

Illinois Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Minutes
July 19, 2010

Attending: Sherri Akers, Peggy Westerfield, Greg Piland, Gwen Montgomery, Tom Casson, Mehdi Nassirpour, John Jones, Lou Humphrey, Jim Garceau, Don Berndt

Phone: Dan Lee, Alex Cabral, Jeff Darko, Roseanne Nance, Priscilla Tobias, Abraham Emmanuel, Connie Satlar, Evelyn Lyons, Dan Leonard, Dan Mueller, Jacque Huddleston, Susan Fitzpatrick, Kim Kolody, Paul Rizzo, Xinrong Lei

Lori opened the meeting with introductions and the approval of the minutes.

With no old business, Alex Cabrel, NHTSA, reported they are still waiting for the Section 408 letter and working on the TRCC assessment planning. He will send Lori a list of possible team members.

FHWA: Greg Piland discussed the training survey that will be sent to all regional traffic safety offices set up by NHTSA--Governor's Reps and all DOTs. He then gave a brief presentation of the Illinois Data Strategic Plan as a review of where we are now and a refresher for those who may be new. A copy is attached.



Illinois Data Strategic
Plan Presentation July

Lori announced that the January 2011 quarterly meeting will consist of a shortened committee meeting followed by a workshop on preparing the Section 408 application.

Peggy Westerfield gave a demonstration of the External Safety Datamart site. A copy is attached.

Updates

Safety Data Warehouse/Safety Analyst—Peggy Westerfield

Safety Data Mart – Demonstration of the website and the tools (cube browser for adhoc reports; parameter based reports; and mapping tools). Emphasis is now on promoting and encouraging enrollment and use of the tools. Since launch of the site on April 23, 2010, there have been:

1456 visits
452 unique users (304 new; 208 repeat)
Avg visits per visitor – 3
Avg time (1 hr 45 mins---includes training sessions)

Help documentation and GoTo Meeting sessions provide the support for learning to use the tools. Enrollment can be done right on the site. Navigate to www.dot.il.gov, then click on the Safety Information on the left. Under the section "Illinois Crash Data" use the link "Safety Data Mart for External Users". We encourage feedback on ways we can continue to improve the site to meet individual users needs. If there are additional pre-defined reports that you could benefit

from, please submit those suggestions and we'll work with the Division of Traffic Safety to provide a solution.

Safety Analyst – Project is behind originally targeted schedule. Software was developed through an FHWA initiative, but has since transitioned to AASHTO. For the Illinois implementation, we have generated a test dataset (3 counties, plus 1 township from Chicago area) and are in the testing phase. Five years of crash data have been associated to sites (intersections and segments) throughout the test areas for both state network as well as local roadways. Currently, need a programming change from AASHTO in order to support our statewide volume of data. Estimate that this will be the end of the calendar year before it can be accomplished. BSE reported that they anticipate initially a centralized usage model for this tool.

CODES Update/Traffic Records Performance Measures—Mehdi Nassirpour

Mehdi talked about the CODES annual meeting in Washington DC. Mehdi, Susan and Xinrong attended the meeting and presented a paper entitled “**The Effect of Safety Belt Use on Head Injuries Among Crash Victims**”. The paper used 2005 linked Crash & Hospital data to generate analysis results for 1) How head injury related to belt status, controlling for demographic and crash characteristics, including impairment; 2) How belt status related to their demographic and crash characteristics and 3) How individuals’ demographic or crash characteristics associated with crash outcomes such as impaired individuals.

Mehdi also mentioned that he received the 2005 pre-hospital run data from Ruth Kafensztok who analyzed the data and prepared transportation-related injury data for the CODES analysts to start performing triple match procedure. This procedure includes linking the 2005 crash data to pre-hospital run data and hospital discharge data. Xinrong will be conducting these linkages.

Mehdi discussed the possibility of getting Emergency Department (ED) data from the IDPH. For the first time, the ED database will be available for the CODES project staff to link it to the crash data. Mehdi mentioned that since the ED data as well as the inpatient data will be available for the years 2009 and beyond, the CODES team is considering performing linkages using the 2009 crash, ED, and inpatient hospital discharge data.

Mehdi announced that Susan Fitzpatrick will be retiring at the end of September, 2010. Xinrong Lei will be conducting all the linkages.

Quick Fact Sheets

Mehdi mentioned that the Evelyn Lyons’ research team at IDPH and Loyola University has updated the “Quick Fact Sheets”. They are posted at our website at <http://www.dot.il.gov/trafficsafety/tsevaluation.html>. Mehdi asked Evelyn to discuss these reports briefly. Evelyn summarized these reports and said that they also had produced a report that contained all the Quick Facts in one file. She indicated that she had sent the file to Mehdi Nassirpour. Mehdi mentioned that the file will be posted on our website soon.

