

Illinois Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Minutes from March 21, 2005 Meeting

Sandra Klein, Deputy Director of IDOT/Division of Traffic Safety, opened the meeting and introduced Don McNamara, Regional Administrator, NHTSA, Great Lakes Region. Don gave a PowerPoint presentation, "Preserving Lives through Data". Don stressed the need of accurate data is necessary to track lives saved. In his presentation, Don outlined the 2008 highway safety priorities.

1. Increase safety belt use
2. Reduce impaired driving
3. Improve data
4. Reduce rollovers
5. Improve vehicle compatibility

Norm Stoner, Division Administrator, FHWA-Illinois Division, presented "Unleashing the Power of an Integrated Highway Safety Data System". Federal Highways and NHTSA agree on the importance of data and on the importance of Illinois Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan. Norm tossed out questions to get attendees thinking of ways to get better data. One suggestion was a Knowledge Exchange Center. He stressed more analyses need to be done using the existing statewide databases

Mehdi Nassirpour, Division of Traffic Safety, discussed the mission and goals of the ITRCC.

Committee discussed the mission statement. Norm talked about the usefulness of committee. He suggested adding statement concerning usefulness and viability of data.

Lori Midden, Traffic Safety, asked about the accessibility to data, while Ray Benekohal added the importance of providing and sharing knowledge from data.

In terms of goals, Bob Pollack, NHTSA, suggested adding "benchmark existing systems that are current.

Tom Kelso, TS, discussed "unknown" and missing data in the crash reports. As shown in the Illinois crash data including FARS, belt status for dead drivers or passengers who died or injured in motor vehicle crashes is not always reported. More training is needed to encourage local law enforcement agencies to report all listed crash data items including belt status.

Sheri Akers, ISP, said that currently that data is not collected from the re-construction report but needs to get on the FARS report.

Bob Pollock stated that Minnesota has developed methodology to link FARS and re-construction report. So, it can be done.

Mehdi Nassirpour, TS, discussed that not all fatal crashes are investigated. During the engineering subcommittee meeting, someone asked whether there will be a possibility to get all the fatal crashes that are investigated.

Norm Stone, FHWA, questioned what is the nature of the re-construction report? Sheri Akers described the process.

Mehdi Nassirpour asked if belt status is recorded in re-construction report and if it could be sent to Traffic Safety. Sheri Akers will look into this and report back.

Bob Pollack asked Mary Ann Paulis how accessible information is from other agencies. Mary Ann reported that have met with Chicago PD and that process is improving.

Bob Pollack will provide Mary Ann with contacts to help improve with collection.

Sandy Klein reported on the Human Factors sub-committee. The main topics were DUI tracking system, cell phone, pedestrian safety and motorcycle safety.

Karen Magee reported that pedestrian data is provided by Traffic Safety to the Chicago Area Traffic Safety (CATS). Chicago Area Transportation System (CATS) is taking the data one step further.

Bob Pollack questioned if cell phone, fatigue and drowsy driving are listed as contributing causes on crash reports?

Rosanne Nance, IDOT, replied that cell phone usage is considered a driver's distraction- it is the officer's call if it is reported as a cause. She suggested putting questions on the survey, both the observational and telephone, concerning this.

Matt Mueller, IDOT, gave the Engineering Factor sub committee report. He indicated that IDOT needs to look at crash form and include new data fields. Data linkage needs to be more efficient.

Mark Kinkade, IDOT, reported on the Information Processing sub-committee. He gave an update on CIS/MCR/GIS. Stated the mission is to deliver crash data on a timely basis. Data sharing will be a problem.

Linking, reporting data and developing a system are the key issues in the information system area. The GIS RFP is very important to deliver data on a timely manner and to pinpoint accuracy of location. This will be awarded this week.

Mary Ann Paulis, Data Quality Committee, passed handout on collection knowledge exchange system.

After committee reports were complete, Mark Kinkade suggested that Mehdi set agenda for sub-committees to eliminate duplication of efforts.

Mehdi discussed the specific goals of information system and data quality sub-committees. He indicated that although both committees aim at improving overall quality of the data, each sub-committee should have specific goals. The Data Quality sub-committee should focus on the accuracy and completeness of the all crash related data while the Information System Sub-committee should concentrate on the timeliness and accessibility of the data and information.

Greg Piland, FHWA , discussed goals and mission statement. Mehdi requested that everyone e-mail suggestions to us.

Sub-committee goals and objectives should work to identify issues and objective.

Mehdi discussed the status of the CODES grant. He mentioned that both IDOT and IDPH staff are working together to finalize the MOU between the two agencies before IDPH releases the specific data to IDOT to start linking the crash data to health care data.

Ray Benekohal discussed privacy issue and suggested that Chief Counsel review. Mehdi discussed the inter-agency agreement with Public Health and how information is purged.

Next meeting will be July 26, 2005, Traffic Safety 4th floor conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.