

WINNEBAGO COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – October 12th, 2022

Members Present:

Darin Rice – Winnebago County Sheriff's Office
Greg Cianciolo – Winnebago County Sheriff's Office
Chris Gorte – Oshkosh Police Department
Kevin Kuklinski – Winnebago County Highway Department
Rick Olig – WI DOT BOTS
Tanner Russell – East Central WI RPC
Mason Simmons – WI DOT
Mike McGinley – Community Representative
Dan Diedrich – WI State Patrol
Alex Zimmerle – WI State Patrol
Matt Albrecht – Menasha Police Department
Kathy Hegrans – Theda Care Representative

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 July 13th, 2022 meeting.

Public Comment

None

Review of county-wide fatal traffic crashes

- 1) (Not on agenda: Oshkosh PD Fatal 400 Block W 12th 7-13-22) Male driver operating a motorcycle traveling east in the 400 block of W. 12th Avenue was racing with another motorcyclist. Operator lost control of motorcycle and struck a parked car at a high rate of speed. Operator was not wearing a helmet or any other protective gear. Operator died at the scene. No alcohol or drugs were present with the operator.
- 2) Adult male operating semi-truck was traveling south on I-41 when he likely had a medical episode causing him to become unconscious. Vehicle was set on cruise control at 68 mph and left roadway through a 6 foot chain link fence, crossed Green Valley road and traveled completely through a family residence before coming to a stop. An infant was struck and killed when the vehicle crashed into the residence. Toxicology reports are still pending. Mason Simmons explained that the appropriate chain link fence was in place based on the several environmental factors.
- 3) Female driver was on a curved portion of an on ramp to Hwy 10 eastbound from Hwy 45 when she lost control and rolled the vehicle. The driver was ejected. It was later determined that the driver died from taking drugs prior to the crash and not from injuries sustained in the crash. Therefore this is not a fatal crash.
- 4) Adult male was operating a motorcycle northbound on N. Koeller Street in the city of Oshkosh inside the Witzel roundabout in the inside lane. A female adult driver was operating a vehicle also northbound on N. Koeller inside the Witzel roundabout but in the outside lane. The female driver wanted to go west on Witzel and did not see the motorcycle in the inside lane and

illegally changed lanes inside the roundabout striking the motorcyclist causing it to crash. The motorcyclist was not wearing a helmet and later died due to a head injury sustained in the crash.

Pending Legislation

There was no pending legislation discussed.

Round Table Discussion

Kevin Kuklinski wanted to express his thanks to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office for their continued presence in work zones. Finishing crack work on I-41 is being conducted during overnight shifts.

Mike McGinley was pleased to hear about the continued solutions that are being discussed regarding traffic safety problems. He also expressed his gratitude regarding the advancements in technology and knowledge in traffic enforcement and education from the committee members.

Dan Diedrich stated that five new troopers have been assigned to the Northeast Wisconsin region. He also stated that there will soon be aerial speed enforcement focused on I-41 between Fond Du Lac and Green Bay.

Mason Simmons stated that the DOT will be putting on free Traffic Incident Management training on October 25th focusing on delayed recovery on interstates and highways. The training will be in Green Bay. He also stated that statistics are showing a decrease in statewide seatbelt usage from last year. Current stats show 87% are using seatbelts compared to low 90% from 2020.

Kathy Hegranes informed the group that the recently held FOCUS event reached 4,200 teenagers from 32 different schools. The program is looking for new offender/victim speakers for future events.

Rick Olig updated the group on current crash statistics. As of January 2022, there have been 457 fatal vehicular crashes in Wisconsin, 8 in Winnebago County. He stated that December 14 – January 1 is the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign. October is Pedestrian Safety Month. Rick also showed national statistics that male drivers are much more likely to be involved in rural crashes than females. Rick also informed the group about upcoming Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) classes that are available for law enforcement.

Next Meeting: January 11th, 2023 at 09:00 A.M. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.