

Iowa study of red light running

A STUDY OF traffic signal violations in Iowa, sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation and conducted by the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE), is nearing completion. The study provides a comprehensive review of red light running literature, surveys of Iowans' public and professional opinions about red light running, and crash records data and data from intersection observations that identify the scope of the problem in Iowa.

The study includes two surveys. The first was distributed to four professional groups—engineers/administrators, emergency care professionals, driver educators, and law enforcement personnel. Survey participants were asked questions about red light running that related to their professional roles and responsibilities.

The second survey, conducted by the University of Northern Iowa, consisted of telephone interviews with over 1,000 Iowans who were considered to be representative of the general population. This survey sought information about the participants' own involvement in red light running collisions, their opinion of the severity of the problem, and their views about the use of video cameras for enforcement and citation.

The study uses two sources of data to determine the scope of the red light running problem in Iowa. Iowa crash records for the years 1990–1997 provided one source of data. Actual red light running violations were also observed using video cameras installed at selected intersections in Iowa communities.

The emphasis of the research is on increasing safety at signalized urban intersections, not on identifying and prosecuting violators.

Compilation and analysis of data are underway. The final report is expected to be released before the end of the year. For more information, contact Tom McDonald, safety circuit rider, CTRE, 515-294-6384, tmcdonal@iastate.edu. •

Motor grader and snow plow rodeos a success

THIS YEAR'S all-season Iowa Maintenance Training Expo was capped off with both a motor grader roдео and a snow plow roдео.

Douglas King from Poweshiek County won first prize in the motor grader competition, edging out Sac County's Paul Strong by one point in the written portion of the competition.

The snow plow competition was won by the team of Mark Goins and Greg Householder from the city of Ankeny. The snow plow roдео includes a written exam, a vehicle inspection, and a driving component.

Many participants went away from the event with mugs, caps, and cash from the raffle. The capstone prize of the raffle was a large-screen television. •



Motor grader operators and snow plow drivers had numerous obstacles to avoid, including cones and mailboxes, during both competitions.

