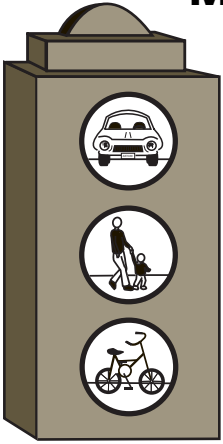


Multidisciplinary teams implement safety initiatives that work



SOME OF THE BEST ideas and programs for reducing crashes and improving traffic safety come from interjurisdictional teams of professionals from various disciplines. Sharing information about successful team initiatives in Iowa's nine metropolitan areas was the focus of Iowa's first Multidisciplinary Traffic

Safety Teams Peer Exchange, held in Des Moines in fall 2001.

Who attended

Representatives of several well established, multidisciplinary safety groups participated in the exchange:

- Dubuque County Multidisciplinary Safety Team
- Metropolitan Traffic Management Team (Polk County 1)
- Des Moines Safe Kids Coalition (Polk County 2)

- Central Iowa Safety Task Force (Polk County 3)
- Southwest Iowa Freeway Team (SWIFT) (Pottawattamie County)
- Citizen Awareness on Roadway Safety (CARS) (Scott County/Quad Cities)

In addition, several counties and metro areas with safety initiatives but not necessarily "multidisciplinary teams," were represented: Black Hawk County/Arrive Alive, Johnson County, Lee County, Linn County, Sioux City/Woodbury County, and Story County.

No two teams were exactly alike. Some focused on enforcement issues, others on incident management, traffic engineering, or pedestrian/bicycle safety; for some, the emphasis has evolved over time. The diversity of team experience, membership, size, operations, and goals enhanced the exchange.

Selecting initiatives

During the discussions, several common criteria emerged for setting up teams and/or particular programs:

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Sponsors of the multidisciplinary safety teams peer exchange

Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, Iowa Department of Public Safety

Iowa Safety Management System Coordinating Committee

Iowa Traffic Control and Safety Association

Some successful multidisciplinary safety initiatives in Iowa

(Teams described above.)

Red light running automated enforcement study	Dubuque
Pedestrian safety, focusing on school neighborhoods	Polk County 2, Woodbury Co.
Installing/inspecting child safety seats for free	Polk County 3
Coupons for free dairy products for citizens transporting children properly	Polk County 3
Cooperative interjurisdictional enforcement	Polk County 3
Countywide cooperative enforcement along a heavily traveled corridor	Scott County/Quad Cities
Coordinated policy to reduce duplication of service for stranded vehicles	Scott County/Quad Cities
Evaluation of corridor safety	Black Hawk County
Joint alcohol enforcement	Johnson County, Lee County
Incident/emergency management programs and manuals	Dubuque, Polk County 1, Pottawattamie County, Lynn Co.

- Initiatives are need-driven, not team-driven. That is, someone sees a problem or need and assembles a group to address it. That need (e.g., incident management) may be ongoing, and so the team may continue to meet regularly.
- Once representatives of different disciplines begin working together to address one issue, a climate can develop in which information about other joint concerns is shared, and the group may decide to address other safety challenges.
- As different needs are identified and addressed, membership in multidisciplinary teams can and often does fluctuate.
- It may be more common for public agencies—state, city, and county engineers; law enforcement; metropolitan planning organizations and councils of government, etc.—to cooperate together than to include representatives of community- or neighborhood-based initiatives. Groups may want to consider broadening their

membership to involve the public through community safety groups.

- Several participating teams have used the services of Iowa Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau to help them organize.

For more information

See the list of resources and contact information below.

A report is online, www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/safety_peer_proceedings.pdf, and will be available at the ITCSA/IASE fall conference, October 31–November 1, in Des Moines (see the calendar on page 12.) The report describes

- information shared at the exchange,
- contact information for representatives from participating teams, and
- detailed information about the kinds of resources available to support traffic safety initiatives in Iowa. •

Resources for safety teams

For detailed information about resources, see the online report, www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/afety_peer_proceedings.pdf.

Resource	Contact
Iowa DOT’s Office of Traffic and Safety-----	Mary Stahlhut, Iowa DOT, 515-239-1169, mary.stahlhut@dot.state.ia.us
Iowa’s Statewide Safety Management System’s----- Coordinating Committee	Mary Stahlhut, Iowa DOT, 515-239-1169, mary.stahlhut@dot.state.ia.us
Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau-----	Mark Campbell, GTSB, 515-281-3907, gtsbinfo@dps.state.ia.us
Iowa Traffic Safety Data Service-----	515-292-5004, itsds@iastate.edu
Center for Transportation Research and Education ----- Iowa State University	Tom McDonald, Duane Smith, Jim Hogan, Captain Bob Rushing, 515-294-8103, tcdonal@iastate.edu , desmith@iastate.edu , hoganj@iastate.edu , rushing@dps.state.ia.us , respectively
Iowa Traffic Control and Safety Association-----	Blake Redfield, president, 712-328-4907, cbtraffic@neonramp.co ; Tom McDonald, membership chair, 515-294-6384, tcdonal@iastate.edu
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration-----	www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/outreach/safecomm/