

WINNEBAGO COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes- April 10, 2013

Members Present:

Mike McGinley-Community Representative
Bob Doemel-Winnebago County Highway
Daunita Kline-Community Representative
Mike Panosh-DOT-BOTS
Bill Anthes- Winnebago County Sheriff's Office
Matt Albrecht-Menasha PD
Kevin Wilkinson-Neenah PD
James Merten-City of Neenah Traffic Engineer
Dan Kussman-City of Oshkosh Transit
Mark Lewis- State Patrol
Jodi Marsh-DOT NE Region

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Bob Doemel. Members were recorded and collected. Motion made by Wilkinson to approve the minutes from last meeting was 2nd by Albrecht. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Doemel-Discussed the role and title of the Traffic Safety Commission (formerly Highway Safety Commission) and approved the title change through Corporation Counsel Bodnar. Thus the group will now be known as Traffic Safety Commission. Next he discussed the representation of this Commission and suggested that we elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and a Secretary. Doemel stated that since he had been acting as the Chair that he was comfortable with remaining in that position which no one was opposed. Doemel then nominated Anthes as Secretary which Panosh 2nd and all approved. Anthes nominated Wilkinson as Vice Chair, 2nd by Doemel and approved. So the makeup of the Commission is as follows:

Chairperson- Bob Doemel
Vice Chairperson- Kevin Wilkinson
Secretary- Bill Anthes

Discussed other representation per TSC guidelines to include:

County Highway –Bob Doemel
County Law Enforcement- Bill Anthes
County Safety Coordinator-Bill Anthes
Education representative- possibly Kobussen or Driver Ed teacher
Medical representative designated by County Board- possibly Gold Cross or retired Physician
Legal representative- possibly ADA or retired judge
State Patrol – Trooper Lewis
Highway Engineer (DOT)- Scott Nelson
Traffic Safety (DOT)- Mike Panosh
Law Enforcement- Kevin Wilkinson, Matt Albrecht, OPD, TMPD

ROUNDTABLE

Wilkinson- Brought guest James Merten (Neenah Traffic Engineer) to discuss upcoming construction project on Commercial Street between Winneconne Ave. and Wright Street which will have an impact throughout the summer. The project will be done in segments which will include no through traffic in the areas under construction. The project is to improve the flow of traffic on Commercial Street, at this time there is uncertainty on whether or not there will be temporary signals on the detour routes. Construction will begin in April or May and conclude in November. Wilkinson also discussed the Public Safety meeting he recently attended and those in attendance were not aware of the OWI Task Force that Winnebago County Agencies have formed, Mike Panosh stated he will continue to get the word out through social media and press releases. Since it is relatively new it will take some time but he is optimistic of the progress so far.

Lewis- Had nothing to report.

Albrecht- Had nothing to report.

Kussman-Roundabout at Jackson and Murdock has the pedestrian lights installed and functioning however there is a connection problem that is being worked on.

Anthes- Four fatalities were discussed.

- 1) 01-15-13@ 0722 AM on USH 10 w/b ramp to USH 41 n/b 1 vehicle rollover into median wall. Driver Giles H. Woolf 07/30/22 died as a result of injuries sustained. He was wearing a seatbelt and roadway conditions were snow covered. Lost control of his vehicle while negotiating the turn onto the ramp. Passenger also had seatbelt and suffered minor injury.
- 2) 01-18-13 @ 1201 AM on Omro Rd at Leonard Point Rd. 1 vehicle vs. tree. Driver Katie L. Miller 12/22/84 died as a result of injuries sustained. She was wearing a seatbelt and the airbags did deploy. Vehicle was westbound on Omro Rd. and failed to stop at stop sign with "T" intersection at Leonard Point Rd. Vehicle left roadway striking two trees, speed and alcohol (.25 BAC) were listed as contributing factors.
- 3) 01-28-13 @ 0714 AM on CTH G at Angell Rd. 2 vehicles angle crash. Driver of eastbound vehicle Pamela K Nelson 02/19/65 dies as a result of injuries sustained. She lost control of her vehicle on snow covered roads and slid into the path of a westbound vehicle. Her vehicle was struck on the passenger side and she was thrown into the rear compartment as she was not wearing a seatbelt. The other driver was seriously injured but survived.
- 4) 02-19-13 @ 0635 AM on STH 26 at Cottonwood Ave. 2 vehicle angle crash. Driver Brian S Rogula 03/04/70 died as a result of injuries sustained. He was travelling s/b on STH 26 when a delivery straight truck travelling n/b slid into his path. The roadway was snow covered and icy, witnesses indicate that the delivery truck was not driving excessive when it lost control. Rogula was not able to avoid contact and went underneath the frame of the truck, he was wearing a seatbelt.

