Aug. 28, 2013

Brian Costin
Director of Government Reform
Illinois Policy Institute
190 South LaSalle, Suite 1630
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Dear Mr. Costin:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on Aug. 21, 2013.

You have requested the following items:

Request 1: Any and all documents the Illinois State Board of Education has in relation to School Bus Safety, including statistics on how many kids are injured or killed in relation to school transportation-related crashes.

Response 1: Per your Aug. 22 phone conversation with ISBE’s Tim Imler, Cinda Meneghetti and Amanda Simhauser, our agency does not track nor collect statistics on the number of children who are injured or killed in relation to school transportation-related crashes. The following two names are contacts for crash and school transportation-related crash data in Illinois: Lori Midden, Special Studies Manager, Division of Traffic Safety, Illinois Department of Transportation at (217) 785-2736 or Lori.Midden@illinois.gov; and Mark A. Blankenship, Crash Studies & Investigation Unit Manager, Illinois Department of Transportation - Division of Traffic Safety, 1340 N. 9th Street Springfield, Illinois 62702, (217) 785-3056 or (217) 782-7988 (fax). Crash statistics may also be found at the following link: http://trafficsafety.illinois.gov/default.aspx. Click on the 11th tab in the Featured Site section of the page that shows a picture of a crushed vehicle.

Request 2: Any and all documents referenced by or known to the Illinois State Board of Education related to stop-arm cameras.

Response 2: Per your Aug. 22 phone conversation with ISBE’s Tim Imler, Cinda Meneghetti and Amanda Simhauser, our agency has no documents responsive to this request.
Request 3: In regards to a May 2, 2012 memo from Cinda Meneghetti, State Director of Pupil Transportation with the subject line of “Illegal Passing Survey to be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012”:

a. The names, positions, email and/or mailing address of everyone this memo was sent to.
b. Any and all documentation and contact information of the “groups putting together proposed language to amend the law in the Illinois Vehicle Code...”.
c. Any communication to and from the groups mentioned in question 3b and Cinda Meneghetti since January 1, 2010.

Response 3: The attached document, 14-059-costin-doc1.pdf, provides the distribution list for student transportation. For part b of your request, our agency has no responsive documents. Regarding part 3, our agency seeks an extension pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3 (e) (vi) as this portion of your request for records cannot be complied with within the time limits prescribed. The new deadline will be Sept. 5, 2013.

Request 4: Any and all communications to and from State Director of Pupil Transportation Cinda Meneghetti, State Superintendent Christopher Koch, Board Chair Gery Chico, and board members Steven Gilford, Dr. Vinni Hall, James Baumann, Dr. Andrea Brown, Dr. David Fields, Melina LaBarre, Curt Bradshaw or any other former board member referencing “stop-arm cameras” or “stop arm cameras” or any communication to and from any companies, and their affiliates, known to produce stop-arm cameras since January 1, 2010.

Response 4: Our agency seeks an extension pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3 (e) (vi) as this portion of your request for records cannot be complied with within the time limits prescribed. The new deadline will be Sept. 5, 2013.

If you have questions, please contact Amanda Simhauser at (217) 782-4648 or asimhaus@isbe.net.

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information

Attachment