

**MINUTES**  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**PRESENT:** Jack Peters, Coordinator; Mike Panosh, D.O.T.-W.S.P.-BOTS; Tom Heydel, WI D.O.T.; Chief Dean Schmidt, Slinger Police Department; Captain Steve Gonwa, Washington County Sheriff's Department; Sheriff Dale Schmidt, Washington County Sheriff's Department; Pam Monroe, R.N.; Norbert Neuser, Chairman; Trooper Kris Perales, WI State Patrol-District 2; and Sergeant Tim Huibregtse, WI State Patrol-District 2

**GUESTS:** Brian Bausch, County Board Supervisor/Transportation Committee; Citizen Larry Lopas

**EXCUSED:** Ken Pesch, Washington County Highway Commissioner; Todd Martens, Washington County District Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Washington County Traffic Safety Commission meeting of **June 4, 2008** was held at the Washington County Sheriff's Department, and was called to order by Chairman Norbert Neuser at 9:01 a.m.

The Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of **March 5, 2008** were approved as presented on the motion of Jack Peters, and seconded by Norbert Neuser. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Possible changes to intersection of CTH G with CTH NN at Jackson Drive.

This item has been tabled until the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Tom Heydel to present future plans for the intersection of STH 60 with CTH G.

Tom Heydel advised there is a proposed improvement to construct a round-about. There will be some minor right-of-way impacts. This is scheduled for production in 2013.

Jack Peters asked Tom Heydel about the road construction on STH 28 East to STH 144. Tom is unfamiliar with this project and will check on the status of it.

Larry Lopas, 1571 E Sumner Street (STH 60), Hartford, believes that the new driveway into a strip mall at the old Uptown Motors location is too close to his driveway and will create an unsafe situation for users of both driveways.

Citizen Larry Lopas submitted to the Commission photographs of the area. There was a discussion regarding the issue. The location is in the City of Hartford's jurisdiction. The County or the Department of Transportation is unable to assist Mr. Lopas. Mr. Lopas was referred back to the City of Hartford.

All Traffic Safety Commission members please read and prepare to comment on the March 2008 meeting handout entitled "Improved Traffic Safety Culture in the United States."

This item has been tabled until the next meeting.

### **REVIEW OF FATAL ACCIDENTS**

Sheriff Dale Schmidt reported as of today's date there were five fatal accidents in Washington County for the year; two since the last meeting.

Washington County Sheriff's Department:

On April 13, 2008 Audrey J. Wyrembeck, 14-16-36, died as a result of a one vehicle rollover accident in the Town of Wayne. Audrey was traveling northbound on USH 41 when her vehicle entered the grass median, slid down the embankment, overturned several times, and ended up on its roof in the southbound lanes. Audrey had to be extricated from the vehicle with the Jaws of Life and was pronounced dead at the scene. Alcohol use and speed do not appear to be a factor.

On April 17, 2008 James H. Steffes, 07-31-46, died as a result of a two vehicle accident in the Town of Polk. James was driving his car southbound on STH 164 when a northbound pickup truck crossed the center line and struck his vehicle. This occurred on STH 164 .4 miles south of STH 60. James was pronounced dead at the scene. Alcohol and excessive speed are not believed to be factors. James was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the accident.

### **REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS PERTINENT TO THE COMMISSION**

Tom Heydel advised the Commission of the update on STH 164 safety improvements. Dynamic speed signs will be installed, one by Pleasant Hill and one by Monches, and additional speed limit signs will be installed. The speed limit stays the same at 55 miles per hour. Intersection improvements are also being completed. Beacon stop signs will be installed at STH 167 and also at Pleasant Hill Road, a two-way stop, beacons will be on stop signs. They recommended putting beacons at CTH Q, but this will not be done because of the installation of roundabouts. There is no point in putting short term improvements when the roundabouts will be built. Federal Highway approval is being sought for some transverse, pavement markings at STH 167 and STH 164 as well, approaching the stop sign on STH 164.

Mike Panosh reported to the Commission there were 199 fatalities in 2008 and 281 fatalities in 2007.

Mike Panosh reported on the work of Click It or Ticket. The gas prices have taken an affect on drivers and less traffic has been on the roadways. Mike Panosh advised to watch the motorcycle fatalities. With the gas prices rising, more people are driving motorcycles. There has been a 20 percent increase in motorcycle fatalities. So far in 2008 there were 15 fatalities and in 2007 at this time there were 23.

Mike Panosh also reported on the deer hits. June is the second most active month for motor vehicle versus deer hits. It is better to hit the deer than to swerve to miss it. More severe damage could be done by hitting other objects instead of the deer.

Mike Panosh advised of the major enforcement program on USH 41. The program started May 1 and ends September 30. This program is from Menomonee Falls to Marinette, a 171 mile stretch that is being worked with 100 officers, not quite one officer per mile. It is the largest corridor enforcement project ever in the State of Wisconsin. There are 21 participating agencies. They are spending approximately a half a million dollars. There has been a lot of positive feed back on this project. Corridor day is July 2. All agencies will work on the same day. On May 2 there were approximately 100 officers on USH 41.

Captain Steven Gonwa asked if the State Patrol was still conducting airplane enforcement. Sergeant Tim Huibregtse advised other agencies need to work with them. The airplane is available to be used for a joint detail. There is some kind of co-pay for the services of the pilot and airplane. It is being used more in other parts of the State than this area. The airplane is located in Oshkosh. There are not enough pilots to operate the airplane in this area, and arrangements need to be made with a pilot from another area of the State.

The airplane is not only used for enforcement, but also for transporting State officials, fatals, crime scenes, reconstruction of crashes to take aerial shots, DCI or local Metro units for drug raids, and for missing person searches. State Patrol does not own the airplanes. They are owned by the Department of Administration, as well as their squad cars. State Patrol pays to use their cars.

## **ADJOURN**

The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m. upon motion by Jack Peters, and seconded by Norbert Neuser. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on **September 3, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.** in a meeting room at the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lt. John C. Peters, Coordinator