Panosh- Reminded the commission that weather events are uncontrolled and drivers need to adjust accordingly. Provided the fatality numbers for the region to date.

Winnebago- 4

Brown- 2

Outagamie- 1

Statewide 110 vs. 125 last year at this time.

Discussed possibility of a Speed Enforcement Task Force similar to the OWI task force that would target USH 41 during the summer months. Will increase the media and public awareness of the task force.

Marsh-Construction updates:

- USH 41 bridge will be completed by mid July
- USH 41 between USH 45 and Breezewood will be completed by May 1st
- Hwy G overpass scheduled for 2014
- Hwy Y and Hwy GG overpasses scheduled for 2015
- Hwy 44 overpass repair completed this summer around special events to limit impact on travel
- Cth K bridge in Eureka begins early May and completes in November

Concerns of citizens at STH 21 and Leonard Point with the entrance and exit at this point, improvements will eliminate left turn access from Leonard Point on STH 21 and will only allow for "right in" and "right out". It would also allow for left in for motorists travelling e/b on STH 21. The ramps at USH 45 and Ryf are built to standards, there were concerns that the grade on the ramps was so steep and there was very limited lighting in the area.

Kline-Motorists are not stopping behind the stop bar on N. Main at New York Ave and it blocks traffic from being able to turn onto New York from Harrison. There is a parking issue on Lincoln just east of Jackson as you turn onto Lincoln the cars are parked on the side of the road and traffic has to cross the yellow line to proceed past them. Dan Kussman indicated he would check into both matters.

Doemel- Winnebago County Highway projects set to begin:

- Cth K bridge in Eureka begins early May and completes in November
- Cth M from STH 44 to Fond du Lac County line will begin this summer (improvement)

Navigation season will begin April 19th.

McGinley-Informed the group of reflective magnetic arrows that are utilized by the Fort Meyers PD to assist with directing traffic. Anthes will look into this and see if this would be a viable option for local Public Safety. Indicated that a citizen had pointed out a potential safety hazard in the roundabout at Algoma and USH 41 in which there is only a curb on the side of the roadway and that there is a steep embankment in that area. Anthes will check the location for any issues.

Next meeting scheduled for 07/10/13

Motion made by Kussman and 2nd by McGinley to adjourn. Motion carried.

Kussman- Pedestrian flashers are in the works of being installed in the roundabout at Jackson/Murdock as part of a Federal Study. Look for them to be operational by the end of this month.

Panosh- Statewide traffic fatality totals for 2012 were 601. In 2011 they were 565 so 2012 marks the first year since 2007 that fatalities have risen above the 600 threshold. Passenger deaths increased as did motorcycle deaths in 2012. An OWI Task force has been created in Winnebago County and has had some success since it's creation in November of 2012. There is a Facebook page specific to these task forces.

Kline- Concerns on the sightline at Knapp St/Durfee with trees blocking the view. The City has looked into this problem and reports that the trees are on private property and meet the guidelines for the setback. Duanita also concerned about the traffic that will be created when the new CVS Pharmacy is built and questioned who pays for the street improvements, the businesses are required to pay for any Traffic Impact Studies and/or traffic improvements.

Seaver- Positive feedback on the OWI taskforce especially noticeable in his community where there is an average of 2-3 officers working in his community at any given time. The task force allowed about a dozen working law enforcement during it's deployment. Lt. Rick Lenault will be the new representative for the Town of Menasha PD.

Bob Doemel- Reported snow removal and vision concerns for the amount of snow received already this year. The ramps at STH 26 and STH 44 have vision problems that will be addressed with graders, also some of the predicted warmer weather this coming week may eliminate some snow. The roundabouts are being addressed in the overnight hours when traffic has less of an impact. Bob also informed TSC of the RR quiet zone that is being implemented at the crossing on Snell Rd. They have been working directly with the railroad on matters at Snell, Butler, and CTH Y crossings.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:00 A.M. on Wednesday April 10, 2013 at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion to adjourn by Kussman; 2nd by Doemel. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.