

WINNEBAGO COUNTY SAFETY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – October 9th, 2019

Members Present:

Laura Vendola-Messer – Winnebago Sheriff's Office

Scott Nelson-WIS DOT-NE Region

Kathi Hegrans – Theda Care

Ray Palonen – County Highway Department

Chris Gorte -- Oshkosh Police Department

Daniel Kontos – Wis DOT BOTS

Chris Bordeaux – NM Transfer

Mike McGinley – Community Representative

Scott Morrison – Oshkosh School District

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 July 10th, 2019 meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment for this quarter.

Review of county-wide fatal/serious traffic crashes

#1 Oshkosh PD: Witzel and Mason 8-20-19

77 year old male was walking across Witzel and was struck by a car traveling westbound. The driver admitted that she was distracted by the setting sun and by a house that diverted her attention. No arrests or citations issues. Male was not in a cross walk.

Presentation on Autonomous Vehicles and Ride Sharing by Sgt. Glen Jones, Wis. State Patrol

Sgt. Glen Jones gave a presentation on Ride Sharing which is a popular alternative to own a car, especially in more populated cities. Ride Sharing, or Peer to Peer Sharing allows vehicle owners to rent out their privately owned vehicles to other people, much like rental car companies. This is all done by reserving a vehicle on a phone app like Turo.com, Maven.com, HyreCar.com or Getaround.com. Sgt. Jones discussed the many financial implications Ride Sharing would have on the DOT/DMV budgets as well as other legal issues.

Review of Winnebago County ATV/UTV ordinance

Highway Commissioner, Ray Palonen, reviewed the new county ordinance regarding ATV/UTV's on County Highways. He explained that a lot of details are still not worked out and changes may occur as planning continues. Please see the included link for further details on the ordinance. https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/atv_utv_ordinance_179-072019_0.pdf

Round Table Discussion

Kathi Hegranes invited the group to attend the "Party at the PAC" which is an informational presentation aimed at teen drivers. This presentation shows the dangers of impaired driving and distracted driving. The dates for the event are November 12th 9:15-12:30 and November 13th 8:45-12:00. Kathi also shared that Theda Care received the "Choose Your Ride" vehicle from Bergstrom Automotive. Law Enforcement agency can check this vehicle out free of charge and use it at local events to remind the public about finding safe rides home.

Scott Nelson reported that the construction project on Highway 116 between Eureka and Omro has just been completed. The Hwy 441 project should be completed by November. He also advised the group that the Congress Ave Bridge in Oshkosh (Hwy 21) will be closed from January through the middle of June for repairs. He also advised the group that Hwy 76 will be under construction from I-41 through Hwy JJ. Roundabouts will be put in at the intersections of GG, G, and JJ. This project is expected to start in April and last through November of 2020.

Daniel Kontos from WisDOT BOTS advised the group that fatal crashes throughout the state are down from last year, including fatal crashes in Winnebago County. He also advised that Wisconsin drivers are using seatbelts 90% of the time which is just above the national average of 89%. He also informed that group that October 21-25 is National Bus Safety Week and National Teen Driver Safety Week. October 19 is National Move Over Day.

Next meeting scheduled for 1-8-20 at 09:00 a.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.