

MINUTES

KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 @ 9:30 A.M.

Member in Attendance

Dave Tyson, Village of Bourbonnais; Aaron Harsy, Illinois State Police; Roger Blakley, IDOT District 3; 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

Chairman Tyson asked members to review the presented minutes and if there were no changes they would be accepted. There were no changes.

2018 Crash Data

Mr. Mergenthaler gave a presentation on fatal and serious injury crash data for 2018. Key points about the comparison between 2017 and 2018 data were a decrease in the total number of severe crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries. The most significant decrease occurred along state roads. In 2018, the month with the most crashes occurred in May, June, and July. The hours of day that contained the most crashes was between 7:00AM - 8:00 AM, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, and 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Characteristics of crashes included angle and fixed object crashes. The majority of crashes occurred during daylight hours with clear weather conditions.

Mr. Blakley asked if staff have looked at the most recent five percent list from IDOT. Mr. Olson said the most recent data he'd seen was from a few years ago, but would look into seeing if more recent data is available on the IDOT Safety Portal. Chief O'Brien said with the discussions of legalizing marijuana, that transportation professionals, law enforcement, and first responders should expect an increase in crashes, possibly three times more.

Highway Safety Plan

Mr. Olson said staff have been discussing the scope and type of data to use for the safety plan. He said the most recent five years of official FARS and IDOT data would be used. Members agreed that data for all crashes should be used to create a full picture of crashes in the region.

Report on Hands Free Cell Enforcement Issue

There were no updates on cell phone enforcement.

Traffic Safety in the Media

Mr. Olson stated a recent newspaper article covered the safety of rear seat passengers. The articles suggested that many safety advances have addressed front seat occupants and more improvements are needed for rear seat passengers.

Chairman Tyson asked if it would be possible for MPO staff to send out a press release to remind drivers that school will be out for summer break soon. Mr. Olson said he would look into opportunities available.

Meeting Schedule

Members discussed the meeting schedule and agreed to schedule meetings quarterly instead of every other month. Meetings will continue to be scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month and the next meeting would be in three months.

New Business

Mr. Olson said staff conducted the first survey for the long range transportation plan. The survey was a single question, which asked respondents how they would prefer to prioritize each of the seven national priorities of the FAST Act. He stated the highest prioritized goal was infrastructure condition, followed closely by safety. The next highest ranked priority was congestion reduction and then system reliability. The fifth ranked goal was reduced project delivery delays, followed very closely by freight movement and economic vitality. The goal that was ranked last was environmental sustainability.

Mr. Olson directed everyone to the memo included in the meeting materials for long range plan highway projects. He said he wanted to provide information to members so they could consider ideas for projects to include in the plan. A project map that showed projects by similar type was created. He said some projects may be removed from the list, while new projects are added and that some will likely remain on the list.

Other Business

Mr. Blakley reminded everyone that there will be a webinar, hosted by IDOT, on the highway safety improvement program (HSIP) grant application process. He said applications are due on June 14.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2019 at 9:30 AM. The meeting after that is scheduled for November 6, 2019 at 9:30 AM.

Adjournment

Chairman Tyson asked if there was any more business to discuss. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 10:05 AM.