

Illinois Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Minutes
January 17, 2012

Attending: Sherri Akers, John Mayer, Tom Casson, Jay Keeven, Jacque Huddleston, Dan Mueller, Jeff Darko, Jessica Keldermans, David Gruenenfelder, Greg Piland, Jim Garceau, Lou Humphrey, Mark Blankenship, Kristi Edwards, Gwen Montgomery, Les Nunes, Suzie Myers, Lori Midden, Mehdi Nassirpour, Shannon Alderman, John Webber, Dennis Embree, Darrell Clark, Joyce Schroeder

By phone: John Nelson, Dan Leonard, Ruth Kafenstok, Abraham Emmanuel, Priscilla Tobias, Roseanne Nance, Mike Gillette, Michael Mayer, Kim Kolody, Dan Lee, Xinrong Lei

The meeting was opened with remark from Darrell Clark who reminded attendees that March 15 is the deadline for submitting the 408 grants.

The minutes were approved. There was no old business as well as no reports from NHTSA or FHWA.

Strategic Plan discussion—Lori Midden/Mehdi Nassirpour

For the strategic plan, we originally started with the traffic records assessment, and then did a gap analysis. The crash side is pretty good; however, we need improvement on driver, hospital and other areas. We need to develop an action plan and timeline. Members should look over the matrix that Mehdi created. Also, we are trying to identify data quality issues and the next step is to modify the recommendations to actionable items.

Roseanne added that the Senate has drafted language for data improvement while looking at the data and data systems. This should be incorporated into the strategic plan. They have a meeting on January 30th to go through this. There are going to be new requirements for storing, collecting and analyzing data. Also, the assessment on the roadway data from Federal Highways will be incorporated into the strategic plan.

Mehdi asked Michael Mayer if there is anything SOS can do on the driver/vehicle side. Michael Mayer says that he has talked with Mike Steiner (who is the lead on this project) and that they will look at what possibly can be done and the priority of any projects.

John Webber stopped by to introduce himself as the Interim Director and let the committee know that he is open to talk with anyone about issues pertaining to traffic records.

Updates:

Safety Data Warehouse—Peggy Westerfield

Safety Data Mart – A project request has been submitted to BIP; the primary focus of the request is: 1) Enhancements to the tools available for external Safety Data Mart users; 2) Better metrics for measuring website usage statistics; and 3) training developed to support the new tools.

Usage Statistics: For 4th Quarter (Oct 1, 2011 – Dec 31, 2011) – 59 unique users, totaling 335 visits, averaging 5.6 visits per user.

Comments: Priscilla would like Safety Engineering to be involved in the external SDM. A more robust system is needed for the external users so that they have access to more data.

Jay Keeven was wondering whether phase II would bring the external users closer to the kind of access that internal users have. ISP has an intelligence officer who was hired to look at the data and even partial 2011 data would be better than no data at all. ISP wants to be sure that they are putting their enforcement where the problems exist.

Mehdi noted that DTS wants to make sure that the data is right before it is published to external users. Lori explained that the external site is for all users, and Priscilla noted that maybe ISP could have special access to the internal SDM. However, Lori noted that they have had troubles limiting permissions to internal users.

Safety Analyst – An action plan was set up to work through the Illinois issues in implementing this software; this includes two primary changes: 1) Initial dataset will focus on crashes that occurred on the State Network only; 2) secure a Windows 7 – 64 bit operating system with enhanced memory capability in order to speed processing times. The hardware has been set up, and we are resolving remaining issues in moving the existing files into the new test environment. We have noticed improvements in processing speed on various steps, but have not yet completed all of the steps necessary to create a dataset for user testing.

CODES Update/Traffic Records Performance Measures—Mehdi Nassirpour

PowerPoint presentation will be posted to website.

Comments: Jay wondered whether TraCS will fix the issue of miscoded/missing helmet data for motorcycles. Kristi said that TraCS would take care of this issue.

Mehdi plans on completing the analysis for motorcycles and sharing this information with the motorcycle group and hope to incorporate more safety awareness in training. A fact sheet will be prepared and given to HSP, NHTSA, etc. Priscilla would like to add information to the fact sheet also.