MCR/CIS—Jim Garceau

MCR

- Legal/leadership are currently determining a direction for the RFP

- Continuing to support the existing user community – as of Sunday adjusted MCR submittal rate is roughly 31% (the adjustment is to compensate for MCR crashes being submitted in a week from the crash data and paper coming in 3-4 weeks later).

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CIS

- Tech re-refresh of the CIS server infrastructure underway, basically upgrade the server software and the database software to the “latest and greatest” version offered by CMS.
- DTS is testing some entry process changes where they are having an entry operator work the same crash thru data entry and location entry. This should be a 4-6 week test.
- Finishing up initial development team testing on the integration of CIS with SafetyNet
 - Setting up a meeting with SafetyNet users to start end user testing
- Still waiting to meet with the FARS folks about participating in a pilot program to electronically submit FARS data
- Pilot testing the electronic transfer of data from 3rd party vendors
 - iyeTek has several agencies in pilot mode. Traffic Safety is looking at the images/data being submitted and working with the vendor to final things.
 - Sungard is testing only a couple validations to go.
 - New World is still working on upgrading their pilot agencies

Crash Report—Jessica Keldermans

- The Stats Unit is 28 days behind the date of the crash and is working May 2010 reports.
- The Location Unit is 51 days behind the date of the crash and is working April 2010 reports.
- The Case Prep Unit is scanning in real time.
 - We should be receiving the new scanner this week.
- The Safety Responsibility Unit is working April 2010 cases.
- We began the Data Entry/Location Entry combination test on July 14 to see if combining these two functions would save time if one person handled an entire case. If this test works then crash data will be in reporting status much quicker than it is now and we would be able to provide the data much faster. This test will be 4 weeks long and we have 6 employees (3 from the Stats Unit and 3 from the Location Unit) working on this.

Trauma Registry Data and NEMSIS Project at IDPH—Dan Lee

Pre-hospital run report system enhancements, Phases I and II

- Phase I went live on 29 April 2010 and the system is now capable of processing and storing NEMSIS-compliant data, whether received on scannable forms or in electronic files.
- The department will continue to accept electronic data from the old dataset through 29 April 2010, to allow adequate time for submitting agencies and their third-party software vendors to make the transition to the new dataset. We will also continue to accept the pre-NEMSIS version of the form until 29 October 2010, to allow time for paper submitters to deplete their inventories of the old forms. One submitter has completed the validation process that is a prerequisite for submitting NEMSIS-compliant electronic

data, and four are in the process of completing it. We expect to begin receiving NEMSIS-compliant data soon and certainly within this quarter, with the proportion of NEMSIS-compliant data to old format data received by us rapidly increasing as the 29 April 2010 conversion deadline approaches.

- Phase II is fully functional and was moved to production near the end of June, meaning that the system now provides a mechanism for submitters that do not have third-party software to enter individual records on line and for those with third-party software to validate and upload data. The web-based functionality will be made available statewide once the program manager has become fully familiar with it, completed user documentation, and provided training to EMS Region field staff, and this will occur within the third quarter of calendar year 2010. Currently four EMS Systems have access to a test ID for the web-based system and are evaluating it and providing comments to the program area. More pre-launch evaluation sites are expected before the statewide release.

Citations Data Update—Sherri Akers

Sherri presented the eCitations Systems Overview Report that was prepared July 1, 2010. Copy is attached.



eCitations System
Overview.b.docx

- The components/pieces numbered in the diagram have been defined and documented.
- We were able to take what was done during the requirements stage and re-use it to document other components in the diagram.
- Have a CD containing all the documentation. Also have a paper copy with a CD of the documents available here today. Will work with Lori and Lib to put the information up on Traffic Safety site with the other TRCC information.
- Good news - Senate Bill 3508 – Will give law enforcement agencies \$2 for each citation written which results in a guilty or supervision disposition. Not yet signed by the Governor – will become law July 27 if he takes no action.
- Please note the last paragraph on page 3 of the e-Citation System Overview document – we could develop the database and request the five northern counties who have deployed e-Citations send their citation and disposition data. DuPage County has already indicated they would be happy to send their data.
- At the end of the meeting, the group was asked about next steps in pursuing this work; however, no one really knew next steps.

ISP Crash Reconstruction—Jeff Darko

The ISP Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit (TCRU) was able to purchase an update to the Crash Data Retrieval kit. This kit will allow officers to download data from new vehicles involved in serious injury or fatal crashes.

The TCRU is completing a report using ISP Crash Reconstruction information which will provide data not currently available on MCR. The data will include seat belt information (replacing 99/9) and Breath Alcohol Concentration (replacing 97 or 96).

