

Illinois Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Minutes  
October 18, 2010

Attending: Sherri Akers, Mark Blankenship, David Gruenenfelder, Lou Humphrey, John Jones, Jessica Keldermans, Jay Keevan, Lori Midden, Gwen Montgomery, Mehdi Nassirpour, Joyce Schroeder, Kristi Edwards, Jim Garceau, Jacque Huddleston, Dan Leonard, Dan Mueller, Greg Piland, Peggy Westerfield

Phone: John Benda, Tom Chesser, Jeff Darko, Abraham Emmanuel, Mike Gillette, Dan Lee, Mike Mayer, Roseanne Nance, Dewey Hartmann, Ruth Kafensztok, Kim Kolody, Xinrong Lei, Evelyn Lyons

Lori opened the meeting with introductions of attendees and approval of the minutes from the July 19, 2010 meeting.

There was no old business to be covered and Lori reminded members of the next meeting in January which will cover how to write 408 grants. Lori noted that creating the performance measures in a 408 grant can be difficult.

#### **FHWA Comments – Greg Piland**

- Working on GAO technical report to produce roadway elements for each state which will be available next January.
- Program will be pilot-tested; roadway elements will allow states to produce more data.
- Talked with US Secretary LaHood and he wanted legislation submitted which would provide more funding for roadway inventory and data improvement.

#### **TraCS 408 Project – Kristi Edwards**

- In October 2009, IDOT/DTS chose to stop development on MCR and look for a new system for electronic crash reporting/citations.
- Since October 2009, an RFI was released and 5 demonstrations took place.
- After legal review, IDOT/DTS was told that a zero-cost model could not be selected.
- TraCS – demonstrations held in July and October 2010.
- 16 other states currently use TraCS.
- Cost
  - Set yearly fee (can be raised)
  - Form Builder - \$35,000
  - Location and Reporting Tool - \$15,000
  - Configuration of Forms – extra
- Legal and Procurement are currently reviewing TraCS (the national model)
- Once software is procured, 15-month project to roll-out crash report and e-citations.
- TraCS will be rolled-out to current MCR users first, and MCR will be eventually phased out

- License for TraCS allows IDOT to give software to all Illinois law enforcement agencies.
- Chicago PD will not use TraCS; they are currently developing their own electronic crash reporting software.
- ISP suggested that e-citations be rolled out with the crash report module. This may help the current MCR users be more inclined to use the new software.
- TraCS electronic crash report can look either like MCR or the paper SR-1050.
- Greg Piland mentioned that TraCS was the same software that was used prior to MCR. Concerns about the volume of data Illinois will be submitting in comparison to the current users of TraCS.
- Lou questioned whether MCR would be shut down on a certain date. Kristi said that this would probably happen sometime next year.
- Lori pointed out that in the TRACS demo they had mentioned the next generation system was currently being developed and would not be available until next spring.
  - Kristi said she would check on how this would affect us if we have already implemented the program.
  - Currently TraCS users must have the developers remote access every machine that needs to be upgraded. The end-users cannot do the upgrade.
  - Next generation version would allow for automatic updates.
  - Pennsylvania is piloting a new version. (upgrading from TraCS 7 to TraCS 10).
- Ideally, customization of form will be sent out to a vendor to be completed. This would take approximately 3-4 weeks and cost around \$15,000.
- ISP noted that they may have funds available for development, management and maintenance of electronic citations.
- There are concerns about TraCS and the volume of data Illinois will be submitting. Details have not been worked out, however, TraCS might be able to just package the data and send it to IDOT, so volume of data might not be an issue.
  - Iowa submits roughly 90,000 reports a year.
  - Illinois submits roughly 400,000 without Chicago PD.
- Staff of 3 people should be sufficient in rolling out TraCS.
- This electronic submission could ultimately reduce the staff needed to enter the data at DTS.
- Support for software will be provided by IDOT, TraCS does not provide end-user support.
- 24/7 support will still be an issue, especially if e-citations is rolled out. ISP might be able to help with after-hours support.
- Once software is procured, IDOT/DTS will get a testing period.
- Mehdi mentioned that the crash reporting module should be our main focus.
- Biggest hold up for e-citations might be transferring the information to the courts.
- Who will house the servers for the electronic citations? ISP had mentioned that they might be able to house the servers.
- Jessica asked about how the crash report form could be changed if needed. Kristi said that the changed would have to be made in-house. TraCS would train staff at IDOT to make changes to the form.
- Jim Garceau mentioned that once the agreement is signed, details on servers, data retention, etc will need to be worked out.
- Kristi said that we are just trying to procure the software at this point and will find out more information on who is using this software and the number of reports they are submitting.
  - Safety analysts had issues before when trying to use the data.
- Lori will send out an e-mail regarding voting on the approval of this project.