Priscilla also mentioned that we need to track the impact of the new bill that allows motorcycles to go through red lights after a certain period of time. Mehdi agreed that this will need to be watched closely.

Ruth was very impressed with the number of records they were able to link during this process.

MCR, GIS—Jim Garceau

MCR

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

CIS

- Completed the project to change the crash image repository to CMS's new Centera system. It has been up and running in production for a couple months.
- Development on the project to upgrade the work flow components of CIS from a fully custom solution to one using Microsoft's WorkFlow Foundation product is pretty much

complete. End users are testing with positive results. "Go live" and "roll back" scenarios will be tested in QA next week.

- Working with Traffic Safety to add the ability to move backwards in the workflow to allow supervisors to check or re-work a case.
- XML Transfer:
 - iyeTek has 13 agencies in production (~1600 crash reports submitted thru 1/15)
 - New World had their vendor test scenarios approved and they are working with Lansing PD as their first submitting agency.

Comments: Les questioned how TraCS was going to beat the 30 percent submittal rate of MCR. Kristi explained that there are around 30-40 agencies waiting to use the new software, which would give an increase of 12-13 percent. Jay said that he was excited about the new e-citation piece that will be available with TraCS. Kristi also noted that Iyetek does not have a location tool like TraCS does. Les wondered if we could ever make electronic submittal mandatory. Eventually this may happen, but there are some agencies that just do not have the equipment to submit electronically. Mehdi would like to see up-to-date info on users that we need to focus on that submit the majority of the crashes, like the Top 92 agencies from before. Kristi said that it has been awhile since they have focused on the Top 92 agencies, but will reinvestigate this after the current users have been switched over from MCR to TraCS. Mehdi feels like it would be a good idea to know which agencies submit the most crashes and Lou or Jim could get these numbers.

Crash Reports & Scanner Project Update—Jessica Keldermans

The Stats Unit is 35 days behind and is working November 2011 crash reports.
The Location Unit is 57 days behind and is working October 2011 crash reports.

The Stats Unit is a little more behind than normal because there are 4 vacancies in the unit. Two people retired at the end of December 2011. The SR Supervisor also retired in December. There are more retirees coming, and hopefully these positions can be filled soon.

Lastly, the TraCS group was moved under the Bureau of Safety Data and Data Services.

ISP Crash Reconstruction—Jeff Darko

We will be providing updated seat belt and breath alcohol information which was marked as "unknown" on the original crash report. We are in the process of buying new Crash Data Retrieval cables for Toyota vehicles. And, we are planning a new reconstruction officer training class in March.

Citations Data Update—Sherri Akers

Currently D-2 and D-15 in DuPage County are using the e-citation program. This week they will be expanding to more troopers in D-2. D-15 has a different way of connecting, so they will finish deploying there once their machines are ready. Also, DuPage County is in the beginning stages of creating the statewide database.

Jay noted that they are installing new printers in D-2, D-5, and D-11 so they will be equipped to do e-citations once it is rolled out to these districts.

Chicago Data Quality Improvement/IDOT Data Integration—Abraham Emmanuel

Data Quality Improvement Project: Continuing our efforts from the previous years this year we are focusing on the injury type field. This will be the third of the 12 critical fields that CDOT and CPD have identified as the most critical in the Crash Report. In addition this year we are looking at focusing the efforts on officers making the most number of errors on a consistent basis. This is being considered since the data received from the field still have significant quality issues. Also in consideration are some type of incentive program for the districts with the least number of quality issues and also training for the data entry staff at the headquarters.

Data Integration /Web MCR Project: The work on the Crash specific module (for which the 408 grant is awarded for) still remain halted at CPD due to the contractual issues for the primary vendor. CDOT is considering other possible options for implementing electronic crash reporting. As part of this effort a demonstration of the TRACs system that is being developed by the state is planned for January 23rd

Mehdi questioned who Abraham meets with concerning these issues. Abraham responded they meet with the police department and training academy. Mehdi notes that if there is anything that we can do to help Chicago with these data quality issues, that this should be added to the strategic plan.

Priscilla noted that they now have schools and parks as a GIS layer, and maybe there is more information in the Navteq data that would be useful. This should be checked into because the more information we have, the better decisions we can make.

