

# WINNEBAGO COUNTY SAFETY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes- January 18, 2017

## Members Present:

Robert Doemel-Winnebago County Highway  
Rick Olig-DOT-BOTS  
Mark Habeck- Winnebago County Sheriff's Office  
Kevin Wilkinson-Neenah PD  
Scott Nelson- Wis DOT  
Callum O'Connor – Wis DOT  
Mike McGinley-Community Representative  
Dan Kussmann-City of Oshkosh  
Matt Albrecht – Menasha PD  
Chris Gorte – Oshkosh PD  
David Mass – Oshkosh PD  
Chris Bordeaux – NM Transfer  
James Merten – Neenah DPW

## Guests:

Bill Hillman – Town of Algoma resident  
Dan Wissink – Town of Algoma resident

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Kevin Wilkinson. Members were recorded and collected. MM/S to approve the minutes from October 12 meeting. Motion carried.

## Public Comment

Bill Hillman and Dan Wissink presented their concerns about hazards at the intersection of State Hwy 21 at Leonard Point Road. They suggested short-term improvements including lane striping, a sign that reads "thru traffic keep right," and stricter speed enforcement. They would also like to see reconstruction of the intersection to resolve the hazards long-term.

Scott Nelson of DOT explained the history, some of the factors that add to the problems at that intersection, the long-range plans (which include a roundabout) and how funding works for those long-term projects. That intersection is currently not in the funded plan for the next several years. If development occurs to the south of that intersection, a developer's agreement with the Town of Algoma may cause changes to occur sooner.

## Review of county-wide fatal/serious traffic accidents

Sgt. Gorte reported on a serious accident that occurred at Witzel/Westbrook on November 28 at about 4:37 p.m. A 15-year-old pedestrian who was legally in the crosswalk was hit by an e/b vehicle. The pedestrian was thrown forward and was then run over by a w/b pick-up. The pedestrian survived and it is hoped she will have a full recovery. It was raining at the time of the crash.

## **Pending and potential legislation affecting highway safety**

None noted

## **Review of history and circumstances for some of the most accident-prone intersections in Winnebago County**

### **Menasha:**

Lt. Albrecht presented information about the intersection of Third Street at Racine. This is a high-volume signal-controlled intersection which saw 8 reported crashes in 2016. Lt. Albrecht has reviewed the causes for those crashes and found they are typically driver error. He also reported the new roundabouts near Hwy 441 appear to be working well and have reduced crashes at those locations.

Scott Nelson reported that a study showed that for those urban intersections that experienced 5 crashes or more in any of the last 3 years, the average crash rate is 1 per million vehicles travelling through. The intersection at 3<sup>rd</sup>/Racine would be slightly higher than that rate.

### **Neenah:**

City Traffic Engineer Merten discussed the history of crashes at the Green Bay Rd/Winneconne Ave roundabout in Neenah. Crash history was:

2011: 88  
2012: 50  
2013: 56  
2014: 49  
2015: 71

There have been few injury accidents. The group discussed engineering and environmental factors that may lead to crashes at this location. Rick Olig suggested that gains may be realized by producing a new and fresh educational campaign. Scott Nelson advised the Hwy camera on 41 at Breezewood can be turned and zoomed to monitor traffic at the roundabout. Scott will work with James to accomplish that and the two will meet in the future to explore other options for crash reduction at the intersection

### **Oshkosh and County (deferred to April meeting)**

#### **Round table discussion**

**Bordeaux:** Wanted to commend the excellent work of city and county street crews, who kept roadways quite safe during some very difficult icing conditions

**Olig:** Wanted to make sure people know they should report safety issues directly to their local highway department and not wait to bring them up at a commission or committee meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for 04-12-17 at 09:00 A.M.

MM/S to adjourn. Motion carried.