

WINNEBAGO COUNTY SAFETY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – January 8th, 2020

Members Present:

Laura Vendola-Messer – Winnebago Sheriff's Office

Scott Nelson-WIS DOT-NE Region

Kathi Hegrans – Theda Care

Ray Palonen – County Highway Department

Bryan Keberlein – County Court Commissioner

Chris Gorte -- Oshkosh Police Department

Chris Bordeaux – NM Transfer

Rick Olig – Wis DOT BOTS

Pete DeBoer – Fox Crossing PD

Kim Biedermann - ECWRPC

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 October 9th, 2019 meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment for this quarter.

Review of county-wide fatal/serious traffic crashes

#1 WCSO: Interstate 41 and N. Green Bay Rd 10-14-19

Fifty-one year old male was operating his vehicle when the vehicle suffered a mechanical issue causing a crash. The driver died days later in surgery from injuries not necessarily sustained from the crash.

#2 WCSO: Hwy 91 and Rabbit Trl 11-7-19

Male driver was on Hwy 91 and failed to follow the curve at Rabbit Trl. The vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree. The crash scene was discovered hours later and the driver was found deceased. Male driver had a blood alcohol content of .27

#3 WCSO: Interstate 41 and Hwy BB 11-8-19

Twenty year old female operator left the roadway, traveled through a fence and landed in a small body of water. The vehicle was found a few days later and female driver was deceased. She had a blood alcohol content of .11. DOT engineers will be looking at this specific area for possible permanent barriers.

Round Table Discussion

Kathi Hegranes informed the group that the P.A.R.T.Y. at the PAC will be changing their name to a name that is less misleading for the purpose of the event to educate young drivers on the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

Scott Nelson reported that the construction project on the Oshkosh Ave Bridge (City of Oshkosh) will begin in mid-February should be completed by mid-June. He also advised the group that the Hwy 76 construction project will start in the near future between I-41 and Hwy JJ. Roundabouts will be put in at the intersections of GG, G, and JJ. This project is expected to last through November of 2020.

Chris Bordeaux expressed his concern for the lack of drivers that do not follow the “Move over or slow down” law on the highways and the interstate. Captain Vendola-Messer (WCSO) stated that deputies will often observe for this violation if they are in position assisting other emergency workers. This message is also frequently posted on social media by DOT and echoed by WCSO.

Kim Biedermann stated that her office is in the process of updating the long range plan for pedestrian and bicycle implementation to our roadways and trails. They are also looking to get more input from the public before they implement their plans.

Rick Olig stated that preliminary statistics show that there has been 547 total vehicle related deaths in Wisconsin in 2019 which is 29 less fatalities than 2018. Winnebago County saw 11 vehicle related fatalities in 2019 compared to 13 deaths in 2018. Rick requested that officers/deputies try to be precise as possible when plotting the area of impact for crashes in TraCS reports. He also informed the group that the Governor’s Conference on Highway Safety will take place on August 18-20 at the Chula Vista. BOTS is still looking for different topics to present at the conference.

Ray Palonen stated that County A will be under construction from May through October from Indian Point Road to Hwy GG.

Bryan Keberlein stated that he typically reads the narratives of traffic citations from law enforcement officers at court proceedings. He went on to say that detailed information in those narratives are very effective in deliberating the matters of the case.

Next meeting scheduled for 4-8-20 at 09:00 a.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.