the August 14, 2013 meeting for approval. Deputy Chief Gerard made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Chief Phelps. Motion carried.

CRASH REPORT FORM TRAINING

Mr. Greenstreet stated that since he was volunteered to present the training, he has re-contacted IDOT about their power point training module. They put on the class for us in 2008 and have posted on-line their power point. They last updated it in 2011. There have been changes in the crash report form for 2013. We have asked them to update the module before January, so we can put on the classes in the latter half of January, 2014. Mr. Greenstreet will update it if they do not. The classes will again be posted through the Tri-River Mobile Training Region and officers

attending will receive certificates.

IDOT INFORMATION

Mr. Blakley presented four topic areas of concern. The first is the NCHRP (National Cooperative Highway Research Program) Synthesis 451 report titled Emergency Medical Services Response to Motor Vehicle Crashes in Rural Areas. He encouraged emergency response personnel review the report for ways to improve services.

Mr. Blakley then discussed Traffic Control Device Conspicuity, emphasizing the condition and appearance of signs, the location of signs, and the size of signs in being noticed and understood by the motorist. Signs fully or partially obscured by vegetation could be meaningless to a driver.

Mr. Blakley distributed a copy of an article from Popular Mechanics titled "Just how dangerous is daydreaming while driving?" In a study of two years of crash fatality data, 65,000 fatal crashes, 1 in 10 were attributed to driver distraction. 62% of those were blamed on daydreaming, five times the number linked to talking or texting on a mobile phone.

Mr. Blakley reported those interested in researching crash report data for the State of Illinois could access the State Safety Data Mart, where crash data is available to the public from 2003 through 2011.

PRESENTATION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Chief Phelps gave a presentation on how law enforcement responds. He explained how police and county highway engineers came together to straighten and improve N 3000 W Rd after a series of crashes, including a fatality. The result: no crashes there since. This diverse committee can bring about similar improvements to benefit the whole county. He discussed misconceptions about police work, as well as the realities. Police are human beings, so they have the same emotions as the rest of the world, even at tragic scenes. Perceived ill-timed laughter at a joke may be the only available pressure relief valve an emergency responder can use at an otherwise horrible scene. Typical duties of police officers include sitting in their squad car in a parking lot. They may be typing a report into their car computer. They may be running radar, watching a stop light or sign or watching for a suspect. They patrol the roadways, residential areas, businesses, parks, schools and industrial parks. They perform foot patrols, bicycle patrols, respond to calls for service, do traffic enforcement, effect criminal arrests, perform vacation house checks, bicycle registration, education instruction in the public schools, security for special events, perform lock-out services, animal control, report downed or damaged traffic signs, lights, power lines, report needed road repair, motorist assists, conduct security risk assessment for residential and business properties and are trained weather spotters. Chief Phelps also asked for all present to spread the word to everyone, when you call the Police, please stay on the phone. While the officers are being dispatched, you can provide more information to the Police to make their response more safe for all concerned.

KAB CRASH DATA

Mr. Lammey and Mr. Greenstreet discussed the data presented in the hand-outs for the most serious crashes (K being fatal, and A injury and B injury being the next most serious). 2012 and

the first six months of 2013 crash location information was discussed. Mr. Lammey thanked all jurisdictions for their assistance. Mr. Greenstreet stated that the reports for Illinois State Police crashes for 2011, 2012 and the first few months of 2013 has been received from IDOT Traffic Safety.

PRESS COLUMN FROM SAFETY COMMITTEE

The request was made to Mr. Angelo of the Daily Journal. There has been no response.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Officer Matt Baxter of the Bradley Police Department is the School Resource Officer at BBCHS. The school is concerned about the risk to pedestrians crossing the Cleveland Ave entrance driveway, between the main building and the annex classroom building. They are considering closing the gate before school and only allowing busses, faculty and staff enter from that direction. They currently have students and parents enter that way and are seeing some vehicles driving too fast there, where there are pedestrians at risk. The students entering are driving all the way through the back lot area to get to the far east side of the school to where the student parking lot is located at N. Grand Avenue. Closing this entrance to students will increase the number of student that will have to go south to North Street and make a left turn onto North Street, then make a left turn into the student lot on the north side of North Street, increasing the risk of left turn type collisions at both intersections. The school is open to suggestions for resolving the problem.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be November 6, 2013 at 9:00 AM, location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tyson adjourned the meeting at 9:58 AM