Traffic Safety Council Notes

May 4, 2006

Members present: Major Dan Lonsdorf (BOTS), Dennis Hughes (BOTS), Phil DeCabooter (DTSD), Jerry Zogg (DTSD), Steve Olson (OPA), Carolyn Bourie (OPBF), Patrick Fernan (DMV), Chuck Thiede (DTIM), Xiao Qin (TOPS Lab), and Tim McClain (BOTS).

Others present: Roy Hinz (AAA), Mark Gessler (FMSCA).

- Agenda -

Wisconsin Road Improvement Demonstration Program - Roy Hinz (AAA).

Roy Hinz gave a PowerPoint presentation on the AAA Road Improvement Demonstration (RIDP) - a public-private partnership designed to enhance traffic safety by reducing the frequency and severity of crashes at high-risk urban intersections (please see attached .pdf file for more details). The program expanded to Milwaukee County last year, the first locale outside Michigan in which AAA is deploying the RIDP. Thirty-eight intersections are being studied in the Milwaukee area, with the first three intersections scheduled to be completed in late 2006. This year, the program was launched in the Madison area where 10 high-crash intersections have been identified.

Roy noted that there has been good cooperation among all of the stakeholders/communities involved in the road safety audits including WisDOT.

Currently, safety audits of the Milwaukee intersections will be taking place June 6-9. If anyone is interested in seeing how the site visit portion of the audit is conducted, please contact Roy at RRHinz@aaawisconsin.com and he will provide a schedule and list of intersections.

Work Zone Safety Campaign Funding - Mike Goetzman (OPA)

Mike inquired about funding opportunities that might be available for WisDOT’s work zone safety campaign. He noted that funding, provided through a variety of sources including the regions, has dwindled significantly within the last year.

Carolyn Bourie suggested that funding could be available through SAFETEA-LU legislation once the strategic highway safety was completed (Issue Area #7, “Design Safer Work zones”). Rose Phetteplace indicated that she would look into funding opportunities at the region level and get back to Mike. Also, funding could be made available through FHWA’s Accelerating safety Activities Program (ASAP) – see Tim McClain’s membership report below.
Review/Approval of Draft, Strategic Highway Safety Plan – Maj. Dan Lonsdorf (DSP)

The revised draft, Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) was circulated to members by Carolyn Bourie. The Council was in agreement that a matrix should be developed showing the issue area and identifying the stakeholder that had input into the issue area. Carolyn indicated that she would develop the matrix.

The Council also agreed that a “Part Three” should be developed listing the remaining issue areas (#11 thru 22) that did not make the “top ten” instead of just listing these issues in the Appendix. It was felt that just placing these issues in the appendix would create the perception that they were thought of as unimportant.

The Council also agreed that the time period for the plan would cover the years, 2006-2008.

Major Lonsdorf noted that it was important that before the plan is finalized, that WisDOT reach out to stakeholder groups such as the Governor’s Council on Highway Safety, MPOs and RPCs as well as other groups.

The Council agreed that the overall goal should be a “5% reduction in crashes, injuries and fatalities when compared to the previous, five year average.”

There was consensus to approve the SHSP subject to the proposed revisions as identified. The Council also thanked Carolyn Bourie for her hard work as Editor in pulling together the draft.

The next step in the process is to obtain approve by the WisDOT Board of Directors. Dan Lonsdorf indicated that he would try to schedule the SHSP as an item for approval at the Board’s next meeting.

Membership Reports

Dennis Hughes – noted that DTIM/BTLR had finalized the list of signing/markig enhancement projects for the state. The program is being paid for through the $3.7 Million awarded to Wisconsin from passing 2003 Wisconsin Act 30 (the 0.08 law).

Chuck Thiede – announced that Joe Nestler (DTIM) has announced his resignation. This will require that a new person in DTIM be appointed to lead the division’s safety group for implementing changes in SAFETEA-LU.

Steve Olson – OPA continues to provide support for the Click-it or Ticket Media and Enforcement Campaign that began 5/15/06 and is scheduled to end 6/3/06.

Tim McClain – passed out information from Bill Bremer on a new, FHWA funding opportunity - Accelerating Safety Activities Program (ASAP)- for fiscal year 2006 (see attached guidance). Tim indicated that Bill is interested in obtaining proposals from Wisconsin on how the money might be spent. According to the guidance, FHWA are likely to award proposals in the $5,000 to $10,000 range. However, they will also accept
proposals up to $20,000. Xiao Qin (TOPS Lab) expressed some interest in the program as did Mike Goetzman (OPA) for the work zone safety campaign. Tim indicated that the deadline for proposals (submitted from Bill Bremer to FHWA) is 5/26/06 and that if anyone is interested, to please get in touch with Bill.

The next meeting will be in Room 701 (Waukesha Room) at 9:30AM on Thursday, June 1, 2006. Note that the July 6, 2006 meeting has been cancelled.

Submitted by Tim McClain, State Patrol/BOTS (5/28/06)