## **Traffic Records Assessment**

- Mehdi discussed the Traffic Records Assessment that is scheduled to be conducted on April 4-8 at Holiday Inn Express (needs to be confirmed). He indicated that the Assessment Team will focus on two major sections. The first section is on Traffic Records System Management, such as TRCC committee, process of coordination and cooperation of data holders and users, data improvement strategies and programs, Strategic Planning, Data Integration. The second section is on the review of the six major databases (Crash, Roadway, Driver, Vehicle, Citation and Adjudication, and Statewide Injury Surveillance. The assessment team examines each database in terms of the six data quality characteristics of timeliness, accuracy, completeness, consistency/uniformity, integration, and accessibility. He indicated that providing detail information to the assessment team is a key to successful assessment results.
- Questions are currently available on NHTSA's website; however, we should wait for Alex's approval before sending it out. Lori mentioned that if the assessment is sent out too early, it may not reflect changes that are made before April.

## **UPDATES**

### **Safety Data Mart – Peggy Westerfield**

- Maintenance/support mode; along with some training activities.
- 2009 data added to map & cube browser for External Users.
- Presenting at the Illinois Traffic Engineering & Safety Conference later this week.
- Usage of tool is about the same. Lori Midden indicated that when users can't get exactly what they need from the Data Mart, they are working with her area for customized requests. Kristi Edwards offered to promote usage of the Safety Data Mart to the MCR user base.

### **Safety Analyst – Peggy Westerfield**

- Experiencing some delays in the project (resource constraints & need AASHTO to authorize a change that will support our statewide volume of data).
- The progress that has been made is focused on the area of Intersection Data. Previously, no intersection data source. For purpose of this project, we develop a process that could derive some of the data needed. Steps included:
  - 1) use of line work (both state source and Navteq source) to determine where lines cross;
  - 2) programmatic screening out of some points;
  - 3) manual screening process;
  - 4) use in Safety Analyst Testing;
  - 5) additional manual screening.
- AASHTO Safety Analyst committee met to prioritize defects/enhancements list. No target date yet for the change we are requesting. Roseanne Nance indicated that it appears Illinois will have to pay for this change from our service hours. The

procurement is in process (a public hearing has been held & AASHTO Legal is working with IDOT legal on the license renewal and purchase of service hours).

- Test environment continues to be available to project team for learning to use the analytical tool. AASHTO offers 2 weekly web conferences (Tuesday – focus is from a user/analytical perspective; Wednesday – technical/data management perspective).
- Next steps – Reload test environment using finalized intersection data; change handling of ramp segments; incorporate other feedback from testing. Target date for reload is sometime in November.

### **CODES Update – Mehdi Nassirpour**

- Mehdi announced that Susan Fitzpatrick retired as of September 30, 2010 and Xinrong Lei has taken over Susan's responsibility. During the last quarters, we have received the pre-hospital run data and have prepared to perform a triple-match. (Crash to Pre-Hospital Run report and hospital discharge data. In addition, Xinrong has been working with Mike McGlincy who is the NHTSA technical consultant on CODES project. Before we spend a lot of time to link, we work with simulated data in order to be sure we will have a good link. Our plan is to complete this triple-match and then try to focus on the recent data on Hospital Discharge and Emergency Department data that became available after 2009. As Mehdi mentioned during the last TRCC meeting the Emergency Department (ED) data are required to have complete picture of motor vehicle victims.

### **Traffic Records Performance Measures – Mehdi Nassirpour**

- Last year Mehdi shared the national traffic records performance measure document with the committee. It was his understanding that was the final version that was ready to be distributed to the states. On July 20, 2010 Mehdi received an e-mail from Denis Utter from NHTSA indicating that they would like to get everyone together in Atlanta Georgia on September 13-14, 2010 to finalize the report since they had received many comments regarding the calculations of identified performance measures. Mehdi was unable to attend the meeting, but sent comments to them. Apparently there were some issues raised at the meeting and NHTSA is in a process of finalizing the report. He will notify the committee when it is officially "final".

### **MCR, CIS –Jim Garceau**

#### **MCR**

- Continuing to support the existing user community - 30% electronic reporting using an adjusted calculation.

## CIS

- New CIS server infrastructure is in production. New environment includes test, QA and production. - Eliminated timeouts as expected, users reporting no issues.
- CIS database has been upgraded from SQL 2000 to SQL 2008 – no more issues with Crystal Reports running during production hours.
- Integration of CIS with SafetyNet is in production and being pilot tested
- Pilot testing the electronic transfer of data from 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors
  - iyeTek has worked thru vendor testing and has some agencies beginning testing:
    - Riverwoods PD
    - Rockford PD
    - Roselle PD
    - Arlington Heights PD
    - Morton PD
    - Sherman PD
  - Sungard is working thru some final issues and has some agencies working with them on testing.
  - New World is still working on upgrading their pilot agencies.