Chicago Data Quality Improvement/City of Chicago-IDOT Data Integration-Abraham Emmanuel IDOT Chicago Data Integration /Web MCR project:

We have moved forward and then stalled with this project. CDOT and Chicago Police are ready to start developing the Web MCR System as a component of the RCASE case management system that is being developed by Chicago Police. Unfortunately, the RCASE vendor, Oracle, has reached its contractual value limit and we are not in a position to issue a work order and start application development. CPD is working to increase the upper limit of this contract and we hope to have this done in one to two weeks time. As soon as the Oracle contract is updated, we hope to start the application development process. In the mean time we are continuing discussions with all stake holders including IDOT technical folks, to make sure that we have all the agreements and policy decisions are in place so that the work can proceed smoothly after it commences. As part of this effort we are finalizing a Technical Memorandum between city and IDOT. This document identifies the work to be performed and responsibility of each agency. Considering the short time available between the start of the project and end of grant period, Oracle and CPD are planning to put in extra effort and complete as much work as possible before Sept 30th. As we have mentioned earlier we hope to make the system available to any state law enforcement agency interested in using Web MCR for crash reporting.

Data Quality Improvement Project:

Chicago Police Academy and CODT continue to work on training police officers on crash data collection and reporting. Since the last ITRCC meeting, we have finished a before and after review of last year's training efforts. The final report should be ready shortly. We have also completed development of an online training course on reporting intersection related crashes. Last year's training focused on the 12 major data quality issues. This year and going forward our plan is to focus on one of these 12 data quality issues one at a time. We think limiting the training content to one topic at a time we can be more effective in our training efforts. Additionally each of the 12 major data quality areas identified in the first year has a number of associated nuances and exceptions. An in-depth training on each topic is required to capture as many exceptional situations as possible. Time permitting we hope to have one more training module developed for this year. Also this year the Police Academy continues to build its web based training capacity. Using the 408 funds Academy is training their trainers and content developers as wells as buying equipments and software to deliver the content to police officers. As with the data integration project, we goal is to share any of our training modules with other Illinois agencies. If anyone like to have a copy of our training modules or would like to participate our online training please feel free to get in touch with me.

Lori announced the formation of an assessment planning committee. She will need representatives from each agency. They are looking at a list of tasks in the assessment as well as matching tasks with committee members.

Subcommittee Reports

The Planning Committee has no report.

Human Factors/Data Quality Committee has not met.

Engineering Factors—Pricilla Tobias
ITRCC Engineering Subcommittee

Objective:

Incorporate and continually improve an integrated approach of the 4 E's (Engineering, Education, Enforcement and EMS) to identify, develop, and implement necessary elements and their availability to safety partners for data driven decision making in project identification, planning, policies and operations.

Short Term

- Update all process documentation, policies and manuals to reflect analysis methodology change from High Accident Location Identification System (HALIS) to Safety Performance Functions (SPF).
- Identify additional necessary data elements for the use within the Highway Safety Manual (HSM) including: Safety Analyst and Interactive Highway Safety Design Module (IHSDM); and other tools as applicable.

Intermediate Term:

- Incorporate the HSM methodologies into information systems and crash data reporting processes, through training, procedures, and policies.
- Engineering review and input of proposed crash reporting changes.
- Identify additional Work Zone crash information and coordinate the capturing and availability in the appropriate systems.
- Coordinate the capturing and availability in the appropriate systems of identified additional necessary data elements for the use within Safety Analyst, IHSDM, and other models from HSM as applicable.

Long Term

- Coordinate integration of necessary and appropriate systems for streamlined process flows and reduction of manual manipulation.
 - Data into Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) process tool
- Identify additional roadway and roadside characteristics and coordinate the capturing and availability in the appropriate systems.
- Engineering review of data capturing policies, procedures and methods.

ITRCC Engineering Subcommittee Members

Priscilla Tobias, IDOT, Bureau of Safety Engineering
Dave Piper, IDOT, Bureau of Safety Engineering
Roseanne Nance, IDOT, Bureau of Safety Engineering
Mike Gillette, IDOT, Bureau of Safety Engineering

Kim Kolody, CH2MHill
Kevin Burke, IDOT, Bureau of Local Roads and Streets
Yanfeng Ouyang, University of Illinois, Illinois Center for Transportation
Lisa Heaven-Baum, IDOT, District 1
Jeannie Bland, IDOT, District 5
Sean Coyle, IDOT, District 4
Dan Mlacnik, IDOT, District 6
Paul Niedernhofer, IDOT, Bureau of Design and Environment
Joyce Schroeder, IDOT, Division of Traffic Safety
Rob Robinson, IDOT, Office of Planning and Programming
Peggy Westerfield, IDOT, Bureau of Information Processing
Mike Lawless, IDOT, Bureau of Information Processing
Alan Ho, FHWA
Greg Piland, FHWA

Future Meetings Schedule

- October 18, 2010
- January 18, 2011
- April 18, 2011
- July 18, 2011
- October 17, 2011