Traffic Safety Council Meeting Notes

March 3, 2005

Present: Graham Heitz, Major Dan Lonsdorf, Berth Cannestra, Todd Szymkowski, Steve Olson, Dennis Hughes, Caroline Bourie, John Corbin, Bill Bremer, Xiao Qin and Jerry Smith

1. Graham Heitz gave an update on Lead State Initiative on Unsignalized Intersections. AASHTO has developed a set of guides for states to use in developing initiatives and Volume 5 deals with Unsignalized Intersections. A task force was developed with most members being from local governmental agencies. A draft guide has been developed. The guide explains what type of data is available and how to use the data. The rest of the guide could be used in any of the other Strategic Highway Safety Plan emphasis areas. Graham will send out an electronic copy of the draft guide. LTAP and the Wisconsin Chapter or ITE are good mechanisms available to get this tool out to local governmental officials. County Traffic Safety Commissions, Traffic Engineering Work Group and Board of Directors are all potential groups to be brought into the process.

2. Major Dan Lonsdorf reported that champions have been named for the top 10 emphasis areas of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Some of the topics may lend themselves to merging into groups and not thinking of them as stand alone silos. Secretary Busalacchi wants to be able to hold Division Administrators responsible for final products. FHWA Division Administrator Bruce Matzke has been named co-champion in several areas and wants to be involved. The development of Technical Working Committees was not discussed but is a possible strategy. Champions could assemble teams to work on specific areas. A meeting of champions could be called to address what their expectations are and outline who is doing what currently. Major Lonsdorf will send a note to them and invite them to attend such a meeting. It was suggested that the May 5th Council meeting could be used as date for Executive level briefing or training. DTSD Directors should be added to the TSC distribution list for meeting agendas and notes and this will be done. Sometime this summer is goal for completion of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

3. Dennis Hughes gave a legislative update. 19 of the 132 member Legislature are newly elected. Some bills we are tracking have passed out of committee but none have become law at this point. Hearing on AB-43 is scheduled for today. AB-141 would result in loss of $47 million in federal highway aids. Standard Safety Belt Enforcement Bill is expected soon and Biased Based Policing is being considered as a separate bill.

4. Todd Szymkowski outlined agenda for Work Zone Safety Workshop scheduled for April 7th. Education, media awareness event and strategic planning will be included in the program. Event release was sent yesterday and there have already
been registrations received. DSP presence needed at Task Force event. Major Lonsdorf will see that this takes place.

5. Major Lonsdorf reported a Wisconsin Traffic Records Assessment is currently underway. Findings and recommendations will be presented tomorrow and written list of recommendations will follow. Verbal report will be given at Radisson Hotel at 8:30 a.m.

6. Jerry Smith reported next meeting date has been changed from April 7th to April 14th at 9:30 a.m. in Room 701(Waukesha) Conference Room.

7. Beth Cannestra reported that a presentation was made at the Project Development Conference in La Crosse on awareness so 3R projects do not degrade safety. She has talked with Pat Casey to review how other states allocate funding to pavement maintenance and how improvements get funded.

8. Xiao Qin reported that a Work Zone speed evaluation study was kicked off last week. They hope to finalize strategies and sites to be studied by March 10th.

9. Bill Bremer spoke at the Project Development Conference in La Crosse and focused on run off road work done by Marquette University staff. FHWA will talk with DTIM about deficiencies in data analysis. Draft of plan for use of opportunity funds for automatic mapping of crash locations is due next week.

10. Caroline Bourie reported that HR-3 (DOT Reauthorization) passed House of Representatives last week. House bill and Administration bill now have same fiscal total. HR-3 funds programs for the next five years.


12. Dennis Hughes reported Lifesavers Conference will be held in Charlotte, N.C. next week. International Association for Chemical Testing conference will be held in Madison, WI on April 10th-14th. Governor’s Highway Safety Conference will be held in Green Bay, WI on August 18-19.

Next Meeting Date: April 14th, 9:30 – 11:30, Room 701(Waukesha) Conference Room.