

# Iowa County Traffic Safety Meeting Minutes November 10, 2009

1. Meeting called to order by Craig Hardy at 9:33 a.m.

## **Present:**

Jon Pepper, Iowa County Sheriff's Dept.  
Dan Pruess, WisDOT Traffic  
Andrea Loeffelholz, WisDOT/BOTS  
June Meudt, Iowa County Health Dept.  
Briant Russell, Wisconsin State Patrol  
Craig Hardy, Iowa County Highway Dept.  
Craig Lindgren, Wisconsin State Patrol

## **Absent:**

Amy Seeboth, SWWRPC  
Joe Thomas, County Board  
Dale Schroeder, Dodgeville Police Dept  
Dan Meuer, City of Dodgeville  
Mark Springer, Drivers Education  
Tim Helmberger, Corporate Counsel  
Jeri Grabbert, Iowa County Highway Dept

## **Agenda:**

2. Certification of open meeting by Meudt/Russell. Carried.
3. Approval of November agenda by Meudt/Russell. Carried.
4. Approval of August 2009 minutes by Meudt/Russell. Carried.

## **Old Business:**

5. **USH 151 Improvement Study, Limited Access Points.** Craig Hardy reviewed the alternatives summarized for WisDOT's upcoming Public Informational Meetings pertaining to the preferred alternative to be evaluated for the environmental documentation. Discussion of the meeting times and locations, as well as the potential schedule for construction in +/- 2016.

## **New Business:**

6. **Appearance of representative of Iowa-Grant school district regarding "School Bus Stop" sign located near STH 18 and CTH XX.** Jon Pepper stated the sheriff's department had received correspondence with regards to this topic. No representative from the school district was present to discuss the issue, item was tabled until the February meeting. Jon Pepper will forward the correspondence to the committee members and contact the school district.
7. **Traffic Safety report and Highway Safety Input – Andrea Loeffelholz**
  - The statewide year-to-date fatality report was reviewed by Andrea Loeffelholz. As of November 9, 2009, accidents and fatalities are still lower than 2008 on a state-wide basis, which has the best record since 1944. Andrea reported that Iowa County has seven fatalities to-date, which is near the four year average of 6.
  - Andrea Loeffelholz noted that the seat belt law is now primary, yet the fine still remains at \$10.00.
  - Andrea provided articles on cell phone, MP3 player, and other distractions to the driver. Discussion included recent mandates for anti-distraction drivers for federal and state employees to refrain from usage while driving.
  - Andrea provided two media blitz articles related to traffic death fatalities for September being the second lowest since WWII and seatbelt waiver forms. Andrea stated seatbelt waivers are not a state or federal form, but notification from a doctor as to the reason for exemption.
  - Andrea Loeffelholz provided some information on the Assembly Bill 283 provisions related to the OWI offences and fines. Discussion of alcohol related incidents and accidents.

- Andrea updated the committee of the seatbelt survey projects being performed for the FHWA. Whereas the feds mandate location for visual verification of seatbelt usage, staff records usage or not of passing traffic. Discussions ensued with regards to “other” issues discovered during this process such as the “Detroit Lean”, rolling stops, and other distractions to drivers.

8. **Review of Accident Spot Report – Jon Pepper**

- Jon Pepper distributed and reviewed the accident spot maps. From January 1 through November 9, 2009, Iowa County has had 282 reportable accidents. Jon summarized the accidents to involve 198 damage to property, 76 involving injury, 7 fatalities, and 2 suicides, the two suicides were vehicle related but not fatalities. Of further mention is the recent increase in car-deer accidents.

9. **Reports from Members**

- Craig Hardy distributed a map illustrating the county trunk highway system which the county has right of way and initial construction plans for or not. He also stated the project is the first step in the process of archiving all county highway right of way onto the countywide GIS database.
- Dan Pruess stated he had reviewed the passing lane location on Hwy. 191 before CTH BB brought up by Joe Thomas at the last meeting. Dan stated the area is actually a widened shoulder with a solid painted delineation line. He commented for the lane to be removed the hill would have to be excavated and ditch re-installed in the vicinity to carry water. The current wide shoulder area has curb & gutter to transfer water and eliminate the ditch. A costly project for little return. Craig stated the actual problem occurs at the bottom of the hill when traffic attempts to turn onto CTH BB, traffic coming down the hill behind tries to pass on the right going southbound thinking this is a turning lane, however due to the location of lane termini there isn't enough room. Jon Pepper stated there is little accident information at the vicinity related to the issue.

10. **Comments from Members or Audience**

- None

11. Next meeting is February 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the Iowa County Highway Dept.

12. Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m. with a motion by Jon Pepper and seconded by Briant Russell. Carried unanimously.

Minutes by Craig Hardy