Traffic Safety Council Notes

October 6, 2005

Present: Harold (Mike) Schumacher, Steve Olson, Carolyn Bourie, Martha Florey, Major Dan Lonsdorf, Dennis Hughes, Bill Bremer, Jerry Zogg, Rose Phetteplace, Tim McClain, Todd Szymkowski, John Corbin and Jerry Smith

1. Martha Florey and Carolyn Bourie reported upon Data Workgroup outcomes. TAS has completed their work but data base outcomes are not complete. Single base map is still needed and MV4000 does not meet all data needs. TOPS Lab is developing a training class for DTSD and may be presented in April, 2006. There will be a conference in Phoenix on November 16-17 and DOT needs to identify 3 attendees. Carolyn will check to see if the Secretary’s Office has made any decisions on who should attend.

Major Lonsdorf reported and distributed a set of recommendations from Peg Schmidt’s “Increase Driver Safety Awareness” workgroup.

SHSP needs to be developed that meets SAFETEA-LU requirements. Some states have completed or almost completed their versions.

2. John Corbin and Jerry Zogg reported on Median Crossover Crash Study. Six areas have been identified that need protection and WisDOT design standards need to be revised. SHSP was impetus to begin to review how decisions are made on projects/improvements. DTSD managers are meeting on Monday of next week to discuss projects and process to move forward. Major Lonsdorf discussed fact that Troopers have noted that buried ends of guardrail is becoming an emerging issue. The old process for making safety improvements used to be that if there was an improvement project in an area with a safety defect, the defect was included in the project and it got fixed. The Department will now be more pro-active on fixing safety deficiencies.

3. Bill Bremer reported on new federal Safe Routes to School program. FHWA will be notifying the Department of Section 1404 program and the need to hire a full-time Coordinator for the program. WisDOT must administer the funds but position can be located elsewhere. 70% of the funds must be used for infrastructure and 10% to 30% for non-infrastructure related activities. DTIM Planning Section has approval to hire Safe Routes to School Coordinator.

4. Bill Bremer also reported on Highway Safety Improvement Program Question & Answer paper. SHSP is needed to qualify for funds. Safe Routes to School will receive $1.5M, HSIP will receive $21.2M and Railroad Crossing Improvements will receive $5.3.

Highway Safety Improvement Program is now a core program and funds will lapse, if not used. High Risk Rural Roads program will have $90M set-aside nationally. Rules are being developed for utilization of those funds.
5. Membership Reports:

Dennis Hughes  Legislature is trying to pass a booster seat bill that will make Wisconsin Section 405 eligible. Bill is still a work in progress and this has been a harder than expected task.

Martha Florey  She will be meeting with the Hospital Association in order to try to get more medical information on traffic crash victims.

Jerry Zogg  WisDOT is developing better standards for concrete median barriers. They will also be promoting use of roundabouts.

Tim McClain  Motorcycle Facts Book will be available shortly. Tim will also be the new staff support person to the Council.

John Corbin  He recently participated in an Incident Response Scan tour of several European countries. Captain Henry Devries of the New York State Police will be in Wisconsin to share findings at TIME meeting in Milwaukee on November end. John recommended that he then come to Madison to share similar briefing on November 3rd from 9-10 and TSC meet following this briefing. Both events will take place in Room 144B.

Major Dan Lonsdorf  Reported on fine job done by Trooper Morehouse who identified and stopping vehicle being driven by homicide suspect from Illinois. Driver had switched plates on the vehicle but Trooper felt driver was acting suspiciously and ran plate on in-car computer to determine plate belonged to suspect but was not the plate number matching alert notice. Driver is in custody and awaiting extradition to Illinois.

Next meeting will be in Room 144B with Incident Respons Briefing at 9:00 and followed by Traffic Safety Council Meeting on November 3, 2005.