Roadside saftey continued from page 3

For that continuing effort, the Iowa County Engineers Association, ICEA, was presented with an Achievement in Transportation Safety Award by the Iowa Traffic Control and Safety Association in 2001.

2. To address potentially hazardous objects in the right of way, Story County has established a policy and adopted an ordinance to ensure that roadsides are as safe as possible. This initiative, described in the July–August 2002 edition of *Technology News*, included a public communications campaign, a detailed inventory of county roadsides, and a plan for removal or mitigation of identified obstructions.

Similar removal/mitigation plans might be prioritized as follows:

- remove potentially hazardous objects
- relocate obstructions outside the clear zone
- redesign objects to permit vehicles to pass over them safely
- replace objects with breakaway or crashworthy designs
- shield obstructions with guardrails or other protective devices
- if feasible, delineate potentially hazardous objects
- if no other option is possible, do nothing and monitor

For more information

AASHTO's *Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low Volume Local Roads* (P1616), *Roadside Design Guide* (2002), and the MUTCD: Contact Jim Hogan, Iowa LTAP library coordinator, 515-294-9481, hoganj@iastate.edu.

Iowa DOT's Office of Local Systems Instructional Memoranda with Design Aids and summaries of AASHTO guidelines for designing improvements on rural county roads: See www.dot.state.ia.us/local_systems/publications/county_im/county_im_toc.htm.

Story County initiative: Contact Bob Sperry, county engineer, 515-382-7355, engineer@storycounty.com, www.storycounty.com/engineer/default1.html.

Also see Chapter 17 of Iowa's *Toolbox of Highway Safety Strategies*, "Keeping Vehicles on the Roadway and Minimizing the Consequences of Leaving the Road." Contact Mary Stahlhut, Iowa DOT Office of Traffic and Safety, 515-239-1169, mary.stahlhut@dot.state.ia.us. •

Portable utility box

Editor's note: The "portable utility box" is one of several winning innovations from the "Better Mousetrap" competition at the Iowa Maintenance Training Expo in 2002. In each issue of Technology News we're highlighting one of the winners. For information about other winning "mousetraps," see CTRE's website: www.ctre.iastate.edu/ (see "Popular Links").

WHEN FEW vehicles are available for hauling heavy, multi-purpose items, a portable utility box is a handy alternative.

The utility box is maneuvered with chains attached to it and the truck box. Using the box is simply a matter of raising and lowering the truck box. Raise the truck box to lower the utility box to the ground for loading. When ready to haul, lower the truck box and the utility box is lifted up into position, resting against a wooden bumper guard.

The Iowa DOT maintenance crew in Tipton developed the box, which measures 74 inches wide by 52 inches deep by 27-1/2 inches high. The tailgate measures 69 inches by 25-1/2 inches.

The crew manufactured the box with square tubing, channel iron, flat iron, and chain. The materials cost $400 and labor cost $600.

For more information about the portable utility box, contact Denny Petersen or Loren Reynolds, Tipton maintenance shop, 563-946-2391. •