## Crash Reports and Scanner Project Update – Jessica Keldermans

- The Stats Unit is 27 days behind the date of the crash and is working on Sept 2010 reports.
- The Location Unit is 58 days behind the date of the crash and is working on July 2010 reports.
- Currently scanning in real time.
- New scanner that was purchased for case prep is working well.
- Currently completing paperwork for the purchase of another scanner.

## Trauma Registry Data and NEMSIS Project at IDPH – Dan Lee

Since the last TRCC meeting the bulk of the activity on this project has been directed to ramping up the web-based submission capability, as follows:

- The system architecture and client software were fully functional and in place by the end of last June.
- Pilot testing began in EMS Regions 1 (NW & N-Central Illinois) and 5 (S Illinois) late summer, and consist of two parts—
  - ✓ Part 1 (underway) gives access to all interested EMS providers in the two pilot regions, under a fictitious provider ID, with fictitious reports routed to a test database.
  - ✓ With Part 2 (begins in November), providers will be assigned setup information for their actual ID, with “live” data routed to a production database.
- Two rounds of minor software modifications have been completed based on test cohort findings and a third round has been provided to the vendor.

- Last week, NEMSIS created a Data Exchange account for Illinois, and IDPH will soon begin sending samples of fictitious data created during Part 1 of the pilot to the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center in Utah, for evaluation.

Someone at the meeting asked what proportion of EMS providers will be submitting data using the web-based option. The answer provided was that ultimately about one third of providers (accounting for about one quarter of reports submitted annually) are expected to use the web-based system, with most of the remainder submitting electronic data generated using third-party software and a small fraction continuing to use paper forms.

### **Citations Data Update – presented by Sherri Akers**

- 408 grant money was used to purchase thermal printers and paper.
- Sherri attended and Article V meeting, and ISP submitted a sample of the citation and printing instructions.
- Once the samples have been approved, ISP will pilot e-citations in DuPage, McHenry, Will, DeKalb, and Kane Counties. These counties have already paid for a county-wide license.
- Upon approval, ISP will be allowed to use e-citations in other counties also.

### **ISP Crash Reconstruction – presented by Jeff Darko**

- Updated tables for crash data retrieval.
- New class will be conducted.
- CMV retrieval data kit is available.
- Updating safety belt and alcohol information.
- Jan-July report will be available.

### **City of Chicago -- Abraham Emmanuel**

**Data Quality Improvement Project:** Chicago Police Academy and CDOT have completed work on a new e-learning training module to accurately report Intersection Related Traffic Crashes. The new module can be taken independently or through an instructor lead online training. A facility is being developed at the Chicago Police Academy for delivering instructor lead training programs on a permanent basis.

CDOT has developed a Poster and a Pocket Insert/brochure to supplement the online training efforts. These printed materials should help highlight the importance of traffic crash data and serve as a quick reference tool to the police officers.

In FY2010 we also completed a before and after review of 2009 training efforts and have discovered that significant improvements have been achieved since the start of the data quality improvement efforts. However there is much more work that needs to be done on a sustained basis to achieve 90 to 100% accurate reports from the field.

**Data Integration /Web MCR Project:** After much delay, the project vendor, Oracle, has started working on this project with the Diagramming Tool as the first module. The contractual issues Oracle had with CPD/City has been resolved. As of Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, about 60% of the work is completed on the Diagramming tool. In FY 2011 Oracle will continue working on the Diagramming tool and then move on the R-Case Integration module. R-Case is the comprehensive case reporting system CPD is developing through Oracle. Our project is built as an add-on to the R-Case system. The progress on the Data Integration/Web MCR project is depended on the progress made at CPD in rolling out the R-Case system. A technical committee comprising of representatives form IDOT, CPD, Oracle and CDOT has been formed for periodic review of the project.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning** – Jessica: Planning has not met. Meeting scheduled after ITRCC meeting.

-

**Human Factors/Data Quality** – Nothing to report.

-

## **Engineering Factors**

- 5% Report Completed and Submitted to FHWA as required by federal regulation.
- 
- Highway Safety Manual – (Including Safety Analyst project) Training and Policy to Implement
- 
- In discussion with FHWA and OPP to participate in the Model for Inventory of Roadway Elements (MIRE) Lead Agency Program.

Lori closed the meeting with the reminder of the next meeting in January. January meeting will include a workshop on 408 grant writing and going over the final draft of performance measures from Mehdi.