

Sioux Center wins safety award

Tom McDonald, Safety Circuit Rider

THE CITY of Sioux Center received the Iowa Traffic Control and Safety Association's (ITCSA) first annual Achievement in Transportation Safety Award for a local improvement of significant importance in highway safety.

In response to concerns for pedestrian safety, excessive vehicle speeds, and crash history, the City of Sioux Center took the innovative step of converting an approximately one-mile section of U.S. 75 through the central business district from four to three lanes (with a center left-turn lane) in 1999.

Reducing the number of lanes to improve safety is certainly innovative and, in the past, might even have been considered illogical. Despite some skepticism locally, the city undertook this improvement and achieved excellent results. Vehicle speeds and crashes were reduced and, after completion, public opinion was very supportive.

The cost of such a conversion is relatively low because it primarily involves re-painting pavement markings and installing descriptive signing.

ITCSA, an association of engineers, educators, law enforcement, and emergency care professionals with a dedicated interest in highway safety, developed this award to recognize notable achievement through physical improvements or programs which enhance public safety on Iowa's streets and highways. Criteria include efficiency, positive impacts on the community, innovation and originality, and local acceptance and involvement.

The City of Sioux Center is certainly to be congratulated for undertaking this innovative improvement to enhance public safety in their community! •

Installing steel sign posts

THE CLINTON County Highway Department has begun to use 1 3/4-inch steel sign posts. Advantages of these posts include

- a breakaway feature in case a vehicle comes into contact with the post.
- long life—the post won't rot off the way wood ones can.
- less chance of wind damage.

Since the steel posts are more expensive than wood posts, steel posts are being gradually phased in in Clinton County.

Raymond Myers, traffic control technician, thought he could use the same receiver on a hydraulic boom that he'd developed for pushing wood posts into the ground. To accommodate the steel posts, he created an adapter. The adapter consists of a two-inch steel mandrel to maintain the integrity of the inside of the base and two plates to hold it inside the wood post adapter. The plates measure 3/8 x 3 5/8 x 3 5/8 inches and match the inside dimensions of the four-inch wood post adapter.

One plate was welded to the base of the mandrel to take the "pushing" pressure. Myers cut a two-inch by two-inch section from the center of the other plate, which was then slipped over the mandrel, spaced 3/8 inches up from the bottom plate, and welded in place.

A 5/16-inch hole was drilled in the four-inch receiver to allow a bolt to go completely through the receiver and between the two plates of the adapter, restraining it inside the receiver.

Steel post bases must be positioned flush with the ground, so Myers made a three-foot adapter to lengthen the receiver because the hydraulic cylinders were not long enough to push completely to the ground.

The steel posts require a two-inch anchor installed in the ground first. The posts slip inside the anchor and are held in place with a bolt.

For more information about the original post receiver and/or this steel post adapter, contact Raymond Myers, 319-659-8230. •



Editor's note:
In the July–August issue of Technology News, the "Tip from the field" was about eliminating leaning signposts. Raymond Myers has a tip in this issue that's related to his earlier invention.

Steel post adapter.

