

WINNEBAGO COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – January 10th, 2024

Members Present:

William Anthes – Winnebago County Sheriff's Office
Mike McGinley – Community Representative
Chris Gorte – Oshkosh Police Department
Bob Doemel – Winnebago County Highway Department
Kevin Kuklinski – Winnebago County Highway Department
Rick Olig – WI DOT BOTS
Matt Albrecht – Menasha Police Department
Scott Morrison – Oshkosh Area School District
Jennie Mayer – ECWRPC
Ben Wyatt – WI State Patrol
Rod Hamilton – WISDOT Traffic

Attendance and introductions

Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chris Gorte. Members were recorded and collected. Motion made to approve the minutes from the October 11th, 2023 meeting.

Public Comment

None

Review of county-wide fatal traffic crashes

- 1) WCSO: Hwy M Deer Dr at Banville Rd, 10/17/23. Impaired driver operating at a high rate of speed lost control of vehicle. Operator and passenger were killed and both were not wearing seatbelts.
- 2) WCSO: Hwy 21 at Sand Pit Rd, 10/26/23. Driver was west on Hwy 21 and attempting to turn south on Sand Pit Rd but stopped in traffic. Another vehicle going westbound struck first vehicle causing it to go into oncoming traffic and start on fire. There have been 2 fatal crashes at this intersection since 2019 and 26 total in the past 5 years.
- 3) WCSO: Hwy 21 at E. Scott St, 11/01/23. Vehicle traveling east on Hwy 21 and attempting to turn into a business and had stopped in traffic. Another vehicle traveling east on Hwy 21 rear ended the first vehicle. 2nd vehicle did not slow down and operator of 2nd vehicle was partially ejected due to not wearing seatbelt. It is possible there was vision obstruction due to the position of the sun. There have been 6 crashes in the past 5 years at this intersection.
- 4) WCSO: 9th St Rd. at Hwy 116, 11/03/23. Vehicle was westbound on 9th Street Road at a high rate of speed and proceeded over a hill and struck a trailer being pulled by a pickup truck. Operator of the vehicle died. Based on the positioning of the hill, the operator of the truck was deemed to be not at fault.
- 5) WCSO: Hwy 91 at Knott Rd, 11/17/23. 16 y/o operating an ATV was going south on Knott Rd and did not see the stop sign at Hwy 91 and was struck by a pickup truck going eastbound.
- 6) Menasha PD: Hwy 114 Washington St at River St, 12/31/23. Elderly driver was traveling north on Washington Street and had a medical event and lost control of vehicle striking a building. Passenger in vehicle (also elderly) died from injuries sustained in the crash.

Round Table Discussion

Rick Olig

Rick reported that preliminary numbers show that in Wisconsin fatal vehicle crashes were down slightly in 2023 but up significantly for pedestrian and bicycle fatal crashes. He also reported that other states have law enforcement officers trained to draw blood for OWI's instead of phlebotomist and that Wisconsin is looking at this as well. This would save a lot of time at hospitals and during court trials. He reported that the driver education grants passed into law with \$6.5 million available July 1st. He also reported that the suspension for road tests has ended and all new drivers must now take the road test.

Kevin Kuklinski

Kevin stated that the 511 program has been very helpful with the County Highway Department's operations.

Jennie Mayer

Jennie introduced herself to the group in order to promote safe ride to school programs.

Rod Hamilton

Rod reported that there are several planned road projects in 2024. Those include I-41 expansion, Hwy 10 noise wall, Hwy 91 bridge replacement and Hwy 116 resurfacing in Winneconne.

Matt Albrecht

Matt reported that the Menasha Police Department has done several "Slow Down or Move Over" deployments on Hwy 441 and numerous citations were written for vehicles not moving over for emergency vehicles.

Chris Gorte

Chris proposed a motion to draft a letter to local legislators regarding the high number of deadly crashes on Hwy 21. The DOT is planning to add roundabouts on Hwy 21 but the commission would like the construction date moved sooner to prevent any further deaths. Motion was seconded and carried.

Next Meeting: April 10th, 2024 at 09:00 A.M. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.