

**Iowa County Traffic Safety
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2010**

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

Present:

Dan Pruess, WisDOT Traffic
Jeff Berens, WisDOT Traffic
Briant Russell, Wisconsin State Patrol
Amy Seeboth, SWWRPC
Dan Meuer, City of Dodgeville
Tom Knopp, WisDOT/BOTS
Craig Hardy, Iowa County Highway Dept.
Jeri Grabbert, Iowa County Highway Dept

Absent:

Jon Pepper, Iowa County Sheriff's Dept.
June Meudt, Iowa County Health Dept.
Craig Lindgren, Wisconsin State Patrol
Joe Thomas, County Board
Bert Parkos, City of Mineral Point
Andrea Loeffelholz, WisDOT/BOTS
Dave Kieffer, Dodgeville Police Dept
Mark Springer, Drivers Education
Tim Helmberger, Corporate Counsel

Agenda:

2. Certification of open meeting by Russell/Pruess. Carried.
3. Approval of May 2010 agenda by Pruess/Russell. Carried.
4. Approval of February 2010 minutes by Pruess/Russell. Carried.

Old Business:

5. **USH 151/18 Limited Access Study Update.** Craig Hardy noted that there are no updates at this time. We are waiting on a response from DOT on the re-route of CTH ID.
6. **School Bus Stop in Area of STH 18 at CTH XX.** Craig Hardy, Briant Russell, Craig Lindgren, and Dan Pruess held discussions regarding the applicable laws, statutes, and definitions. It was determined that no signage was warranted. Visibility exists. The definition of "Divided Highway" comes from the rules of the road in the statutes. A copy of the determination and the statutes was sent to Dave Hottenstein of Hottenstein Bus Service, who initially raised the concerns and requested clarification. Mr. Hottenstein was fine with the decision and noted that he wanted to raise awareness. Dan Pruess noted that the positive side is that the kids are not crossing the highway.

New Business:

7. **Centurion Bike Event – August 7th and 8th (Dane and Iowa Counties).** The event is now anticipated to have a range of 3,000 to 8,000 participants. There will be three routes – 25 miles, 50 miles, and 100 miles. This will be a "rolling road closure" event. This means that a stretch of the road is closed for the lead group of bike riders, opening the completed stretch and closing the next stretch for that group. The remaining riders will have use of the right lane within controlled traffic. The event sponsors will have their own motor patrols. Sgt, Dan Carey of Iowa County Sheriff's Office is working with the event sponsors on traffic control. Dan Pruess expressed concern with the Hwy. 14 crossing. Craig noted that the spectator crowd is expected to be 2 or 3 times the number of participants. The Town of Vermont denied the permit application and the path had to be re-routed.

8. **County Schedule of Events Site.** Iowa County Emergency Management Department has posted special events on its website. The website states that it “is published for the purpose of keeping the public informed of events that pose potential disruptions in normal traffic flow and/or concerns for Public Safety.” It shows the date, time, sponsor, and location of the event and also has a link to see the route map.
9. **Bike (Special Events) Ordinances.** The Towns of Vermont and Berry have each passed ordinances relating to special events within their respective jurisdictions.
10. **Summer Construction Schedule.** Craig Hardy reviewed summer road construction projects. He is working with the Land Records Department on getting a county map that shows road closures and re-routes on the GIS system.
11. **SWRPPC Transportation Workshop.** Amy Seeboth of SWRPPC discussed the Coordinated Transportation Plan, to include the Counties of Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland. A planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 25, 2010 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Iowa County Court House. The plan will determine what state and federal funding will be available through 2013.

Amy Seeboth also discussed preparing a Comprehensive Plan for the five counties of Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland. Each county is required by the state to have a comprehensive plan in place, with one section on transportation. SWRPPC is reviewing the five county plans and consolidating them into a regional plan.

12. **Traffic Safety Report and Highway Safety Input – Tom Knopp, WisDOT BOTS.** Tom Knopp distributed the Traffic Safety Report as of May 9, 2010. He noted that we are down about 8 to 15 fatalities from the previous 2 years and that we are currently below the 5-year average. 2010 year-to-date pedestrian accidents are more than double the previous year total. There has been one fatality in Iowa County, to date, compared to a 5-year average of 6 fatalities. 2009 Year-End Crash Statistics were reviewed. These are shown in the categories of alcohol-related, speed-related, pedestrian, bicycles, motorcycles, train, construction zone, school bus, deer, and large truck. With the exception of deer crashes, all other categories show a decrease in crashes from 2008. The alcohol-related crashes decreased 11.6% from 2008 and 23.2% from the 5-year average. Wisconsin will qualify for grant funding as a low alcohol fatality rating state. The funds are used for enforcement and training programs. Craig asked what the reason is for the decline. Tom felt that advance features on cars, old cars getting off the roads, seat belt regulations, and awareness were some of the contributing factors.

Tom Knopp also reviewed the legislative updates. Of specific interest is the new law prohibiting text messaging while driving. This will be in effect 12/1/2010.

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month. Tom Knopp distributed statistics on the 84 motorcycle fatalities that occurred in 2009. Some of the statistics include: 61% were not wearing helmets; only 62% had valid Class M licenses; and 50% were age 45 or older.

13. **Review of Accident Spot Report – Jon Pepper, Chief Deputy Sheriff.** Jeri Grabbert received the following information from Jon Pepper. The internet program still has issues to be resolved and a report was not available, however, Jon had numbers available. As of May 4, 2010 he reported 58 crashes, 12 injury-crashes, and 1 fatality.
14. **Reports from Members.** None.
15. **Comments from Members or Audience.** Jeri Grabbert distributed an updated contact list of Traffic Safety Commission members to include Bert Parkos from City of Mineral Point. Dan Pruess noted that Jeff Berens would now be attending our Traffic Safety meetings as the WisDOT Traffic Representative.
16. Next meeting is August 10, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the Iowa County Highway Dept.
17. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. with a motion by Tom Knopp and seconded by Briant Russell. Carried unanimously.

Minutes by Jeri Grabbert