TraCS 408 Project—Kristi Edwards

The legal documents have been signed by both Iowa and Illinois. The TraCS team had a kick-off meeting with the vendor to start customizations. The team is also working with officers to see what they need to help them enter the crash information correctly. It should take about 3 months for the software to be complete.

The TraCS team is requesting \$55,000 more to complete the project. \$30,000 has been moved from the program grant to the UIS grant to provide for satellite trainers to assist in training departments above I-80. TraCS grant is now at \$287,000 and the UIS grant is now at \$414,000.

TraCS may need more money in the future to add the imports of out of state drivers and the conversion of MCR reports to the TraCS system.

TraCS will meet the same requirements as an outside vendor and Traffic Safety will have to approve TraCS once it passes all of the requirements.

Darrell requested that the TraCS team provide a line item for next year of the possible expenditures by March 15th.

Mehdi requested to see a marketing plan that includes the number of agencies in Illinois and the number of crashes each department submits. Based on this list, he would like to see how these agencies are going to be targeted and the plan for bringing these agencies on, including the type of systems they currently use, etc.

Lori noted that she would be sending out the 408 grants to voting members.

Imagine Enhancement—Johnnie Maher

They have lost their contractual employee, and because of a change in process, it is taking longer to hire. Also, they have purchased 10 new monitors.

Data Analysis/Data Reporting of Statewide Databases—IDPH—Ruth Kafenstok

Work in progress with the IL EMS Data Reporting System (<http://app.idph.state.il.us/emsrpt/>): (1) All data requests have been completed; (2) In addition to 2010 IHA discharges and Crash Report, we received 3 years of the Illinois Trauma Registry (ITR) admission records. Mortality data has been requested but not yet received. Data programming work to update the Reporting System database has been initiated.

Assistance to the CODES program -- Proposed strategies to obtain missing BAC results from ITR to augment FARS records: In late September, EMSC and ITR program signed a data sharing agreement, and in late October we obtained the data for both this project and the Reporting System. Programming work to subset ITR records for this study is being finalized in preparation for examining the quality of BAC results data. In the following months we expect to conduct the following: (a) a thorough review of the ITR and FARS data to quantify completeness and selected accuracy dimensions of the data; (b) assess the feasibility and estimate the potential benefit of linking these two data sources for the purpose of augmenting BAC information in FARS records.

Continued to study MV injury-related reporting from Illinois ED visits. We have been able to determine the subset of ED MV traffic records according to established case definition for injury surveillance, and briefly described selected characteristics of the MV subset.

Continued to promote data reports on MV injury through this project's activities to agencies/organizations involved in traffic safety, including a presentation on October 20, 2011 in the 60th Illinois Traffic Safety and Engineering Conference, Urbana-Champaign: "Augmenting FARS Records with Health Care Information".

Comments: Mehdi noted that Evelyn, Ruth, Dan Lee, and Dan need to come up with a gap analysis for the injury side for the strategic plan.

Subcommittee Reports

Planning—Jessica Keldermans

The planning committee will meet right after the ITRCC meeting.

Data Quality—Jay Keeven/Mark Blankenship

Met in January and noted that this subcommittee needs to set realistic goals for the group and the strategic plan will assist in choosing goals and objectives. Important ideas from the meeting include: making sure the key players are on board, possibly simplifying the SR-1050, need Driver/Vehicle data linked by SOS, need data dictionaries from all systems, need more training (lack of resources) and push from more participation in electronic crash reporting.

Engineering Factors—Priscilla Tobias

There was a kick-off meeting about collecting and reporting highway inventory data. This included identifying missing data elements, field techniques for collecting data, and reducing data to databases. They will identify what we need to collect, how to do this cost effectively, and how to maintain the data. They will also do system screening to look at crash trends and compliance with federal rules. She has scheduled a meeting for January 30th and will follow up with the strategic plan in February.

Closing Remarks

The April meeting will include a review of the 408 grants as we did last year and all project managers must attend. March 15th is the deadline for submitting 408 grants.

Meeting Schedule

April 16
July 16
October 15
January 22