

MINUTES

KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 @ 9:30 A.M.

Member in Attendance

Trooper Dave Verkler and Lt. Lo Coco, Illinois State Police; Dave Tyson, Tyson Engineering; Steve Blanchette and Diane Redwitz, Kankakee County Highway Dept; Roger Blakley, IDOT District 3; Tom Caldwell, IDOT Urban Planning; David Luhrsen, B.B.C.H.S.; Sgt. Sam Miller, Kankakee Police Department; Bob Gessner and Eric Cavender, Kankakee County Coroner; Deputy Chief Vern Mitchell, Bourbonnais Police Department.

Others Present

Bryan Smith and Jeff Stanek, B.B.C.H.S; Cortney Koning, River Valley METRO; Geoff Olson, Kankakee County Planning Department.

Call to Order

Chairman Tyson called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Blanchette made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Luhrsen. Motion carried.

Traffic Safety Exercise at BBCHS Drivers Ed Class

Mr. Olson informed the committee that in December he presented the drivers' education classes with an exercise using serious crash reports. He explained that the reports are older reports and very heavily redacted – enough to allow students to obtain the necessary information to understand the crashes. He said the students did well and the exercise seems successful. Mr. Olson said the goal of the exercise is to get the students to learn from other people's mistakes and to apply them as they become drivers.

Presentation on Drivers' Education

Mr. Stanek and Mr. Smith gave a presentation to the committee explaining how the drivers' ed program works at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School. They explained that they have a many presenters during the students' time in the course providing a wide array of information. They also try to encourage the students to talk with their parents about driving to learn from their parents as well as inform their parents about changes and new topics regarding traffic laws and safety. They said the students do an exercise using fatal vision goggles, which

the goggles distort the vision of the wearing to simulate what it's like to be under the influence of alcohol. Ms. Redwitz asked in the County supplied any crash data similar to when the County staff worked on traffic safety with Herscher High School. Mr. Olson said no, but it was something to look into.

Mr. Stanek and Mr. Smith explained the drivers' ed classroom course it's comprised of four units, which each building upon the previous unit, within a nine week period. Then there is the behind-the-wheel course which is also nine weeks and incorporates twelve lessons. They explained there is a policy that students must have their learners' permit for at least nine months before taking drivers' education.

Mr. Blanchette asked if they worked with the students for driving off the edge of the road because that has been a very common cause of crashes along the rural roads in the county. Mr. Stanek and Mr. Smith explained that they work with the students on how to make small corrections instead to overcompensating. Mr. Calwell asked if they worked with students on passing on 2-lane roads, they answered by saying they did, but try to impress upon the students not to go over the speed limit. They added that they tell the students to even slow down to assist other drivers are overtaking them to make the road safer for everyone.

HSIP Grant Application

Mr. Olson told the committee that the Crash Analysis Subcommittee has decided it should work toward a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant application. Mr. Olson said he has been working with Mr. Blakley and that three areas have been selected. They intersections of U.S. 45/52 at IL-102, IL-102 at 3000W Road, and IL-102 at 5000W Road where chosen. Mr. Olson said he was have something to present to the Crash Subcommittee next month.

Report On Hands Free Cell Enforcement Issue

Chairman Tyson asked if there were any updates on the enforcement of hands free cell phone use. There was nothing new to report, Sgt. Miller said that it is enforced in Kankakee.

Traffic Safety in the Media

Mr. Olson reminded everyone that this was a new section added to the meetings to discuss current traffic safety issues. He said there has been news regarding the new 3-lane section on IL-17 west of Kankakee and issues with people improperly passing, including stopped school buses. He presented information from the Illinois 2015 Rules of the Road booklet explaining that passing on a 3-lane road with a center left turn lane is not permitted.

He also mentioned that AARP members can take a traffic safety class on-line or in person for \$15 and helps inform attendees of new changes in traffic laws and reminds them of certain aspects of driving they may have forgotten. He told everyone that there are also Bluetooth devices and smartphone apps that can be used to help prevent distracted driving by not allowing calls and text messages while the car is moving.

Other Business

None.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

The next Safety Crash Subcommittee will meet again on February 10, 2016, at 9:30 AM at the County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

The next Safety Committee will meet March 9, 2016 at 9:30 AM at the Bourbonnais Fire Station Training Room.

Adjournment

Mr. Blanchette made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Blakley. Motion carried. Chairman Tyson adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM.