

MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

PRESENT: Jack Peters, Coordinator; Mike Panosh, W.S.P.-BOTS; Sheriff Brian Rahn, Washington County Sheriff's Dept.; Chief Dean Schmidt, Slinger Police Dept.; Ken Pesch, Washington County Highway Commissioner; Tom Heydel, WI D.O.T.; Captain Dale Schmidt, Washington County Sheriff's Dept.

GUESTS: David Bartelt, Superintendent for Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Henry and Jean Herrian, and Dave Rank, West Bend Daily News

NOT PRESENT: Norbert Neuser, Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

The Washington County Traffic Safety Commission meeting of **September 6, 2006** was held at the Washington County Sheriff's Department, and was called to order by Jack Peters at 9:07 a.m.

The Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of **June 7, 2006** were approved as presented on motion of Sheriff Rahn, and seconded by Chief Schmidt. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The first farm north of Kewaskum on the west side of CTH S reports vehicles going off the curve into their buildings and lawn. Ken Pesch will have a speed study and accident history completed.

Sheriff Rahn reported there were three crashes since 2002, one in 2002 and two in 2005, not related to the curve. Ken Pesch reported the results of the speed study were average speeds of about 47/48 miles per hour. A transitional speed limit could be acceptable to 40 miles per hour. The curve is posted at 40 miles per hour currently.

Sheriff Rahn made the motion for Ken Pesch to take this issue back to the highway committee to look at a transitional speed zone. Motion seconded by Chief Schmidt. Motion carried.

The intersection of STH 60 and CTH G has had three injury crashes this summer. The Kettle Moraine Lutheran high School is one mile south and traffic is increasing. Possible solutions could be better signage, rumble strips, lower speed limit, 4-way stop, and a possible future roundabout.

Sheriff Rahn reported there were four crashes in 2005, two in June and one in August of 2006. These crashes were either a northbound or southbound vehicle which had failed to yield right of way or failed to stop at the stop sign. Three were the northbound vehicle which either failed to stop or failed to yield, and one was the southbound CTH G vehicle where it failed to yield at STH 60. The speed

on STH 60 contributes to the seriousness of the injury crashes.

Citizens from the area spoke to the commission regarding their concerns with the traffic at the intersection and the safety for the younger drivers traveling to school. There are more younger drivers due to the restrictions on their driver's license as they cannot carpool.

Tom Heydel reported he too reviewed the intersection. There were two crashes in 2003, failure to yield; in 2004 there were four crashes, one was a failure to yield; in 2005 there were four crashes, one was a failure to yield; and in 2006 so far there have been five, two were failure to yield. Tom advised no one have disregarded the traffic control. The volumes are high on CTH G at approximately 3600 vs. 1100 on one approach on STH 60.

Tom advised during the interim warning signs can be installed or 'Cross Traffic Does Not Stop' signs under the stop signs could be installed. Tom indicated he could ask the Safety section to do a gap study. A speed study can be done, and they can look at the sight line for the stop bars. Tom advised they will add signage and complete a speed study. This issue has been tabled until the next meeting.

REVIEW OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

Sheriff Rahn reported as of today's date there were 7 fatal accidents in Washington County for the year. There were 13 fatal accidents in 2005.

Harford Police Department: On 07/04/06 Brian J. Janzer, age 18, DOB 03-25-88, from Hartford died as a result of injuries sustained in an auto vs. motorcycle accident. Brian was driving the motorcycle and was attempting to pass a vehicle. The vehicle then went into his lane of traffic. He then went off roadway and was ejected from the motorcycle. He was wearing a motorcycle helmet.

Germantown Police Department: On 07/17/06 James S. Granger, age 68, DOB 04-12-38, of Milwaukee died from injuries sustained in a one vehicle accident in the Village of Germantown. James was traveling northbound on USH 41 when he went off roadway and struck a concrete bridge pillar at Mequon Road. He was not wearing a seatbelt and was extricated from the vehicle.

Wisconsin State Patrol Post 2: On 07/17/06 Aaron S. Bieberitz, age 31, DOB 03-27-75, of Sheboygan died as a result from injuries sustained when his bicycle collided with a trailer being pulled by a vehicle in the Town of Hartford. This occurred at the intersection of CTH CC/CTH E. Aaron was traveling eastbound on CTH E and started crossing the intersection at CTH CC when he struck the right front corner of the trailer and the Miata on the trailer, that was being pulled by the truck. The truck was traveling southbound on CTH CC, had stopped for the stop sign, and then continued on. He did not see the bicyclist. Aaron was transported to AMC in Hartford and then transferred to Froedtert via Flight for Life.

