

## **WINNEBAGO COUNTY SAFETY COMMISSION**

### **Meeting Minutes – October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

#### **Members Present:**

Greg Cianciolo – Winnebago Sheriff's Office

Mason Simmons - WIS DOT-NE Region

Chris Gorte -- Oshkosh Police Department

Rick Olig – WI DOT BOTS

Jake Edwards – WI State Patrol

Bob Doemel – Winnebago County Highway Department

Scott Morrison – OASD Driver's Education

Mike McGinley – Community Rep.

Rob Doemel – Winnebago County Highway Commissioner

Bryan Keberlein – Winnebago County Court Commissioner

Kathi Hegrans – Theda Care Representative

Matthew Albrecht – Menasha Police 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 July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Review of county-wide fatal/serious traffic crashes**

#1 WCSO: Oregon Rd at Nekimi Ave 8-5-21, Hours of darkness

Operator of a taxi cab had pulled into a driveway on Oregon Rd. The vehicle then backed into the roadway and was struck by a northbound vehicle. Collision occurred at the driver's side door of the taxi cab. Operator of the cab was deceased. Passenger of the cab and operator of second vehicle were not injured.

#2 WCSO: Neenah PD: W Wisconsin Ave at Main St 8-8-21

Operator lost control of their motorcycle while making a right hand turn in the above intersection. Operator was not wearing a helmet and collided with a utility pole after leaving

the motorcycle. Operator later died from their injuries. Operator's blood alcohol content was .17.

#3 WCSO: Hwy 116 at Ristow Rd 9-10-21; Hours of darkness

Motorcyclist was traveling north on Hwy 116 when they left the roadway. Motorcyclist was not wearing a helmet and was deceased. Blood test to determine suspected impairment is still pending.

#4 WCSO: Hwy 91 at Wall St 9-19-21; Hours of darkness

Operator of a westbound vehicle on Hwy 91 crossed the center line and collided with a eastbound vehicle. Operator of the eastbound vehicle was wearing a seatbelt but later died from their injuries. Alcohol consumption for the driver going westbound is suspected but investigation is still pending. Mason Simmons from DOT stated that centerline rumble strips for Hwy 91 is projected to be added in 2025.

### **Pending Legislature**

Rick Olig informed the group that there is pending legislation that would allow municipalities to post their own speed limits for ATV/UTV's along roadways. Currently Winnebago County is not allowing ATV/UTV clubs to post black/white speed limits as it interferes with cars with technology that can read posted speed limits.

There is pending legislation (SB-437/AB-445) that would allow the enforcement of registration violations during state of emergencies as the state allows online renewals. Currently during state of emergencies, registration violations are not enforceable.

### **Current state of driver education; Scott Morrison and Mike McGinley**

Mike stressed the importance of the driver's education program in the Oshkosh School District and the outstanding job that Scott has done over the years. Mike stated that he really appreciated the support for quality driver education through the years from the Oshkosh school system board and administration. Mike stated that less than 20% of Wisconsin public schools offer driver's education and behind the wheel instruction. Scott stated that state funding has caused driver education to become more expensive for students which is no longer a mandatory course for high school students. Scott stated that approximately 70% of teenagers 16-18 have their driver's license in Winnebago County compared to only 40% in Milwaukee County. There are currently 440 students in the Oshkosh School District that are enrolled in driver's education. The OASD's program consists of 36 hours of classroom instruction and behind the wheel lessons. The 5 main principles of the program are 1) Pay Attention, 2) Buckle Up, 3) Drive Sober, 4) Smart Speeds, 5) Have a Good Attitude.

### **Round Table Discussion**

Rick Olig informed the group that as of October 4<sup>th</sup>, there have been 35 fatal ATV/UTV crashes in Wisconsin in 2021. He discussed how ATV/UTV's are not designed to operate on asphalt especially at speeds meant for vehicles. He also informed the group that local police agencies are participating in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled over campaign December 13 – January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mason Simmons talked about projects along Hwy 21 in Winnebago County. This includes roundabouts at the intersections of 21/Leonard's Point, 21/Sand Pt and 21/Hwy F. These projects are scheduled for 2027. Based on traffic concerns at Hwy 21 and Leonard's Point, a TRAWS system will be put into place before roundabouts are constructed. The TRAWS system (Through Route Activated Warning System) will alert drivers going eastbound and westbound on Hwy 21 that there are vehicles stopped at the Leonard's Point intersection attempting to turn onto Hwy 21.

He also stated that the Racine Bridge project should be completed by November of 2022.

Jake Edwards introduced himself as the new WI State Patrol representative.

Rob Doemel informed the group that he is the newly appointed highway commissioner for Winnebago County. He informed the group about staffing and equipment shortages that are creating new challenges for the highway department.

Kathi Hegranes informed the group about the new dates for the FOCUS event which are March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022. This event exposes high school sophomores about the dangers of distracted and impaired driving. She informed the group that the FOCUS program is looking to expand their message to 8<sup>th</sup> graders with the assistance of CESA 6. They are also looking to provide a refresher program to high school seniors. She also discussed the Choose Your Ride vehicle that is available to law enforcement agencies which helps give a visual message to teens about important choices. This vehicle looks half like a police car and half like a taxi cab. Kathy urged law enforcement agencies to create an agreement with Theda Care so that the vehicle could easily be checked out by an agency's representative.

Matthew Albrecht shared that the Menasha Police Department will be starting a traffic camera program in the city of Menasha in the near future.

**Next meeting** scheduled for January 12th at 09:00 a.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.

