

WINNEBAGO COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Members Present:**

Darin Rice – Winnebago County Sheriff's Office  
Chris Gorte – Oshkosh Police Department  
Kevin Kuklinski – Winnebago County Highway Department  
Rick Olig – WI DOT BOTS  
Adam Bellcorelli – East Central WI RPC  
Mason Simmons – WI DOT  
Mike McGinley – Community Representative  
Jake Edwards – WI State Patrol  
Eric Adelmeyer – WI State Patrol  
Matt Albrecht – Menasha Police Department  
Kathy Hegrans – Theda Care Representative

**Attendance and introductions**

Meeting called to order at 10:05 A.M. by Chris Gorte. Members were recorded and collected. Motion made to approve the minutes from the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting.

**Public Comment**

None

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

- 1) Male driver traveling south on Bowen Street was impaired by drugs and lost consciousness and crossed the center line striking a northbound vehicle. The southbound vehicle continued south and struck a tree. The driver of the southbound vehicle was transported to a local hospital but later died from his injuries.
- 2) Female driver was northbound on Hwy 76 near Shady Lane and encountered a vehicle in the roadway with its hazards on. The driver may have been distracted by this vehicle and did not see a male skateboarding in the roadway and struck the male. The male died on the scene. He was wearing dark clothing and lived in the area. No criminal charges are pending for the striking driver. Speeds in this area are posted at 55 mph.
- 3) Outagamie Deputies were transporting an in custody adult female on Hwy 10 near Hwy P when the female opened the rear door and jumped out of the vehicle at highway speeds. She was not struck by any other vehicles but died due to her injuries. The incident is still under investigation.
- 4) Adult male was operating his pickup truck northwest on Nicolet Ave. and struck a motorcyclist that was traveling northeast on Harrison Street. The motorcyclist was wearing protective gear including a helmet and was transported to a hospital but died on arrival. This investigation is also ongoing. Nicolet Ave does have a stop sign and several line of sight issues exist at this intersection. Mason Simmons pointed out that there is currently no stop line on the pavement based on Google maps.

**Pending Legislation**

There was no pending legislation discussed.

### **Round Table Discussion**

Kevin Kuklinski wanted to express his thanks to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office for their continued presence in work zones. He stated that squad cars have helped slow down traffic at work zones. He also updated the group on the injured highway worker from the crash that occurred on Hwy 45 at Hwy 116, stating that he is approving nicely and should be returning to work soon. Kevin stated that the Highway Department will continue work on Interstate 41 between Breezewood and Hwy 21 during evening hours as well as construction on Hwy's G, T, CB, Pioneer and II, A, and GG.

Mike McGinley stated that he would be interested in hearing results of local highway/street diets, specifically of Jackson Street in the city of Oshkosh. Chris Gorte will attempt to follow up on that information.

Jake Edwards informed the group that the DOT will be looking into putting on additional Drug Recognition Expert classes for law enforcement officers in the near future to help combat drug driving in our area.

Mason Simmons stated that the Hwy 76 Larson Road project will begin in 2026 but it will not be completed in time for the new Neenah High School that will utilize Larson Road for student egress. There will be an upcoming improvement meeting for this topic in the near future.

Kathy Hegranes informed the group that the FOCUS (formerly known as PARTY at the PAC) event will be held at the Appleton PAC on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. They are expecting 4,000 10<sup>th</sup> graders from neighboring communities to address the dangers of distracted driving, drugged driving, and drinking and driving. She also informed us that they have partnered with CESA 6 to integrate the FOCUS program into their curriculums and extend awareness and education to 8<sup>th</sup> graders and give 12<sup>th</sup> graders a refresher course. Finally Kathy updated the group on the Choose Your Ride vehicle, informing the group that the vehicle is available for use at events. Kathy is the contact person for this vehicle.

Adam Bellcorelli discussed the Vision 0 program where agencies need to develop action plans going forward to be eligible to obtain further funding.

Rick Olig updated the group on current crash statistics. As of January 2022, there have been 279 fatal vehicular crashes in Wisconsin, 5 in Winnebago County. He stated that August 17 – September 5 is the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign. The WI Governor's Conference on Highway Safety is coming up in August. Seatbelt usage in Wisconsin has actually gone down slightly to 87%. July 27<sup>th</sup> is National Speed Awareness Day where all law enforcement agencies are encouraged to increase speed enforcement.

**Next Meeting:** October 12th, 2022 at 09:00 A.M. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.