

WINNEBAGO COUNTY SAFETY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – July 10th, 2019

Members Present:

Laura Vendola-Messer – Winnebago Sheriff's Office

Scott Nelson-WIS DOT-NE Region

Kathi Hegranes – Theda Care

Anna Schenk – NE Region DOT

Mike Panosh – Wis DOT BOTS

Ray Palonen – County Highway Department

Chris Gorte-Oshkosh Police Department

Rick Olig – Wis DOT BOTS

Jacci Ziebert – Wis DOT BOTS

Kiley Klaver – Winnebago County Health Department

Attendance and introductions

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chris Gorte. Members were recorded and collected. MM/S to approve the minutes from the April 10th meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment for this quarter.

Review of county-wide fatal/serious traffic crashes

#1 WCSO: Hwy 116 near Harbour South 4-15-19

Male driver crossed the center line and struck another vehicle head on. Both drivers of the vehicles died on scene. The male driver that crossed the center line was later determined to be under the influence of alcohol.

#2 Oshkosh PD: Bowen Street and Bayshore Dr 5-20-19

Single occupant driver drove south on Bowen and into the Fox River. Driver was later recovered by WCSO Dive Team. This incident is still under investigation.

#3 WCSO: HWY M and Clarks Point Road 6-2-19

Motorcyclist was driving south on HWY M and failed to successfully negotiate a curve and drove off of the roadway. He did not appear to have any life threatening injuries the day of the crash but later died from his injuries. Alcohol was not a factor.

Presentation on BOTS Traffic Data

Jacci Ziebert from WI DOT BOTS provided the committee with crash data from the past several years. She also explained that she is available to the group to compile various crash data upon request.

Round Table Discussion

Ray Palonen discussed the proposed County Ordinance 7.16 regarding ATV and UTV Routes and Regulations in Winnebago County. He was very concerned regarding the current wording of the ordinance and the extreme safety concerns that ATV/UTV routes would create on county roads. The traffic safety advisory commission held a vote and unanimously voted against supporting County Ordinance 7.16 ATV/UTV Routes and Regulations in Winnebago County. Ray was going to share the commission's concerns at the next County Board meeting.

Chris Gorte talked about having a representative from Canadian National Railroad and a teen representative attend future meetings to bring different perspectives to the commission. He also informed the attendees of the 2019 Governor's Conference on Highway Safety that is scheduled for August 21st and 22nd. He encouraged people to attend if their schedules allowed.

Rick Olig informed the commission that speed as a factor in crashes is likely under reported. Speed related crashes have increased 30% in the state of Wisconsin. BOTS would like to see other factors, such as driving too fast for conditions, incorporated in the speed category for crashes. He also stated that commercial motor vehicle crashes are much higher than in years past but teen crashes are down slightly from last year.

Kathi Hegrans informed the group that Bergstrom Automotive will be donating a vehicle for the "Choose Your Ride" program. This vehicle will be housed at Theda Care in Neenah and be under their insurance. It will be available for all police departments to use for various public relation events.

Mike Panosh reported that the various DOT traffic grants, which started in October of 2018, have resulted in over 500 citations and 500 warnings by law enforcement officers in our region.

Scott Nelson stated that Highway 21 will be resurfaced this summer from the western county line to the Omro city limits. Highway 21 will receive center line rumble strips. He also stated that Highway 116 will also be resurfaced from the south part of Omro to Hwy M.

Next meeting scheduled for 10-9-19 at 09:00 a.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.