

WINNEBAGO COUNTY SAFETY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – July 14th, 2021

Members Present:

Lori Seiler – Winnebago Sheriff's Office

Mason Simmons - WIS DOT-NE Region

Chris Gorte -- Oshkosh Police Department

Rick Olig – WI DOT BOTS

Erica Ballweg-Larsen – WI State Patrol

Matt Halada - ECWRPC

Bob Doemel – Winnebago County Highway Department

Mike McGinley – Community Rep.

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 April 14th, 2021 meeting.

Public Comment

Tori Straw, Town of Clayton Administrator, spoke about the intersection of Hwy 76 and Larsen Road due to recent crashes. She advised the group that both eastbound and westbound traffic on Larsen Road now have flashing red Stop Signs to help alert drivers. She inquired about having a 4-way stop put at this intersection but based on highway design, this is not possible. Mason Simmons from DOT informed us that this intersection will become a roundabout in 2026 or 2027. Tori also advised that she plans to budget for rumble strips for east/west traffic on Larsen Road to further warn drivers of the intersection.

Review of county-wide fatal/serious traffic crashes

#1 WCSO: Hwy 10 at Marsh Rd 4-3-21

A vehicle was pulled over on the shoulder and then merged into traffic and was struck by a semi-truck traveling the same direction. Driver of the vehicle was killed.

#2 WCSO: Hwy 21 at Sand Pit Rd 5-2-21

Two vehicles were traveling westbound on Hwy 21 when debris was in the roadway. The vehicles swerved to avoid the debris and a motorcycle following the two vehicles lost control. The driver was wearing a helmet but died 13 days later due to his injuries.

#3 WCSO: Larsen Rd at Galaxy Dr 6-12-21

Vehicle was traveling west on Larsen Road and was attempting to turn left into a park when it turned in front of a motorcycle traveling east on Larsen Road. The motorcyclist was killed. The investigation is still pending.

#4 WCSO: I-41 Southbound at Hwy II (N. Green Bay Rd) 6-25-21

Vehicle was in lane 2 (middle lane) and quickly changed lanes to Lane 3 and collided with another vehicle. This collision caused the second vehicle to strike the concrete wall and was then struck by a semi-truck. Driver of the second vehicle was killed.

Round Table Discussion

Rick Olig informed the group that traffic fatalities are down in 2021 by 22 at this point last year. He also talked about pending legislation to include 15 year olds able to obtain their driver's permit that is valid for 18 months. Rick also talked about SB-348/AB-338 which would make the use of cell phones (except hands free devices) while operating a vehicle illegal. The entire group present supported this proposed legislation and a motion was made and seconded for the Commissioner to draft a letter to the Winnebago Representative showing support for this proposed legislation.

Matt Halada stated that his group is working on community outreach for safe routes to school on the north end of the county.

Mason talked about projects along Hwy 21 in Winnebago County. He also stated that the Racine Bridge is scheduled to reopen in the fall of 2022

Bob Doemel informed the group that the construction along Hwy Y is going slower than expected but progress is being made. He also stated that Hwy CV and JJ is scheduled to be re-constructed as a roundabout in the next year.

Kathi Hegranes (not present) wanted the group to be aware of the FOCUS (formerly known as PARTY at the PAC) program that is scheduled for October 13th and 14th.

Next meeting scheduled for October 13th at 09:00 a.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion carried.

