

1 **Minutes**

2 **Kankakee County Safety Committee**

3 **In-person Meeting**

4 **Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023 @ 9:30 AM**

5 **2nd floor – Conference Room**

6 **Kankakee County Administration Building**

7 **189 E. Court Street, Kankakee, IL 60901**

8
9 Members in attendance: Scott O’Brien – Manteno Fire Department & Chair (temporary), Kenneth
10 Mallindine – Kankakee Police Department, Greg Heiden – Kankakee County Highway Department, &
11 Delbert Skimerhorn – Kankakee County Planning Department.

12 Also present: Larry Kerkstra – Kankakee County Board.

13 Staff members in attendance: Rob Fischer, Ben Wilson, & Michelle Sadler.

14 **Call to Order:**

15 During the call to order, A motion was made to elect Scott O’Brien acting chairman of the committee, as
16 Dr. Gingerich, the current chair, was not in attendance. The primary motion to elect O’Brien was made
17 by Delbert Skimerhorn and seconded by Greg Heiden. The vote to make O’Brien acting chairman was
18 unanimously approved.

19 The meeting was then opened by Chairman O’Brien at 9:32AM. A quorum was established.

20 **Public Comment:**

21 None at this time.

22 **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

23 The minutes from the May 2nd, 2022 Safety Committee meeting were unanimously approved by the
24 committee.

25 **K (fatal) and A (Incapacitating Injury) Crash Discussion 2023:**

26 Rob Fischer presented the group with a map featuring data indicating where fatal (K) and incapacitating
27 (A) injuries have occurred in Kankakee County over the last 3 months, going back to the beginning of May
28 of this year.

29 Fischer told the committee the goal of the presentation is to start a quarterly tracking of accidents
30 throughout the county, in order to accumulate both quantitative and qualitative data on the number and
31 cause of accidents throughout the county. A discussion ensued on including factors such as weather, time
32 of day, day of the week, and other factors into the data reports.

33 Chief Scott O’Brien discussed with Fischer and the committee his department’s narratives on such
34 accidents, which are reflected in NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) reports. O’Brien
35 suggested that those write-ups would be helpful in tracking causes of accidents.

36 City of Kankakee Patrol Commander Kenneth Mallindine gave insight into the writing of accident reports
37 as well. He touched on the city’s response to ATV-style vehicles. Fischer reported that 2 “A” accidents in
38 his presentation were involving ATVs. As a result of further discussion on such vehicles, Skimerhorn
39 concluded that a report on which municipalities allow ATVs and other such vehicles, as well as the

40 specifications of each category, such as vehicle weight, age of drivers, and other details, should be in the
41 works for the next committee meeting. Larry Kerkstra, on behalf of the Kankakee County Board, discussed
42 the possibility of looking at the City of Kankakee’s laws pertaining to ATVs and determining if a county-
43 wide ordinance of a similar nature could be drawn up.

44 The committee also touched on “B and C” accidents, and how the information extracted from them could
45 be used in conjunction with “K or A” accidents. Skimerhorn added that public outreach efforts and a
46 manor in which to convey the dangers of reckless driving should be pursued, which includes a social media
47 campaign.

48 The committee agreed that this update and data accumulation would be beneficial to determining ways
49 to further reduce accidents and discussed parsing data into more categories as the exercise continues into
50 the future. Skimerhorn also recommended individual conversations with area police and fire chiefs for
51 further insight.

52 **IDOT Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) Safety Assessment Tool:**

53 Mr. Fischer introduced the committee to the IDOT’s “Walking, Biking, and Rolling” Vulnerable Road User
54 Assessment Tool. This is the second such tool IDOT has presented to the public this year. Fischer
55 demonstrated the tool and told committee members they have access to the tool. He showed the
56 committee how to input data into the tool, as it pertains to geographical areas of concern where
57 pedestrians and cyclists could be in harm’s way. Other categories on the tool that Fischer pointed out to
58 the committee included a data input for determining areas where pedestrians, cyclists, and those with
59 mobility challenges are at risk. The committee was encouraged to deliver their input or contact Fischer
60 with suggestions to be added to the map.

61 **Local Road Safety Projects:**

62 A roundtable discussion for member to discuss local safety projects in their own jurisdictions was brought
63 to the table. Discussion of a potential “road diet” at Brookmont Boulevard was tabled, as Neil Piggush was
64 not present. Piggush was mentioned in the Daily Journal as the lead voice in speaking with the City of
65 Kankakee on this matter. This topic will be on future agendas as well, as the committee seeks more
66 clarification from Piggush on this potential project.

67 **Discussion: Illinois 50 at 12000N:**

68 Manteno Fire Chief Scott O’Brien discussed safety measures and the state of auto accidents at the
69 intersection of 12000N and Route 50. O’Brien also discussed correspondence he has had with IDOT on the
70 intersection. Staff is in contact with him regarding an IDOT timetable for redesign, tentatively set for the
71 end of 2024.

72 The intersection will continue to be discussed in future safety committee meetings.

73 **Discussion: Fire Chiefs’ Meeting (6/13/23):**

74 Fischer discussed with the committee his attendance at the county Fire Chiefs’ Meeting in Grant Park on
75 June 13th. He discussed the “Ks and As” project with the attendees and encourage members to forward
76 any NFIRS reports, in an effort to collect the narratives of those involved in accidents. Manteno Fire Chief
77 Scott O’Brien also added that he felt the meeting and staff attendance was a valuable experience and
78 expects that another meeting will be held later this year, presumably November, when staff will again
79 attend.

80 **New Business:**

81 Discussion resulted in an election to be held at the next meeting to determine the Vice Chairperson for
82 the committee.

83 **Old Business:**

84 There was no old business. Please see "Illinois 50 at 12000N" for a continuation of that discussion.

85 **Other business:**

86 There was no other business.

87 **Next Meeting date:**

88 The next Kankakee County Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for November 1st, 2023 at 9:30AM, in
89 the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Kankakee County Administration Building.

90 **Adjournment:**

91 Chairman O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 10:42 AM with a secondary motion, after a primary
92 adjournment motion from Greg Heiden.