

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

**PRESENT:** Jack Peters, Coordinator; Ken Pesch; Tom Heydel, WI D.O.T.; Chief Dean Schmidt, Slinger Police Dept.; Captain Steve Gonwa, Washington County Sheriff's Dept.; Andrea Loeffelholz, D.O.T.-W.S.P.-BOTS; Norbert Neuser, Chairman; Jon Edgren, Washington County Highway Commissioner; Daniel Nysse, Washington County Highway Dept.

**GUESTS:** Dennis Meyer, Supervisor District 7; Joni Graves, WI Transportation Information Center-UW

**ABSENT:** Trooper Kris Perales, WI State Patrol

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Washington County Traffic Safety Commission meeting of **March 2, 2011** was held at the Washington County Sheriff's Department, and was called to order by Chairman Norbert Neuser at 9:02 a.m.

The Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of **December 1, 2010** were approved as presented on the motion of Ken Pesch, and seconded by Jack Peters. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Jon Edgren or a Highway Department representative will report on 2011 County and State highway improvement projects.

Daniel Nysse, on behalf of Jon Edgren, advised the Commission the bridge on Johnson Street in the City of Hartford will be replaced, the installation of signal lights/flashers on the intersection of Kettle Moraine and Sumner Street, and STH 144 North from West Bend to the Sheboygan County line will be repaved.

County Projects:

Daniel Nysse advised of the replacement of the CTH D bridge over the Rock River and straightening the curve on the approach on the east side.

Complete reconstruction of CTH H from STH 144 east just short of CTH XX. This project will start around June 1 with a mid-October finish date. The hills will be lowered, increasing sight distances, and also all the intersections.

Richfield Park & Ride construction will be some time late summer of 2011 (west of USH 41 on Richfield Parkway, second lot in on the east side of the road as heading south on Richfield Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fond du Lac Avenue).

Andrea Loeffelholz of the Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety will give a demonstration of the Community Mapping System and its impact on MV4000 forms.

There was a discussion with Andrea Loeffelholz and Joni Graves from the Wisconsin Transportation Information Center-UW on the Transportal System. During the demonstration, the Sheriff's Department experienced Internet difficulties.

**REVIEW OF FATAL ACCIDENTS**

There was 1 fatality in Washington County for the year.

On 01/31/2011 Marjorie M. Slaughter, age 85, died as a result of a two vehicle accident in the Town of Polk. Marjorie was traveling southbound on USH 45 when she was struck from behind by another vehicle approximately .3 of a mile north of STH 60. It appears Marjorie had slowed way down or even stopped in the roadway for unknown reasons. The vehicle behind her saw her brake lights go on, but did not realize she was about to stop. He had slowed, but still drove into the back of her vehicle. The roads were snow covered and slippery. Marjorie's air bags were deployed and she was transported with labored breathing. Marjorie was pronounced dead at the hospital. Seatbelt was used at the time of the accident. The Medical Examiner's Office could not establish a clear cause of death; however, believe Marjorie died as a result of a Cardiac incident which was the result exasperated or with the result of the impact.

The 16 year old driver's insurance company installed a video camera inside the vehicle , which recorded some of the accident. The camera was pointed at the driver and the front windshield. From calculations, which were done from the short video and the driver's admission, his speed was estimated to be 63 miles per hour. The 16 year old driver never took his hands off the steering wheel or his eyes off the road. He dropped his cell phone two seconds before impact. If the driver had been operating a lower speed he may have been able to recognize that this vehicle had slowed or was stopping in the lane and might have been able to take some evasive action.

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

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission the Weekly Fatality Report as of February 27, 2011. Andrea reported there were 518 accidents and 563 fatalities in 2010 and 488 accidents and 542 fatalities in 2009.

2011 Fatalities		2010 Fatalities	
Driver	42	Driver	38
Passenger	8	Passenger	8
Pedestrian	9	Pedestrian	4

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission the Fatalities by County report. Washington County had 1 fatality in 2011 as of February 27, 2011, and 17 fatalities in 2010. Five year average is 11.

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted the safest and worst February's since WW II. The safest was in 1983 with 23 fatalities. The worst was in 1968 with 73 fatalities.

As of 03/01/11 there were 21 fatalities in 19 crashes.

February 2011 tentative: 21 killed in 19 fatal crashes  
February 2010: 33 killed in 31 fatal crashes  
5-yr average for February (2006-2010): 37 killed in 35 crashes

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Enacted into Law**

**SS-SB-1(Tort Reform):** Creates stricter standards relating to civil actions for negligence, actions in strict liability, and punitive damage awards. These changes will not apply in the event of a civil suit arising from an OWI. Update: Signed into law as 2011 Wisconsin Act 2.

### **Passed in 1<sup>st</sup> House, Awaiting Action in 2<sup>nd</sup> House**

**SB-7 (Auto Insurance):** Reduces required minimum coverage to \$25,000 for bodily injury to or death of one person, \$50,000 for bodily injury to or death of more than one person, and \$10,000 for property damage. Also expands uninsured motorist coverage to include a “phantom motor vehicle,” defined as (1) an unidentified driver, (2) involved in an accident, (3) without making direct contact.

**SB-15 (Traffic Stop Racial Data):** Repeals the requirement that law enforcement officers capture racial data on every traffic stop.

### **Passed in Committee in 1<sup>st</sup> House**

**AB-4 (Auto Insurance):** Reduces required minimum coverage to \$25,000 for bodily injury to or death of one person, \$50,000 for bodily injury to or death of more than one person, and \$10,000 for property damage. Also expands uninsured motorist coverage to include a “phantom motor vehicle,” defined as (1) an unidentified driver, (2) involved in an accident, (3) without making direct contact.

### **Introduced**

**AB-18 (Traffic Stop Racial Data):** Repeals the requirement that law enforcement officers capture racial data on every traffic stop.

**SB-18 (Survivors of Fallen Officers):** Requires municipalities and counties to pay health insurance premiums for surviving spouse and dependent children of fallen officers.

**AB-27 (Survivors of Fallen Officers):** Requires municipalities and counties to pay health insurance premiums for surviving spouse and dependent children of fallen officers.

## **ADJOURN**

The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m. upon motion by Jon Edgren, and seconded by Dean Schmidt. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on **June 1, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.** in a meeting room at the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lt. John C. Peters, Coordinator