

WINNEBAGO COUNTY SAFETY COMMISSION Meeting

Minutes-October 11, 2017

Members Present:

Kevin Wilkinson-Neenah PD

Lori Seiler – Winnebago County Sheriff's Office

Lara Vendola-Messer - Winnebago County Sheriff's Office

Tim Berg – Wisconsin State Patrol

Rick Olig-WIS DOT-BOTS

Scott Nelson-WIS DOT-NE Region

Hank Mitchell-Winnebago County Highway

Chris Gorte-Oshkosh Police Department

Mike McGinley-Community Representative

Chris Bordeaux – NM Transfer

Mike Panosh – WIS DOT – BOTS

Matt Albrecht – Menasha PD

Scott Morrison – Oshkosh Area School District

Kim Biedermann – East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Attendance and introductions

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

Public Comment

Kim Biedermann from East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was in attendance and expressed that she represents the Winnebago County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, to address safe pedestrian and bicycle routes. Either she or Emily Dieringer will attempt to attend future meetings and add pedestrian/bicyclist perspective. Both will be added to the e-mail group list.

Review of county-wide fatal/serious traffic accidents

#1 OPD: Non-fatal significant injury crash on Jackson near Packer. At about 4:43 a.m. on Saturday, August 12 a southbound vehicle drifted left, first side-swiping a n/b vehicle and then hitting another n/b vehicle head on. S/B vehicle was travelling at about 55 mph. S/B driver was believed to be impaired.

#2 WISO: Fatal 2-vehicle crash at STH 76 and CTH G. Occurred at about 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 31. The eastbound vehicle pulled out from the stop sign in front of a southbound vehicle. Speed limit is 55 mph. This is a section of roadway scheduled for renovation in 2020, to include roundabouts at 76/GG, 76/G, and 76/JJ. There was discussion about other dangers along this stretch of roadway, especially for left turns. The commission voted unanimously to send a letter to DOT urging them to keep this project as a priority. Kevin will write a letter.

#3 WISO: Fatal rollover/ejection on E/B US10 near Clayton Road. At about 6:40 a.m. on Saturday, September 9 the lone-occupant vehicle drifted left to the median rumble strips. The driver then over-corrected and left the roadway to the right ditch area. Driver was unrestrained and was ejected. It was otherwise a survivable crash. No witnesses, no known distractions. Speed limit is 65 mph. Scott Morrison confirmed that in his drivers education behind-the-wheel classes the students must practice off-road recovery. The victim in this case was a teen from Waupaca.

Pending and Potential legislation affecting highway safety

Kevin Wilkinson reported on a trend in the grocery industry to provide on-line ordering and drive-up service. Walmart in Neenah has requested an extension of their liquor license to allow the service to also provide alcohol sales. Neenah City Council is considering the request. Other communities in Wisconsin are addressing this as well.

Chris Bordeaux provided an overview of the new federal Electronic Log D (ELD) law, which goes into effect on December 18. There is quite a bit of discussion about the topic in the industry, and some are even calling for a one-hour boycott from CMV driving on Wednesday, October 18. Electronic logging replaces the hand-written paper log books that have been standard in the industry for decades.

Mike McGinley shared an article about proposed federal legislation that would require car manufacturers to include warning alarms if a car gets locked while a child is still inside. The proposal is intended to reduce the number of children who died from hyperthermia when left unattended in a vehicle in hot weather.

Selection of Vice-Chair

Oshkosh Police Sergeant Chris Gorte was nominated and unanimously voted to the position of vice-chair of the Winnegabo County Traffic Safety Commission.

Round Table Discussion

Mike Panosh reminded everyone that the Governor's Conference on Highway Safety is scheduled for August 22-24 at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. He will send a notice/invite to Chief Wilkinson to forward to the group. He also reminded the group of the "Dive Sober" mobilization that will be occurring August/September for 2 weeks.

Chris Gorte reported on the results of his agency roundabout safety event for pedestrians which included a group of walkers traversing several roundabouts in Oshkosh on September 21. The program went well and provided good education for drivers.

Chris also reported on some driving issues related to refugees who obtain their temporary driver's license. Some of the refugees do not seem to understand the rules of the road well, and some think that the temporary license is all they need and don't seek a permanent license. The group discussed ways to provide education to this group of drivers, including working with primary employers.

Chris also gave an update on the progress of the Oshkosh Arena, which is nearing completion.

Mike Panosh provided statistics showing that statewide, fatalities are at about the same level as in 2016. Winnebago has had only four, which is better than most years, but other counties including Outagamie and Brown are experiencing higher rates.

Mike McGinley shared an opinion article about the failing of America's Driver's Education programs. The group discussed the perceived loss of quality and saturation that formerly was obtained by taking drivers education in school for an entire semester.

Mike also asked if the committee could get an update on the latest trends and tools in traffic calming. Hank Mitchell and Scott Nelson advise they can present information at the next meeting.

Scott Nelson announced a traffic management meeting set for Wednesday, October 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. At the meeting, representatives will review the latest trends in traffic incident management, future road improvement projects, and updates on current projects. Everyone is invited. The meeting will be at W6214 Aerotech Drive, Appleton.

Scott Morrison provided an overview of the Oshkosh Area School District's drivers education program.

Chris Bordeaux mentioned federal discussion about autonomous trucks (drones) and platooning, in which a group of trucks is electronically controlled but the lead truck is controlled by a driver.

Tim Berg stated that Wisconsin State Patrol is now providing 24-hour coverage from Fond du Lac to Brown County on the US 41 corridor. He also reported that he recently did a presentation to a conference of drivers education instructors. If anyone has a topic that they think should get presented to the drivers education instructors at their conference, they should provide the information to the Bureau of Traffic Safety (BOTS).

Next meeting scheduled for 01-10-17 at 09:00 a.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.