

MINUTES

KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 @ 9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mark Rogers and 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; Chief Jim Phelps, Bourbonnais Police Department; Brian O'Keefe, Village of Manteno Public Works Department; Capt. Bridget Bertrand, Master Sergeant Angela Kinstner and Trooper David Verkler of the Illinois State Police; Joel Greer, MG2A / Village of Bradley; Stephanie Jackson, Kankakee County Coroner's Office; and Therese Schultz, Aquinas Catholic Academy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Josh Clyden, Kurtz / St. Mary's Ambulance Service; Jim Greenstreet, Mike Lammey and Ashley Taetsch, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tyson called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Tyson offered the minutes of the October 9, 2013 meeting for approval. Mr. Koning made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Jackson. Motion carried.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT TRAINING

Mr. Greenstreet reminded those present who have not yet done so, to complete the Open Meetings Act training and to send their certificate to him at the County Planning Department.

CRASH REPORT FORM TRAINING

Mr. Greenstreet announced the dates for the training will be January 21, 22 and 23, 2014, with one morning class, one afternoon class and one evening class. Mr. Greenstreet met with IDOT, who will update the training power point presentation. Mr. Greenstreet will be talking with the various police agencies to finalize the class times.

IDOT TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

Mr. Greenstreet asked those present who had attended an IDOT Traffic Incident Management Training Program. A handout for the upcoming classes in Ottawa November 25th was discussed. It was announced that there was a class going on today at Kankakee City. Trooper Verkler had previously attended the class and explained it to the group. The possibility of holding another class here in April or May was raised.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Chairman Tyson reported he and Mr. Lammey had met with Mr. Phil Angelo of the Daily Journal. Mr. Angelo agreed to running an monthly article on the editorial page on various topics of traffic safety nature. Mr. Lammey stated the first article should highlight the January 1, 2014 effective date for mandatory hands-free cellular phone use. Mr. Lammey explained that suggestions for other timely topics will be discussed later in the meeting.

VISION, MISSION STATEMENT, GOALS EXERCISE

This exercise will be held at a later meeting.

CRASH CAUSE EMPHASIS AREA DISCUSSION

Mr. Lammey discussed the handouts for this project and the emphasis areas identified by IDOT for Kankakee County. He stated that he would like to add distracted driver to the emphasis area list. Kankakee County are currently reviewing crash reports for 2007 through 2011 to identify locations and driver behavior factors that fall into these emphasis area categories. He discussed the IDOT identified emphasis areas and the provided example photos of programs in these areas. Mr. Lammey explained that the Safety Committee needs to identify and document programs that are in place and in use in our Kankakee County, then see how these programs can be improved or expanded.

When discussing roadway departure accidents, Mr. O'Keefe reported having seen 4 or 5 crashes in recent weeks on Cardinal Drive between 4000 N Rd and 5000 N Rd. The southern half mile is in Bradley, the northern portion is Bourbonnais Twp. roadway. He believes the problem is a very low shoulder (6" or more drop) and narrow shoulder before the ditch drop off.

Another issue connected to roadway departure is driving experience and skills, problems with younger drivers and older drivers. Mr. Lammey stated he was taught how to drive back onto the road after dropping a wheel onto the shoulder, but he has been told driver's education instructors in many areas no longer have students practice such maneuvers.

Master Sergeant Kinstner reported that the Illinois State Police teach a senior driving 8-hour course that upon completion, drivers receive a 10% discount on their car insurance. This class is \$10 or \$15 per person, but when St. Mary's hosts the class, St. Mary's pays the fees. They also host a four hour class on driving law review at various locations. The Illinois Secretary of State teaches a similar 4-hour class for older drivers at the Salvation Army building.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE DISCUSSION

Chairman Tyson then asked for input on potential newspaper article topics. The hands-free cellular phone law to be effective January 1, 2014 will be highlighted. Announcing that hands-free cellular phone use is illegal in work zones or school zones was suggested.

Captain Bertrand asked when the first article will be in the paper. Chairman Tyson stated the first Wednesday of December. Ms. Schultz asked if it could be in the weekend edition to reach more readers. Chairman Tyson stated that would be nice, but for now they will only do Wednesday.

Captain Bertrand stated the timing would be good to remind drivers of extra caution needed in winter driving, and later other seasonal events, such as proms and graduation time. Additional December issue topics should include all of the new traffic laws taking effect January 1st. Mr. O'Keefe asked the article include an extra caution advisory when driving near snow plows. He also wants parents to keep children from playing on or tunneling into snow mounds on or along the roadway, where the snow plows may put them in danger.

Someone suggested an informational piece about funeral processions and right-of-way. Mr. Rogers suggested making Public Service Announcements (PSA) for the radio stations.

Mr. Lammey stated a letter will be sent to the entire mailing list asking for input on the emphasis areas identified and recommending what should be in the newspaper articles first. Chairman Tyson asked that everyone respond to the letters as soon as possible, so they can get a good article into the Daily Journal. Chairman Tyson asked if anyone had a catchy title for the newspaper article series. Ms. Schultz suggested "Safety Zone".

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be January 8, 2014 at 9:00 AM, at the Bourbonnais Fire Department Training Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tyson adjourned the meeting at 9:53 AM