INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS – WISCONSIN SECTION
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF TE COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

LOCATION: Wisconsin DOT SE Region Office
141 NW Barstow Street
Waukesha, WI 53187-0798
(262) 548-5903
Conference Room 338 A&B

ATTENDEES:
John Berg, FHWA
Charlotte Brunner, City of Waukesha
Bob Bryson, City of Milwaukee
Joanna Bush, WisDOT, State Signal systems Engineer
David Dryer, City of Madison
Dave Hansen, City of Green Bay
Pat Hawley, R.A. Smith National
John Kugel, TAPCO
Kelly Laabs, City of Milwaukee
Eric Lom, City of Appleton
Michael May, Traffic Analysis & Design, Inc.
Tom Notbohm, WisDOT, Design
Dennis Ryan, City of Janesville
Mark Servi, Barron County
Todd Szynkowski, UW, WI Traffic Operations and Safety (TOPS) Lab
Brian Udovich, Jefferson County

John Corbin, WisDOT, State Traffic Engineer, TE Council Chair
James Ito, Traffic Engineering Services, Inc., TE Council Administrator

GUESTS: John Davis, Ayers & Associates
Chris Fornal, City of Milwaukee

SUMMARY:

TE Council Chair, John Corbin, welcomed the attending Council members.

No new members to the Council were suggested.
RR X-ing Issue Update

Joanna Bush discussed WisDOT’s review format for RR crossings which was used in SW Region, USH 14 and CTH KP, included Mark Morrison and took about 3 hours to complete. The next review will be in Middleton, WI. A checklist and guidelines will be available by year’s end.

Bob Bryson indicated that WisDOT took the lead on this issue following the investigation of the 1996 Fox River Grove crash. He recommended that WisDOT continue in that capacity for this issue. The first RR crossing review would take time but subsequent reviews would be about a half hour long.

John Kugel indicated that the RR representative’s cooperation is the key in getting the review done. The RR crossings at 68th and 70th streets have been updated with the current state of the art to include speed sensing.

John Corbin indicated that he would investigate further involvement and support by WisDOT and FHWA. A consistent review team for each location to be coordinated by Mark Morrison might be desirable.

A RR preemption for a roundabout was noted to be in Prairie du Chien. Dave Hanson indicated that the Village of Howard has a roundabout near RR tracks.

Speed Management Guidelines Update

Tom Notbohm provided an informational project description sheet (authored by Rebecca Szymkowski) regarding the WisDOT Statewide Speed Management Guidelines project and a copy of the June 2008 Guidelines.

Discussion touched on issues such as requests for 20 mph Speed Limits on CTH’s, ped crossings, development and planning impacts, arterials in residential neighborhoods (citing Layton Boulevard, City of Milwaukee where politically lowered posted speed limits resulted in higher sampled speed results), and the need for some guidelines in the type of engineering study for establishing speed limits.

TOPICS DISCUSSION:

Todd Szymkowski provided the following topics:

Joanna Bush indicated that in the case of dark signals, the higher priority highway could have precedence. The signal head placements/configurations will need to be updated with the WisDOT Supplement to the 2009 MUTCD. Joanna also indicated that the WisDOT HAWK signal installation will be via the FHWA experimental procedure.

Dennis Ryan noted that differing procedures for dark signals in Illinois and Wisconsin may result in driver confusion.

Michael May and John Kugel cited testing a battery backup system (cost $4-5k) with an estimate of about a month’s duration for an All Red flash.

John Corbin indicated that dark signals could be clarified such that drivers are to treat the intersection as one that is “uncontrolled”.


The TOPS Lab is conducting a study in relation to roundabouts.

Joanna Bush indicated that HAWK signals are being considered for roundabouts with high pedestrian volumes and ADA concerns. The underground conduit system would be an added cost concern and should be considered in the Intersection Evaluation process.

Tom Huber is finalizing the WisDOT Pedestrian Facilities Guide.

Miscellaneous:

FUTURE DISCUSSION TOPICS:

1. MUTCD Experimentation Request Process
2. U-Turns at Traffic Signals update
3. LED Life Cycle Replacement recommendations
4. Dark Signal Guidelines
5. Advance Signal Flashers
6. Traffic Signal Preemption and Confirmation
7. Pedestrian Accommodations, Pedestrian Facilities Guide

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, WisDOT SE Region Office, 141 NW Barstow Street, Waukesha, WI, Room 338 A&B.