

WINNEBAGO COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – January 11th, 2023

Members Present:

Lori Seiler – Winnebago County Sheriff's Office
Chris Gorte – Oshkosh Police Department
Kevin Kuklinski – Winnebago County Highway Department
Rick Olig – WI DOT BOTS
Tanner Russell – East Central WI RPC
Colin Kafka – East Central WI RPC
Mike McGinley – Community Representative
Matt Albrecht – Menasha Police Department
Kathy Hegranes – Theda Care Representative
Bob Doemel – Winnebago County Highway Department
Scott Morrison – Oshkosh Area School District
Eric Sikorski – Wisconsin DOT
Anthony Edwards – Neenah Police Department

Attendance and introductions

Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chris Gorte. Members were recorded and collected. Motion made to approve the minutes from the October 12th, 2022 meeting.

Public Comment

None

Review of county-wide fatal traffic crashes

1) WCSO: Fatal I-41 at Witzel Ave, 10/13/22

Reckless driver was southbound on Interstate 41 near Hwy 21 when it caused a crash involving two other vehicles. A passenger in the third vehicle died a few days after the incident from injuries related to the crash. Driver of the vehicle that initiated the crash was issued citations.

2) WCSO: Fatal Green Valley Rd at Wooden Shoe Rd, 11/23/22

Two vehicles were southbound on Green Valley Rd. after leaving an establishment where both drivers had a disagreement at. One of the vehicles passed the other vehicle at a high rate of speed and failed to negotiate the curve near Wooden Shoe Rd. The back passenger was ejected and died at the scene. This subject was not seat belted. Driver of the vehicle was arrested for operating while intoxicated along with other traffic violations.

-Bob Doemel shared that the Town of Vinland has requested a guard rail at that specific curve in the road. He stated that the road is designed to handle traffic at the appropriate speed and guard rails could possibly cause more harm than good. He is looking at the possibility of using reflective chevrons as a warning sign. In the past 5 years there have been 5 crashes at this curve and all 5 crashes involved driver impairment.

Pending Legislation

There was no pending legislation discussed.

Round Table Discussion

Kevin Kuklinski reported that all repairs have now been made to the Oregon Street Bridge in Oshkosh.

Kathy Hegranes informed the group that her department is working on a teen driving grant that may have funds to reward teens for good driving behavior. She encouraged law enforcement members to reach out to her if they wanted to get involved in this grant. She also reminded the group that the Choose Your Ride vehicle is available to communities and stated that she would like to see this tool used more often in 2023. Kathy also mentioned that the Theda Regional Trauma Advisory Council is looking at supplying those leaving the Winnebago County Jail with some type of reflective device when they are walking on Hwy 76 (Jackson Street).

Mike McGinley mentioned the value of having freshly painted lane lines like in southern states. Bob Doemel mentioned that Winnebago County Highway Department will be going to 6 inch lines in the near future which should make the lines more prominent.

Anthony Edwards stated that the Neenah Police Department is trying to solve the problem of high frequency of crashes at Winneconne / Green Bay intersection as this is an ongoing traffic problem in their city.

Rick Olig updated the group on current crash statistics. He stated that in the past 5 years distracted driving is down 44%. He also stated that work zone crashes are down as well statewide.

Bob Doemel stated that all new county plow vehicles will be outfitted with green flashing lights which have shown to give more visibility to other drivers on the road. He stated that he has been receiving increasingly more requests to lower speeds on various roads and highways throughout the county. He stated that he would like to create a more formal request process to lower speeds. He was informed by others in the group that in other counties, citizens are not allowed to request lower speeds, the request must go through a town board first. Bob will continue to look into this process.

Colin Kafka stated that his organization is working on comprehensive safety action plans for various communities that takes in different risk factors to determine if specific corridors/intersections can be reconstructed or changed to be safer. Funding would then be secured to help the community with the construction of these potential plans.

Chris Gorte stated that Sergeant Benjamin Wyant of the Wisconsin State Patrol will be the new WSP supervisor for Winnebago County and will attend future Traffic Safety meetings when he can.

Next Meeting: April 12th, 2023 at 09:00 A.M. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.