

Iowa County Traffic Safety Meeting Minutes May 12, 2009

Meeting called to order by Craig Hardy at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Jon Pepper, Iowa County Sheriff's Dept.
Dan Pruess, WisDOT Traffic
Amy Seeboth, SWWRPC
Andrea Loeffelholz, WisDOT/BOTS
June Meudt, Iowa County Health Dept.
Dan Meuer, City of Dodgeville
Briant Russell, Wisconsin State Patrol
Craig Lindgren, Wisconsin State Patrol
Craig Hardy, Iowa County Highway Dept.
Jeri Grabbert, Iowa County Highway Dept.

Absent:

Joe Thomas, County Board
Mark Springer, Drivers Education
Dave Kieffer, Dodgeville Police Dept.

Agenda:

Certification of open meeting by Meudt/Russell. Carried.
Approval of May agenda by Meudt/Russell. Carried.
Approval of February 2009 minutes by Pepper/Pruess. Carried.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

Discussion of committee structure and required representation

- Jeri Grabbert discussed the County Board action to fill required vacant and vacated positions of the Traffic Safety Commission. Required vacant positions included a Safety Coordinator and a Legal Representative. The County Board named Jeri Grabbert as the Safety Coordinator and Corporate Counsel Tim Helmberger as the Legal Representative. The County Board also approved the appointment of Alderman Dan Meuer, replacing Alderman Ed James, representing the City of Dodgeville, and the appointment of Amy Seeboth, replacing Joni Graves, representing Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Jeri also noted that Sgt. Craig Lindgren will join the Traffic Safety Commission, representing the Wisconsin State Patrol along with Briant Russell. The nine required positions are filled on the Iowa County Traffic Safety Commission as a result of these additions and changes. It was also noted that within the optional additional positions, the City of Mineral Point would be asked if they are interested in representation on the TSC as a result of the resignation of Barton Swindall at the February 2009 meeting. Jeri Grabbert will contact the City of Mineral Point.

Election of Chairperson

- June Meudt nominated Highway Commissioner Craig Hardy as Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission. Motion by Andrea Loeffelholz and seconded by Briant Russell. Passed unanimously.

Election of Secretary

- Craig Hardy nominated Highway Office Administrator Jeri Grabbert. Motion by Andrea Loeffelholz and seconded by June Meudt. Passed unanimously.

Traffic Safety Report and Highway Safety Input – Andrea Loeffelholz

- Andrea Loeffelholz distributed a report on Winter Maintenance At-a-Glance. This report summarizes costs as well as equipment and material usages for the 2007-2008 winter season, with an average cost of almost \$2,600 per lane mile. She also pointed out the areas of the state where snowfall severity was higher than average, levels of salt usage and costs, and analyses of winter crashes and performance measurements.
- The weekly fatality report was reviewed by Andrea Loeffelholz.
 - While reiterating that 2008 has the best record since 1944, the goal is for 2009 to be even better. However, the reports show accidents and fatalities as of May 4, 2009 – only one third into the year, with 2009 almost reaching the 2008 numbers at this time. Andrea pointed out that during the whole week of February 27, 2009 the entire State of Wisconsin had no fatalities. However other factors such as weather, miles travelled, and the current economic conditions may play a role in the reduction of the statistics. This will continue to be monitored.
 - The Comparison of Fatalities by Counties shows that Iowa County has had 2 fatalities as of May 4, 2009. In 2008 there were 3 fatalities and the 5-year average for Iowa County was 6 fatalities.
- Andrea Loeffelholz reviewed the legislative updates on bills that have been introduced. These included increased penalties for alcohol related offenses, use of cell phones and text messaging while driving, traffic stop data collection for analysis of racial profiling, liability insurance minimums, and elimination of front license plates.
- Andrea Loeffelholz asked if anyone had any ideas or thoughts for different programs that may be eligible for grant funding under BOTS. No one had any ideas at this time but will continue to watch for or think about programs that may qualify.

Review of Accident Spot Report – Jon Pepper

- Jon Pepper distributed and reviewed the accident spot maps. From January 1 through May 11, 2009, Iowa County has had 122 reportable accidents, of which 2 were fatalities from 1 accident, 96 involving property damage, and 25 involving injuries.
- A question was asked about the continued public response to the round about as well as any driving/accident occurrences. The round about is continuing to be successful in accomplishing its intent and the drivers/general public are getting more used to it.

USH 151 Improvement Study, Limited Access Points – Craig Hardy

- Craig Hardy reviewed the different interchange plans that have been presented. He said that the Department of Transportation would like a response from the County by about November or December as to which alternative is preferred. Craig asked the Committee to review the information for a more in-depth discussion at the August TSC meeting. Things to consider include the impact of average daily traffic (ADT) on local and county roads and the necessity of an overpass at CTH T and another bridge to maintain. The estimated start date is in 2016, unless any of this project becomes eligible for stimulus funding. At this time the Ridgeway interchange is still a high priority site as well as CTH F at Blue Mounds.

Reports from Members

- None.

Comments from Members or Audience

- Dan Pruess asked what other construction projects were being planned besides STH 80. Craig Hardy distributed the 2009 Iowa County Construction Project Schedule he had prepared and previously handed out and discussed at the May 4th Transportation Committee meeting. Craig reviewed the schedule with the committee.

Next meeting is August 11, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Iowa County Highway Dept.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. with a motion by Jon Pepper and seconded by June Meudt. Carried.

Minutes by Jeri Grabbert