

Iowa County Traffic Safety Meeting Minutes November 9, 2010

1. Meeting called to order by Jeri Grabbert at 9:35 a.m.

Present:

Jeff Berens, WisDOT Traffic
Brett Hubbard, Wisconsin State Patrol
Andrea Loeffelholz, WisDOT/BOTS
Jon Pepper, Iowa County Sheriff's Dept.
Joe Thomas, County Board
Jeri Grabbert, Iowa County Highway Dept

Absent:

Craig Hardy, Iowa County Highway Dept
Dan Meuer, City of Dodgeville
Amy Seeboth, SWWRPC
June Meudt, Iowa County Health Dept.
Craig Lindgren, Wisconsin State Patrol
Bert Parkos, City of Mineral Point
Dave Kieffer, Dodgeville Police Dept
Mark Springer, Drivers Education
Tim Helmberger, Corporate Counsel

Agenda:

2. Jeri Grabbert indicated that the meeting had been duly noticed.
3. Approval of November 2010 agenda and August 2010 minutes by Pepper/Berens. Carried.

Old Business:

4. **18/151 Design Study Update.** Jeri Grabbert updated the committee per the minutes of the Iowa County Transportation Committee. "WDOT has developed an alternative for the intersection of Pikes Peak and W. Brigham Roads with USH 151, as illustrated on the map handout. The new intersection is proposed as an underpass for the township roads. The DOT study has re-evaluated this alternative and determined it as feasible. In addition, a review of the accident history for the vicinity is being considered. The previous committee had expressed concern to WDOT for the accident history related to the reverse s-curves in the area. This underpass alternative would have no effect on the 2 houses in this area. However, the double "S" curves are being evaluated with accident history and any changes resulting from that might have an effect on houses in the area."

Jeri also noted that WisDOT is working on getting a meeting scheduled with the Towns of Brigham, Dodgeville, and Ridgeway, and Iowa County to review the proposal for CTH ID to go all the way through.

Also per the Transportation committee minutes, "the WDOT is performing another project along USH 151/STH18 from the CTH Y/YZ intersection to the CTH J intersection near Verona. The project is required due to traffic volume counts along STH 18/USH 151, and consist of lengthening turn lanes along the corridor." The project started early October, and will continue for about 6-8 weeks with completion prior to Thanksgiving. Joe Thomas asked if the white lines in the turn lanes were going to be painted. Jeff Berens will talk with the DOT paint coordinators to see about getting that done yet this year, which may then be done by the Iowa County Highway Dept. paint crew.

5. **STH 39 Update.** Joe Thomas and Jon Pepper indicated that STH 39 is still closed. Jeri noted that the portion within the Village should be completed this fall. The rural portion will have the binder done this fall and finish the project, the surface coat, next spring.

6. **Intersection of STH 23 and 130 – Correspondence from Juelle Leslie.** Jon Pepper noted that this is a T intersection. Joe Thomas suggested rumble strips. Jeff Berens stated that he found record of 2 accidents since 2005, 1 drunk and 1 due to sun in the driver's eyes. Jeff also noted that there is a Stop Ahead sign on Hwy 130, but perhaps it should be in a better location. Brett Hubbard asked what a 30-foot guardrail would cost. Jeri said she would ask Craig to look into that. Jeff Berens said he would talk to the DOT sign people to check on the age of the night arrows. He felt that this location had good visibility and infrequent accidents. He noted that with the low crash history to DOT may focus on other areas with high crash history first. Another suggestion was to place the flashing lights around the stop sign as was done on Pine Bluff, and asked what the cost of that would be. Jeri will ask Craig to look into this cost also. Jeri indicated that Craig's thoughts were to perhaps put some diamond signs in the front yard, or an arrow board. Jeff Berens will contact Craig with his findings.
7. **Curve at Midway Road and CTH YD in Mineral Point – Correspondence from Steven and Barbara Brody.** Jon Pepper noted that there have been 6 accidents at this location since 2006, which is an average of just over 1 per year, mostly DUI related. Joe Thomas commented that the corner was not that sharp. Jon Pepper added that the level of usage has decreased since 151 was put in. Jeri indicated that Craig had suggested maybe something like chevrons at the curve – diamond shaped for dead end. Jeff Berens will look into further and get back to Craig on this.

Answer to pedestrian crossing in Cobb from last meeting. Jeri told the committee that Craig had talked with John Delaney, DOT about this concern that was raised at the last meeting. John told Craig that for liability reasons the DOT doesn't paint crosswalks on busy roads any more. They don't want to stop traffic. Jeff Berens will look into further and get back to Craig on this.

8. **Traffic Safety Report and Highway Safety Input – Andrea Loeffelholz, WisDOT BOTS.** Andrea Loeffelholz distributed the Weekly Fatality Report as of Sunday, November 7, 2010. Year to date accidents and fatalities are both higher than 2009, but lower than 2008. The number of miles travelled could be a factor. There is a big concern over motorcycle and pedestrian accidents. For motorcycles, there are 23 more fatalities so far in 2010 than in 2009. These are mostly speed or alcohol related. For pedestrians, there are 14 more fatalities so far in 2010 than in 2009. These occur on roads, ramps, and interstates. The DOT is tracking the motorcycle fatalities and looking into requiring more training before motorcyclists can be licensed.

A report of Fatalities by County shows that Iowa County has had 5 so far in 2010. Not included in this report is the recent motorcycle fatality in Iowa County and the pedestrian fatality in the City of Dodgeville. Therefore Iowa County has had 7 fatalities year to date.

The next report Andrea reviewed was of 2009 Deer Crashes by County and Severity. Brett Hubbard noted that Iowa County is low compared to other counties and wondered if the self-reporting weren't being sent in.

The next report shows crash statistics from 1912 through 2008. And the last report shows a comparison of crash statistics by type of crash for years 1999 through 2009.

9. **Review of Accident Spot Report – Jon Pepper, Chief Deputy Sheriff.** Jon Pepper distributed and reviewed the accident spot maps. From January 1 through November 8, 2010, Iowa County has had 197 reportable accidents. Jon summarized the accidents to involve 126 with damages to property, 64 involving injury, and 7 fatalities. 2009 numbers were 268 total, with 186, 78, and 5 respectively.
10. **Reports from other members.** None
11. **Comments from Members or Audience.** None
12. Next meeting scheduled for February 8, 2011 at 9:30 A.M.
13. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. with a motion by Joe Thomas and seconded by Brett Hubbard. Carried unanimously.

Minutes by Jeri Grabbert