Washington County: On 07/28/06 Michael A. Towler, age 54, DOB 02-26-52, of West Bend died as a result of injuries sustained in a two vehicle accident in the Town of Trenton on 07/14/06. Mike was driving his motorcycle westbound on Paradise Drive and a truck was heading eastbound on Paradise Drive. The eastbound vehicle started to make a left turn onto Cascade Drive once

committed to turn first saw the westbound motorcycle. The eastbound vehicle then accelerated trying to prevent collision. The westbound motorcycle began to skid and collided with the eastbound vehicle, and then was ejected from the motorcycle. Alcohol was not a factor, and the motorcycle driver did not have on a helmet.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS PERTINENT TO THE COMMISSION

Mike Panosh, WSP-BOTS, submitted a copy of the weekly fatality report. Washington County has seven fatalities for 2006. In 2005 there were 17 fatalities. 2006 year to date fatalities is 457; 2006 year to date fatal accidents is 424. 2005 year end fatalities were 801; 2005 year end fatal accidents were 700.

Fatalities by role year to date:

Bicyclists	7
Drivers	254
Motorcycle-drivers	63
Motorcycle-passengers	10
Passengers	88
Pedestrians	31
Unknown	4
Total	457

LEGISLATION

Mike Panosh reported on new laws enacted in the 2005-2006 session. Legislation will not be back in session until January 2007.

Act 466 (eff. 10/01/06): Increases penalties for s.346.18 Failure-to-Yield right-of-way (from current \$30 forfeiture on 1st offense/\$60 forfeiture on repeat offense, with double forfeiture for violations in a work zone) if a crash occurs and results in:

1. Injury: \$200 forfeiture
2. Great bodily harm: \$500 forfeiture
3. Death: \$1,000 forfeiture

Note: All FTY violators must also attend traffic safety school for instruction on rules of right-of-way and motorcycle/pedestrian/bicycle awareness.

Requires driver education courses to include information on motorcycle and pedestrian/bicycle awareness.

Repeals requirement that person who completes basic motorcycle rider course hold an Instruction Permit prior to receiving a Class M endorsement.

Precludes DOT from requiring applicants for Class M endorsements who hold Instruction Permits to hold them for a minimum period of time prior to taking the motorcycle road skills test.

Provides that a motorcyclist or bicyclist facing a red traffic signal at an intersection may proceed cautiously thru the intersection before the light turns green if:

1. The operator reasonably believes the signal is vehicle-actuated
2. No other vehicles are present to actuate the signal
3. The operator has stopped at the signal for at least 45 seconds
4. The operator yields right-of-way to vehicles proceeding thru on a green signal and to pedestrians/bicycles in the crosswalk or in the intersection

Act 322 (eff. 04-26-06): Provides civil immunity from liability to child passenger safety technicians who inspect/install/fit/adjust child safety restraint systems and to organizations that participate in CSR inspection/education activities.

Act 329 (eff.04-29-06): Authorizes municipalities to permit operation of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles on roadways under their jurisdiction.

Note: NEV's are 4-wheeled vehicles, with maximum speed of 20-25 mph, which have passed testing by US Dept of Energy and conform to USDOT low-speed vehicle safety standards; this vehicle category does NOT include golf carts.

The NEV's are not street legal until a municipality ordinance is in effect.

Sheriff Rahn asked Mike Panosh the status on the USH 41 corridor enforcement project. The grant ends September 30. It has been positive. DOT is working on putting together a summary document in the future that details what the grant has done.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sheriff Rahn reported of a citizen's concern on CTH C just west of Schwai's. The concern is of the speeds in the eastbound lane, 55 miles per hour dropping to 25 miles per hour. There are no recent speed studies. Ken Pesch advised he will conduct a speed study. This issue has been tabled until the next meeting.

Sheriff Rahn updated the Commission on Cabela's opening dates. There is a VIP opening on September 21, a soft opening for the general public September 22, 23, and 24. The grand opening will be October 6, 7, and 8. Cabela's is expecting 100,000 people. The Sheriff's Department will be completing a staffing plan along with setting up traffic flow and in-store patrolling. The Sheriff's Department would like traffic control with signage. We are looking for message signage. Tom Heydel will check on the use of emergency signs for Ken Pesch and Sheriff Rahn.

The traffic flow direction is still pending to enter/exit Cabela's. The Sheriff's Department would like all traffic to access USH 41, however USH 45 could be used as an over-flow for traffic.

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ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m. upon motion of Chief Schmidt, seconded by Sheriff Rahn. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on **December 6, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.** in a meeting room at the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

Respectfully submitted,
Lt. John C. Peters, Coordinator

JPC/mew
quarterly traffic safety minutes 9-6-06