

Iowa County Traffic Safety Meeting Minutes February 10, 2009

Meeting called to order by Craig Hardy at 9:35 a.m.

Present:

Jon Pepper, Iowa County Sheriff's Dept.
Dan Pruess, WisDOT Traffic
Joni Graves, SWWRPC
Andrea Loeffelholz, WisDOT/BOTS
Joe Thomas, County Board
June Meudt, Iowa County Health Dept.
Bart Swindall, City of Mineral Point
Craig Hardy, Iowa County Highway Dept.
Jeri Grabbert, Iowa County Highway Dept.

Absent:

Ed James, City of Dodgeville
Briant Russell, Wisconsin State Patrol
Mark Springer, Drivers Education
Dave Kieffer, Dodgeville Police Dept.

Certification of open meeting by Meudt/Thomas. Carried.
Approval of February agenda by Meudt/Pepper. Carried.
Approval of August and December 2008 minutes by Swindall/Thomas. Carried.

Old Business:

- Reviewed and acknowledged notes from December 9, 2008 meeting, which was held without a quorum, no formal action was taken, and informal discussion had taken place.

New Business:

Review of Accident Spot Map

- Jon Pepper reviewed the accident spot maps. He distributed an Iowa County Crash Map prepared with the assistance of Joni Graves. The Sheriff's Office now has six (6) squads equipped with mobile computers. The officers enter their information into the TraCS program on site in these six squads. For the remaining squads, the officers enter their information into TraCS at the Sheriff's Office. The data in the TraCS program is sent to the DOT for their database. The crash maps that were distributed were from this database. This information is accessible at the website shown on the crash maps. From January 1 through February 9, 2009, Iowa County has had 41 reportable accidents, of which there were 0 fatalities, 33 involving property damage, and 8 involving injuries.

Reports from Members

- Dan Pruess introduced himself. He is the DOT Traffic Safety Representative and has replaced Jillene Fehrman.
- Andrea Loeffelholz passed out DVD's called "Preventing Alcohol-Related Crashes." She also noted that Washington County has their own program on a link on the website. Discussion took place on underage drunk driving, parents hosting parties, and schools not enforcing penalties.
- Andrea Loeffelholz distributed a study by Allstate showing teen driving hotspots. This study shows U.S. cities where fatal crash rates involving teen drivers are highest.
- Andrea Loeffelholz distributed a study on teen cell phone use and the short term effect of restricting the use of cell phones on drivers younger than 18 years old.

- Andrea Loeffelholz distributed reports on travel speed, a seatbelt study, accidents involving deer, repeat drunk drivers, and rules of the road.
- Andrea Loeffelholz presented the Weekly Fatality Report. She noted that 2008 was the lowest in fatalities since 1944. Andrea also discussed Wisconsin's seatbelt law. Potentially, Wisconsin could receive \$15.2M in federal funding if the seatbelt law was upgraded to standard enforcement before July 1, 2009. There also was an article on pros and cons for seatbelts on school buses. And last, a Traffic Safety Report was discussed showing the many things that drivers do that distract them from safe driving. For instance, cell phones, text messaging, a dog in the lap, eating, etc. are all unsafe distractions.

Comments from Members or Audience

- Barton Swindall announced that he is resigning from the Traffic Safety Committee and this will be his last meeting.
- June Meudt asked that we continue to review the structure of our committee to make sure we are in compliance with the required representation. The list of required membership was reviewed and it was determined that we need legal representation and a determination of who is the Safety Coordinator. Also we need to determine if filling the seat vacated by Barton Swindall is to be done and if this appointment is by the County Board. It was also noted that Ed James, representing the City of Dodgeville, may resign and the City is looking at replacing him with Alderman Mark James. We will need to determine if this is appropriate since Mark James is the County Patrol Superintendent for the Iowa County Highway Department. Craig Hardy and Jeri Grabbert will discuss these issues with County Administrator Randy Terronez and report back to the committee at the next meeting. Also at the next meeting, the committee will elect a chairperson to fill the position vacated by Leo Klosterman upon his retirement.
- June Meudt noted that they are working on a car seat program, teaching the proper and safe use of car seats and booster seats. She noted that the training is for one week and the trainees will inspect car seat installation.
- Craig Hardy informed the committee that he has implemented an inventory process for signs, guardrails, culverts, and bridges. Iowa County has 3,700 signs to be replaced by 2014 for reflectivity compliance. Craig also discussed the proposed overpasses near Barneveld and Ridgeway.
- Joni Graves asked about any comments on the new round-about. Craig felt the response was positive and that the round-about was accomplishing its intention.
- Craig Hardy acknowledged the resignation of Barton Swindall and thanked him for his service on this committee.

Next meeting is May 12, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Iowa County Highway Dept. .

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. by Loeffelholz/Pruess. Carried.

Minutes by Jeri Grabbert