

Iowa County Traffic Safety Meeting Minutes February 12, 2008

Meeting called to order by June Meudt at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Matthew Brenner, Wisconsin State Patrol
Ben Bureson, Wisconsin State Patrol
Jon Pepper, Iowa Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Andrea Loeffelholz, WisDOT/BOTS
Mark Springer, SWTC Driver's Education
June Meudt, Iowa County Health Dept.
Joe Thomas, Iowa County Board
Jeri Grabbert, Iowa County Highway Dept.

Certification of open meeting by Thomas/Pepper. Carried.
Approval of February agenda by Pepper/Springer. Carried.
Approval of November minutes by Pepper/Springer. Carried.

New Business:

- Jon Pepper reviewed the 2007 Crash Report. For 2007, Iowa County Sheriff's Department statistics show 486 crashes of which 326 were non-injury and 150 involved injuries. There were 215 injuries reported and 7 fatalities. Comparative data for the years 2002 through 2006 was also presented.
- Jon Pepper discussed the Tracs program that the Sheriff's Department is planning to implement as of 3/1/08. This program allows motor vehicle crash reports to be worked on in the squads. It will allow the Mobile Data Reports to be on computer.
- Jon Pepper also commented that the weather conditions have caused the roads to be terrible this year and it is also taking a toll on the employees. Jon commended the Sheriff's Department and the Highway Department on doing a great job of dealing with this. Jon also noted that 5 State Troopers are assigned to Iowa County and that is a tremendous help.
- Joe Thomas brought up the area of Hwy. 151 between Ridgeway and Barneveld. The bad area is between BB and Pike's Peak Road. Many accidents are occurring along this stretch. Drifts are created by snow blowing off the rock cutouts. People are coming into the curves too fast. Jon Pepper suggested signs warning drivers of blowing snow or drifts ahead. Ben Bureson also noted that speed is the biggest factor in these accidents. In the westbound lanes just past YZ, there have been many slide-offs due to speed and he agrees with the need for signage. Andrea Loeffelholz will contact Jill Fehrman at DOT to get engineering point of view.
- Joe Thomas asked about the salt supply. Jeri Grabbert noted that we have some left and are no longer selling any to the surrounding communities. Andrea Loeffelholz commented that years ago fly ash (the clean ash off of coal) was used and that some places have received inquiries. The problem with fly ash is that it makes the vehicles, etc. black. Some communities are now only plowing the main streets.
- Andrea Loeffelholz distributed the Weekly Fatality Report. Currently the five year average of fatalities in Iowa County is 6 per year. As of December 31, Iowa County has reported 7 fatalities in 2007. Andrea also discussed seat belt use, child seat use, motorcycle fatalities, vehicle vs. deer crashes, and traffic safety legislation update. June Meudt asked about a DOT grant for car seats. Andrea will look into this.
- Jeri Grabbert notified committee that a plow had hit a pavement marker that was protruding from highway. The pavement marker flew and landed in the windshield of a passing vehicle. Andrea suggested that Jeri contact Jill Fehrman about state reimbursement for this damage claim.

Next meeting is May 13, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the Iowa County Highway Dept. .

Adjourn by Loeffelholz/Springer. Carried.

Recorder: Jeri Grabbert