

MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

PRESENT: Jack Peters, Coordinator; Ken Pesch, Washington County Highway Commissioner; Mike Panosh, D.O.T.-W.S.P.-BOTS; Chief Dean Schmidt, Slinger Police Department; Pam Monroe, R.N.; Norbert Neuser, Chairman; Tom Heydel, WI D.O.T.; Captain Steve Gonwa, Washington County Sheriff's Department

GUESTS: Dan Goetz, Donald Berchem, and Charlene Brady, Washington County Highway Committee; citizens: Maggie Yrugiyen and Jill Pink; and Eric Damkot, GIS Manager

EXCUSED: Sheriff Dale Schmidt, Washington County Sheriff's Department

CALL TO ORDER

The Washington County Traffic Safety Commission meeting of **December 5, 2007** was held at the Washington County Sheriff's Department, and was called to order by Chairman Norbert Neuser at 9:01 a.m.

There was a correction to the September 5, 2007 minutes made by Tom Heydel. The correction is on page 2 under New Business: Tom Heydel advised this is a pilot speed zone proposed by D.O.T. Tom can only accept comments at this meeting to report back to D.O.T.

The correction is: Tom Heydel advised there is a pilot speed zone being considered. If anyone has any comments pertaining to this, I am here to listen and to take those comments back to D.O.T.

The Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of **September 5, 2007** were approved as presented on the motion of Jack Peters, and seconded by Ken Pesch. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on proposed speed limit changes on STH 164 and State funding for extra speed enforcement by Sheriff.

Captain Gonwa asked if the Committee was interested or prepared to make any kind of a statement on the whole proposal. Ken Pesch reported the D.O.T. is ready to go forward with lowering the speed limit to 45 mph on all of STH 164 in Washington County. It will be a uniformed 45 mph speed the entire length. Their major concern is that they are not lowering the speed limit under normal procedures, but as a demonstration project to see if with adequate

enforcement if you can actually lower the speed limit and have people drive the lower speed limit.

Enforcement is a big issue to D.O.T. D.O.T. believes that they will have it in place by February 1, 2008. The Sheriff has received applications for two different grants totaling about \$25,000. Captain Gonwa advised there are two grants through Bureau of Transportation Safety, one is a Speed and Aggressive Driving enforcement grant for \$12,000.00 and the second grant is for OWI enforcement for \$12,000.00. The Sheriff's intent, which was presented to the Finance Committee, is the Sheriff's Department will probably have to use the entire \$12,000.00 Speed enforcement grant to apply to this project. There is a restriction on both grants to the Townships of Richfield and Polk dictated by the State. The concern is of the actual number of hours Deputies will be able to spend out there is going to be very minimal compared to what this project will likely call for.

The Sheriff did approach the State Patrol and the current answer is the State will be directing the State Patrol to provide some enforcement projects toward this project, but what the Consultant is going to say of what is actually required is unknown. Ken Pesch advised D.O.T. is working with Patrol and they feel Patrol is going to react positively. If the agreement comes to pass between the two State agencies, the speed limit will go into effect about February 1.

Ken Pesch reported he has not completed a speed study, but D.O.T. has completed extensive speed studies in the area. The speed study shows very good compliance with the existing posted speed. The accident rate is about half of the State wide average on similar roadways. With the lowering of the accident rate, good compliance with the existent speed limits, they want to make sure the enforcement is in place before the speed limit is lowered. Tom Heydel advised this is a pilot project to go into effect February 1.

Captain Gonwa advised of the preliminary work on the Speed grant that was applied for and have received approval for, which comes out to about 264 hours of enforcement to be used through August of 2008. It still comes out to six to eight deployments a month. There is concern of what the Consultant suggests the Sheriff's Department has to do to have an actual usable enforcement plan. The Sheriff's Department will not be able to provide daily enforcement on STH 164. The State Patrol will have to step in as the Sheriff's Department has limited resources. The State Patrol will be the major enforcer.

NEW BUSINESS

Report on proposed change of CTH X to a Town Road and changing of stop signs at intersection with CTH XX, Jay Road.

Ken Pesch reported CTH X (formerly STH 84) will probably be a Town road by the first of the year. By County Ordinance all Town roads must stop at County highways. The proposal is to install a stop sign where the free right turn movement is today, and remove the stop sign for southbound traffic on CTH XX. It would be a through movement north/south and all of east/west traffic would have to stop. This has passed the Highway Committee, and is agreeable

to the Town board, and part of the transfer agreement that the Town has signed, and will be going to the County board for formal action. CTH X will be known as Jay Road from STH 144 over to CTH XX. CTH X is commonly known as Scenic Road between CTH DD and STH 144, a 1/10th of a mile in the center business district of Boltonville, and this will remain Scenic Drive. Ken advised there has not been a serious traffic accident in about 10 to 12 years.

