

Iowa County Traffic Safety Meeting Minutes May 13, 2008

Meeting called to order by Leo Klosterman at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Ed James, City of Dodgeville
Bart Swindall, City of Mineral Point
Briant Russell, Wisconsin State Patrol
Jillene Fehrman, WisDOT Traffic
Joni Graves, SWWRPC
Andrea Loeffelholz, WisDOT/BOTS
Dave Kieffer, Dodgeville Police Dept.
Leo Klosterman, Iowa County Highway Dept.
Jeri Grabbert, Iowa County Highway Dept.

Certification of open meeting by Swindall/Russell. Carried.
Approval of May agenda by Fehrman/Loeffelholz. Carried.
Approval of February minutes by Swindall/Loeffelholz. Carried.

Review of Accident Spot Report: No Accident Spot Report

Old Business:

- Leo Klosterman asked about the status of the insurance claim regarding the pavement marker that was hit by a plow on Hwy. 151 and damaged the windshield of a passing vehicle. Jeri Grabbert noted that she had submitted pictures to Donna Sanford. Jeri heard back from Hal Galbraith, the Risk Management person at the DOT. Jeri had given Hal's name and phone number to the claimant and has heard nothing since. Presumably this is being handled between the claimant and the DOT since Iowa County has not been contacted any further.

New Business:

- Andrea Loeffelholz distributed the Wisconsin County/City Traffic Safety Commission Guidelines. This booklet can also be found online. Andrea pointed out the section that identifies the minimum nine members required to serve on a Traffic Safety Commission. She noted that the list should be reviewed to verify there is adequate representation on the Iowa County Traffic Safety Commission.
- Andrea Loeffelholz gave the Weekly Fatality Report. Wisconsin is at an all-time low for traffic fatalities. It is currently the lowest it has been in 15 years, with 166 fatalities and 154 accidents as of May 12, 2008. Iowa County has no fatalities to date in 2008.
- Andrea Loeffelholz presented information on a new type of transportation called a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV). The vehicle and the driver must each be licensed by the state, similar to a car. The NEV can not exceed 20 – 25 mph, therefore can not be driven on highways or freeways. Andrea also mentioned other characteristics of the NEV and presented a table showing the laws relating to various other atypical vehicle types, in addition to the NEV. Also attached was a guideline showing the necessary steps for a municipality to follow if they choose to pass an ordinance allowing the use of NEVs within their municipal limits.
- Andrea Loeffelholz handed out a list of new DOT related laws enacted in 2007-2008, specifically mentioning Act 33 regarding NEVs and Act 68, the "Move Over" law, which is now a required topic for driver education curriculum and DMV driver knowledge exams.

- Andrea passed out the articles on first quarter laws of the month. January references speed as the main cause of wintertime crashes, February stresses eliminating distractions such as cell phone usage while driving, and March reiterates the Move Over Law. Another article presented shows that Wisconsin ranks number 1 in underage drinking. Discussion followed.
- Andrea commended the City of Dodgeville Police Department for 3 grants they received. A grant for \$9,000 was awarded for the Tracs software, a \$4,000 grant was awarded for the Drunk Driving Over the Limit – Under Arrest (DDOLUA) Program, and a grant for \$10,000 was awarded for the Click It or Ticket (seat belt) Program.
- Briant Russell raised concern about signage near Mill Creek Road and Survey Road. When traveling east bound on Mill Creek Road, the “Stop Ahead” sign is about one-half mile before the stop sign. He recommended that the sign be closer to the stop sign or that a 2nd sign be placed closer. Leo Klosterman will look into the matter.
- Jillene Fehrman noted that some Driver Education instructors are directing students to navigate crossing all 4 lanes at once and not to stop in the median when crossing a 4-lane highway. The DOT does not agree with this concept but rather would encourage stopping in the median to safely determine that traffic is clear to proceed across the other side of the traffic lanes. The DOT would like this safety practice to reach Driver Education instructors so that it is properly taught.

Next meeting is August 12, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the Iowa County Highway Dept. .

Adjourn by Russell/ Swindall. Carried.

Recorder: Jeri Grabbert