

**St. Cloud Area Planning Organization
Metro Area Safety Committee
Organizational Meeting**

**MINUTES
Tuesday, October 9th 2007**

An Organizational meeting of the Metro Area Safety Committee was held Tuesday, October 9th, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Kroll	City of St. Augusta
Stephen Gaetz	City of St. Cloud/ Public Svcs
William Schluenz	City of Waite Park
Deputy Chief Struffert	Sartell Deputy Chief
Chief Gullickson	Sauk Rapids Police Chief
Sheriff Cruze	Benton County Sheriff
Mitch Anderson	Stearns County Engineer
Jeff Miller	Stearns County Asst. Engineer
Tom Dumont	Mn/DOT Traffic Engineer
Scott Dahlin	District 742
Blake Redfield	Traffic Systems Manager
Jim Studinski	St. Cloud Metro Bus
Mary O'Brien	St. Cloud APO
Dave Then	St. Cloud APO

PowerPoint Presentation

Ms. O'Brien gave a presentation on the background of the Metro Area Safety Committee. She explained that the City of St. Cloud's Traffic Advisory Committee previously addressed safety issues with the emphasis on engineering, enforcement and education. The City of St. Cloud recommended that the Area Planning Organization take over facilitating the committee for the metro area. The APO's Policy Board has approved the formation of the new Metro Area Safety Committee. Ms. O'Brien stated that this first meeting would primarily be an organizational meeting to determine the interests and prioritize the efforts of the committee members.

Determining the Interests and Priorities of the Committee Members

Mr. Gaetz suggested that the Committee should research and develop recommendations concerning the use of pedestrian cones in intersections and other new devices aimed at improving pedestrian safety in intersections. The goal would be to develop a uniform approach for the use of these devices.

Mr. Gaetz stated that St. Cloud gets numerous requests for reduced speed limits and school zone improvements such as crosswalks and signage

Mr. Dumont said that school routing plans are the first step along with educating students and parents

Mr. Redfield added that congestion mitigation and better planning could result in fewer conflicts around school areas

Mayor Kroll felt school boards should be educated not to locate new schools on busy roadways

Mr. Gaetz suggested the use of Public Access TV to educate citizens on pedestrian safety and other issues along with training in the schools.

Chief Gullickson added that enforcement is also effective with pedestrian issues.

Mr. Wilson suggested that an enforcement plan similar to a Safe and Sober program may increase awareness and compliance.

Chief Gullickson raised concerns over red light running.

Mr. Gaetz informed the committee that the previous committee was in favor of photo cop cameras to reduce the number of violations. However, they have been found illegal to use in Minnesota without authorizing legislation.

Mayor Kroll said that increasing traffic has lead to more traffic problems but felt that improvements could be made to the timing of many traffic signals. Mr. Dumont stated that many of our fixed time systems are over capacity and that this is becoming a problem nationwide.

Mr. Gaetz suggested sub-committees could be formed to study various issues. Recommendations, if approved by the Safety Committee, could then be taken to the affected jurisdictions for implementation.

Ms. O'Brien asked the committee members what safety issues they would like to have on the agenda for the next meeting. After further discussion it was decided that three items would be carried forward:

- Law Enforcement

- Saturation Police Patrols/ Enforcement

- Legislation

- Authorize legislation for Photo Cop Intersection Enforcement

- School issues

- School Zones

- School walking/biking routes

- School crossing

Adjournment

The Metro Area Safety Committee Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.