

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

**PRESENT:** Jack Peters, Coordinator; Norbert Neuser, Chairman; Ken Pesch; Sgt. Tim Huibregtse, WI State Patrol-District 2; Jon Edgren, Washington County Highway Commissioner; Tom Heydel, WI D.O.T.; Mike Panosh, D.O.T.-W.S.P.-BOTS; Chief Dean Schmidt, Slinger Police Department; Sheriff Dale Schmidt, Washington County Sheriff's Department.

**GUEST:** Citizen: Russell Wagenknucht. Brian Bausch and Joseph Gonnering, Washington County Transportation Committee.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Washington County Traffic Safety Commission meeting of **December 2, 2009** was held at the Washington County Sheriff's Department, and was called to order by Chairman Norbert Neuser at 9:00 a.m.

The Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of **September 2, 2009** were approved as presented on the motion of Jack Peters, and seconded by Norbert Neuser. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Kim Whitmore and other neighbors in the Rolaine Parkway area are concerned about the intersection of Rolaine Parkway and the intersection of Glassgo Drive with CTH E. Suggestions include right turn lanes for westbound traffic, lower speed limit on CTH E in this area, and better signage.

Jon Edgren reported minor sign changes were completed to move signs closer to the intersection and adding a chevron. Jon advised he has been in contact with the citizens and will keep them updated in spring if a speed study will be done at that time.

Citizen requests an extension of the 30 mile per hour speed limit on CTH T in the hamlet of Kirchhayn. The Washington County Highway Department did a speed study showing an average speed of 45 miles per hour in the present 4/10<sup>th</sup> mile 30 mile per hour zone.

Jon Edgren reported the Kirchhayn sign has been moved outside of the speed limit location and will continue to monitor the issue. The Sheriff's Department is aware of the speed problems and will also monitor the area.

Review of sight distances and crashes on STH 144 at Newark Drive.

Tom Heydel reported crossroad warning signs have been added on STH 144 in both directions. There is a project in 2011 construction on STH 144. Part of the project is to realign Newark Drive and will improve the sight distance. Jon Edgren was asked if the cul-de-sac at CTH HH and STH 144 is still in the construction plan. Jon advised he believes it is in the plan. Jon will check the plans and report back to the Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Citizen, Russell Wagenknucht, asked the Commission if horse traffic signs could be installed in both directions on CTH C east of Cedar Creek. Jon Edgren reported the county limits signage on county highways as much as possible and tries to keep it to government or county related. Private warnings like horse traffic or children are rarely used. From a D.O.T. perspective, studies show too much signage causes the driver to ignore them. There are no issues with speeding as the Sheriff's Department patrols often. No action by the Commission will be taken.

Brian Bausch requested a review of policies regarding bicycle races and rallies from the Sheriff's Department, WI State Patrol, and Municipal Police Departments.

Brian explained his question to the Commission and wanted to know how Law Enforcement handles policies and procedures. Brian advised bikes are blowing stop signs and there have been accidents in the past. Brian would like more education and/or enforcement taken.

Tim Huibregtse advised there is not enough manpower available to escort the races or to close off intersections. There are also liability issues. Mike Panosh advised most agencies have a blanket policy not allowing them to participate. Dean Schmidt reported their agency is too small to delegate officers for this type of activity. Tom Heydel reported D.O.T. has a policy established on State highways related to when they require a permit and when one is not required. Sheriff Schmidt reported in 2007 the Sheriff's Department took a stance on motorcycle rides. There is no legal means of law enforcement to stop traffic for rides. If there is a parade permit issued, then the road can be closed with volunteers.

After the discussion, it was determined more education on the laws and/or reminders be issued. It was suggested when the groups apply for permits that education on bicycle laws be enforced. Tim Huibregtse suggested having a member of a club come to speak and discuss the issue at a Traffic Safety meeting. Tim will contact someone and make the arrangements for a future meeting. Tom Heydel will report back to the Commission on how D.O.T. addresses the issue on State highways related to permits.

Is there any possibility of moving up the timetable for a roundabout at STH 60 at CTH G. There have been four serious crashes including a fatal since our last meeting.

Tom Heydel reported there is a 2013 construction date for the roundabout. There is a possibility the date could be moved to 2012, however the program is scheduled for construction in 2013. The preliminary drawing is 30 percent complete.

The crash rate from 2004 through 2008 is .94. There were four accidents in 2009, one in 2008, two in 2007, and seven in 2006. In 2006-2007 there were intersection short term improvements completed. The crossroad warning signs on STH 60, blinker stop sign on CTH G approaches, and the stop lines moved forward for better sight lines. The eastbound sight distances are below standard. There is too much traffic on STH 60 compared to CTH G for a four-way stop.

