

# **MINUTES**

## **KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Training Room, Bourbonnais Fire Department,  
1080 Armour Road, Bourbonnais, IL

**Wednesday, November 07, 2018 @ 9:30 A.M.**

### **Member in Attendance**

Dave Tyson, Village of Bourbonnais; David Verkler, Aaron Harsy, Illinois State Police; Mark Rogers and Steve Blanchette, Kankakee County Highway Dept; Tom Caldwell, IDOT OP&P; Rick Lalumundre, Olivet Nazarene University; Dave Luhrsen, BBCHS; Scott O'Brien, Manteno Fire Dept.

### **Others Present**

Mike Mergenthaler, Geoff Olson, and Delbert Skimerhorn, KATS.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Tyson called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Rogers made a motion to approve the July 11, 2018 minutes as presented, seconded by Trooper Verkler. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

### **2018 Crash Data**

Mr. Mergenthaler gave a presentation on current crash data in 2018 for January through June. He started by reminding everyone of the federal performance measures the MPO is required to address. The presentation included comparisons between 2018 data and previous years. The majority of crashes continued to be reported as occurring during daylight hours with clear weather. Mr. Olson informed everyone that IDOT set a two percent reduction for each of the highway safety performance measures and explained what the same reduction would mean for the Kankakee area. Mr. Rogers motioned to recommend the supporting the statewide traffic safety performance measures. Trooper Verkler seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

### **Crash Location Maps**

Mr. Olson said he occasionally receives requests from Kankakee for maps of crash locations and asked if other members would also be interested in the maps. He said the information is preliminary and not by any means finalized, but provides ongoing monitoring of crashes in the area. The alternative is waiting two to three years for the official data to be vetted and finalized. Chairman Tyson suggested just sending the information out on a regular basis.

## **IDOT Highways-Rail Safety Emphasis Areas**

Mr. Olson said IDOT has identified fourteen areas of traffic safety that should receive additional attention and that he has been participating in the highway-rail emphasis area. He reported the group has identified three key objectives of improving railroad signal warning systems, improving enforcement of rail trespassing, and improving education of the general public about railroad safety. A list of the objectives and strategies was handed out and if anyone had comments, they could be given to KATS staff and they would be forwarded to the working group. Mr. Olson said if anyone was interested in participating in any of the emphasis area groups to let him know and he would provide more information.

## **Highway Safety Plan**

Mr. Olson said at the previous meeting the Committee made a recommendation to the Policy Committee to proceed with creating a traffic safety plan. At the October KATS MPO meetings, the Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee decided to proceed with the creation of the plan. Chairman Tyson asked if there was a timeline for the plan. Mr. Olson said he didn't have a timeline yet, but information for the plan would also be included as part of the MPO's long range transportation plan and would be presented to the Safety Committee for review and comments.

## **Report On Hands Free Cell Enforcement Issue**

Mr. Olson stated a recent presentation at the IDOT Safety Summit indicated that the data for fatal crashes caused by distracted driving only accounted for two percent of the total. He said it sounded significantly less than anecdotal evidence would suggest and asked if members thought it may be under reported. Members agreed it seemed low.

## **Traffic Safety in the Media**

Chairman Tyson said the Village of Bourbonnais will be working to improve safety around the new I-57 interchange at Bourbonnais Parkway to help travelers learn the new traffic patterns. Mr. Olson said the governor recently issued an executive order to help proceed with autonomous vehicles in Illinois.

## **New Business**

None.

## **Other Business**

None.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2019.

## **Adjournment**

Chairman Tyson asked if there was any more business to discuss. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 10:21 AM.