

WINNEBAGO COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – April 12th, 2023

Members Present:

Chris Braman – Winnebago County Sheriff's Office
Chris Gorte – Oshkosh Police Department
Bob Doemel – Winnebago County Highway Department
Rick Olig – WI DOT BOTS
Tanner Russell – East Central WI RPC
Mike McGinley – Community Representative
Matt Albrecht – Menasha Police Department
Kathy Hegrans – Theda Care Representative
Scott Morrison – Oshkosh Area School District
Rod Hamilton – Wisconsin DOT
Ben Wyant – Wisconsin State Patrol

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 January 11th, 2023 meeting.

Public Comment

None

Review of county-wide fatal traffic crashes

- 1) WCSO: Fatal Knott Rd at Hwy 91; 1/1/23
Adult male was discovered deceased in the roadway by mail carrier. Investigation revealed that the male was ran over by a vehicle. Detectives from the WCSO were called to the scene and the investigation is still pending.
- 2) WCSO: Hwy 76 North eastbound ramp to Hwy 10; 2/8/23
Vehicle was traveling north on Hwy 76 and entered the ramp to merge onto Hwy 10 eastbound when it lost control and rolled. Driver was lying next to vehicle but unknown if ejected. Seatbelt was not worn by driver. Driver was conscience and alert when first responders arrived but died enroute to the hospital. Highway crews reported slippery road conditions due to ice/snow. Driver impairment due to alcohol was a factor in the crash.
- 3) Neenah PD: Fatal Main St at Torrey St; 3/29/23
Officers responded to a vehicle stopped in the roadway with an unresponsive male in the driver's seat. Preliminary investigation shows that the male driver had a medical episode that resulted in his death which caused in a single vehicle crash. This will likely be modified to a property damage crash and not a fatal crash.
- 4) WCSO: Fatal Hwy 21 at Broderick Rd; 3/30/23
Adult male driver was west on Hwy 21 and accelerated at a high rate of speed and failed to negotiate the curve at Broderick Road. The vehicle rolled several times and the driver was

ejected. Driver was pronounced deceased on scene. Alcohol and speed were a factor in this crash.

Chris Gorte and Rick Olig spoke to how 3 out of the 4 crashes this quarter were alcohol related. Rick stated that in the last 5 years, impaired fatal crashes are up by 4% in Winnebago County. Since January 1st, 2022 there have been 15 fatal crashes in Winnebago County and 6 of those have been a result of impaired drivers and a third of those fatalities were not using their seat belt. Rick Olig is going to invite someone to the next meeting that has specific knowledge on a program similar to "Place of Last Drink" which has been very successful in Brown County in reducing fatal crashes involving impairment.

Rick stated that as of April 11th there has been 102 fatal crashes in 2023 in Wisconsin which is 25 less fatal crashes this time in 2022.

Pending or Proposed Legislation

New law states that local municipalities can now adopt their own ordinance to impound vehicles of reckless drivers if the vehicle is registered to the driver, the fine for the reckless driving citation is unpaid, and the owner/operator has a prior reckless driving conviction.

Round Table Discussion

Kathi Hegrans informed the group of the upcoming FOCUS event this October 11th and 12th. She is looking for anyone that may have experienced an impaired by marijuana event that would be willing to speak at the event. She 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. She would also like to add someone from a highway department that has experience a "close call" or traumatic incident while working on the road to speak at the event as well.

Mike McGinley mentioned the new state budget of \$6.5 million allocated towards supporting teen educated driving.

Bob Doemel stated that April 17-21 is Workforce Awareness Week. He is looking to get extra law enforcement presence at highway construction projects.

Chris Gorte stated that Flock camera systems are being installed in cities throughout the Fox Valley including throughout Winnebago County. This camera system will allow law enforcement to quickly locate vehicles that are part of a criminal investigations or vehicles that are associated with a missing or endangered person. He also informed the group about the upcoming traffic/pedestrian issue that will arise with the opening of the new Vel Phillips Middle School in September of 2023. A traffic plan is being worked on by the Oshkosh Police Department and Oshkosh School District.

Ben Wyant introduced himself to the group and explained his staffing along Interstate 41 in Winnebago County.

Rod Hamilton stated that the Racine Bridge in Menasha is scheduled to open on April 19th. Other big projects in 2023 include a pavement project on 441 bridge.

Scott Morrison stated that costs for driver's education has increased again to approximately \$425 per student which includes classroom instruction and behind the wheel classes.

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

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.