Tony and Jill Pink (2121 CTH K, Hartford, 262-670-6638) request a "hidden driveway" or similar sign to the north of their driveway. There are about five driveways with very short sight distances to the north.

Jack Peters reported he completed some timing. From the Pinks' driveway to the hilltop to the north the sight distance is 7 to 8 seconds. The next driveway to the north is worse at 6 to 7 seconds. Ms. Pink advised the bus driver asked the neighbor child to cross CTH K to enter the bus. Ken Pesch advised of the sight distance of the driveway and the sight distances are adequate and meet the minimum standards. The Highway Department's recommendation is to not install the sign. The criteria has been met for sight distance. A motion was made by Ken Pesch to deny the request and not install the "Hidden Driveway" sign. The motion was seconded by Norbert Neuser. Motion carried. Ms. Pink was advised to contact the Highway Committee for a decision.

Dan Yrigoyen (3464 South Townline Road, West Bend, WI 53095, 262-677-3491) requests a lowering of the 45 mph speed limit to 35 mph on South Townline Road. This road is only 1 mile long between South 18th Avenue and CTH NN and has 26 driveways, some with several homes on them and 3 subdivision streets. There are no shoulders, and it is hilly. The Town of West Bend has jurisdiction of this road and will consider this speed limit at their next meeting.

Maggie Yrigoyen advised the Commission there is a speeding problem in this area. There are many children in the area and several homes. Jack Peters reported the criteria is permissible. A motion was made by Jack Peters to recommend to the Town of West Bend to change the speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph. Motion seconded by Norbert Neuser. 4-yes, 1-no.

D.O.T. Pavement Marking policy presentation request by Ken Pesch. Tom Heydel explained Ken Pesch's questions regarding the edge line at intersections.

Ken Pesch introduced Eric Damkot, GIS Manager for Washington County. Eric has been working on the project of a frequency map where accidents occur within the County. State Statutes require counties to keep a pin map of accidents.

The database was obtained from the State of all reportable accidents from 2006. In 2006 there were 2,500 reported accidents in Washington County, including City streets, Town roads, County highways, and State highways. Of that 2,500, about 500 do not show up on the map because they were car vs. deer reported accidents. The dots on the map show up at intersections because the software does not allow the County to put the offsets in, but the State program will. However, it could be three years before the State has the information to be distributed.

REVIEW OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

Captain Gonwa reported as of today's date there were ten fatal accidents in Washington County for the year.

Germantown Police Department:

On 09/17/07 Sabastian E. Kniecik, age 17, died as a result of a one vehicle accident. Sabastian was traveling eastbound on Friestadt Road at a high rate of speed, passed a vehicle in a no passing zone (no contact was made with the other vehicle), then lost control of the vehicle, skidded off roadway, and rolled over twice, coming to rest on its roof facing the westbound direction on the south side of the roadway. He was partially ejected from the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Washington County Sheriff's Department:

On 09/27/07 Parker M. Klumb, age 13, died as a result of a vehicle vs. bicycle accident. Parker was on the back of a bicycle traveling eastbound on CTH K just east of Kettle Moraine Drive in the Town of Hartford when a vehicle traveling eastbound hit them from behind. The vehicle did not stop. Parker hit the windshield and ended up in the ditch line. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS PERTINENT TO THE COMMISSION

Mike Panosh reported to the Commission there were 801 fatalities in 2005, 712 fatalities in 2006 and 741 in 2007 statewide. 2006 was the safest since 1998.

Washington County had 17 fatalities in 2005, 9 fatalities in 2006, and 10 fatalities in 2007. The five year average is 13.

Mike Panosh reported in 2007 there were 11 motorcycle/deer fatalities. In 2006 there were 7 motor vehicle/deer fatalities, 5 were motorcyclists. In 2005 there were 12 and all 12 were motorcyclists. Don Berchum requested fatal motorcycle data from Mike Panosh. Mike Panosh will bring the data to the next meeting.

ADJOURN

The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. upon motion by Chief Dean Schmidt, and seconded by Jack Peters. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on **March 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.** in a meeting room at the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

Respectfully submitted,
Lt. John C. Peters, Coordinator