An additional crossroad sign on the left side for eastbound and westbound STH 60 and/or an advisory speed plaque could be installed. This may help until the project date. Tom will advise the Commission at the next meeting if the D.O.T. can move the project forward. Tom will also check to see if there was a speed study on STH 60 completed.

Tom Heydel reminded the Commission of the Wisconsin Crash Data-Transportal lab, [www.topslab.wisc.edu](http://www.topslab.wisc.edu). There are additions which may be helpful. People to contact for information are:

Eric Perea, WIS DOT SE Region Safety Section, 262-574-5422

Steve Parker, TOPS lab, [sparker@engv.wisc.edu](mailto:sparker@engv.wisc.edu)

### **REVIEW OF FATAL ACCIDENTS**

Sheriff Dale Schmidt reported since the September meeting there were five fatalities in four accidents with fourteen fatalities in Washington County for the year.

On 09/12/09 David J. Beder, age 20, died as a result of a single vehicle accident on Division Road .2 of a mile south of Sunset View Drive. The accident occurred on 09/12/09 at approximately 8:00 p.m. The driver was a 20 year old Town of Addison man. He was southbound on Division Road traveling at a high rate of speed; he failed to negotiate a sharp curve in the roadway. The vehicle traveled through a field for approximately 200 feet before striking a tree. The Sheriff's Office was first notified on 09/13/09 at 1:09 p.m. and responded and located the vehicle which sustained massive damage as a result of the accident. The driver was located inside the vehicle, deceased, and severely pinned requiring extensive extrication. It was determined he was not wearing his seatbelt at the time of the accident and alcohol does not appear to be the cause.

On 09/18/09 Rachael M. Olson, age 34, died as a result of a two vehicle head-on collision on STH 144 north of Elm Tree Drive in the Town of Farmington. Rachel was driving her vehicle southbound on STH 144 when it collided head-on with a SUV traveling northbound. The collision took place in the northbound lane. Rachael suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene by the Medical Examiner. She was the sole occupant of her vehicle and was not wearing a seatbelt. The vehicle she collided with had two occupants. They were both extricated from the vehicle and transferred. The female occupant (Bette M. Voeks) was pronounced dead at the hospital and the male occupant (Donald Voeks) was flighted to Froedtert Hospital due to his injuries. They were both wearing their seatbelts. Cause of the accident is still under investigation. Alcohol may be a factor for the southbound vehicle driver.

On 09/18/09 Bette M. Voeks, age 60, suffered fatal injuries as a result of the above listed accident. Bette was a passenger in the SUV traveling northbound on STH 144.

On 09/19/09 Lisa M. Venus, age 37, died as a result of a two vehicle accident that occurred on STH 60 .1 mile east of CTH M in the Town of Jackson. It was determined a westbound vehicle driven by a female from the City of West Bend crossed the center line on STH 60 and struck an eastbound vehicle driven by Lisa M. Venus from the City of Hartford rolling her vehicle onto its side killing Lisa. She had her son along, whom was transported to St. Joseph's and then transferred to Children's Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The driver of the westbound vehicle was flighted from the scene to Milwaukee Medical Complex. Seatbelts were used. No alcohol, drug or excessive speed was determined. This accident is a mystery.

On 11/12/09 Kurstin M. Reeves, age 15, died as a result of a two vehicle accident. The vehicle she was in was southbound on CTH G/Division Road approaching STH 60. The vehicle stopped at the stop sign and then proceeded into the intersection into the path of a westbound minivan. The vehicle was struck broadside. Kurstin was seated in the center position in the back seat. She was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital for internal injuries. Flight for Life did respond to the hospital, but did not transport. Kurstin was pronounced dead at the hospital. She was not wearing her seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle.

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

Mike Panosh reported there are 497 fatalities in 2009 and 40 percent are alcohol related.

Ken Pesch requested a chart for the last three to four years on the dead deer picked up on the state and county highways. Ken is curious to see if the deer kills are down dramatically or staying the same from a couple years ago.

**ADJOURN**

The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m. upon motion by Jon Edgren, and seconded by Norbert Neuser. Motion carried.

The 2010 schedule for the Traffic Safety Commission meetings is as follows:

March 3, 2010  
June 2, 2010  
September 1, 2010  
December 1, 2010

The next meeting will be held on **March 3, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.** in a meeting room at the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lt. John C. Peters, Coordinator