

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

**PRESENT:** Jack Peters, Coordinator; Sgt. Cedric Rembert, WI State Patrol; Ken Pesch; Jon Edgren, Washington County Highway Commissioner; Sheriff Dale Schmidt, Washington County Sheriff's Dept.; Andrea Loeffelholz, D.O.T.-W.S.P.-BOTS; Tom Heydel, WI D.O.T.

**EXCUSED:** Norbert Neuser, Chairman

**GUESTS:** Katie Belmne, WI D.O.T.; Brian Bausch and Joe Gonnering, County Board members; Dave Rank, West Bend Daily News

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Washington County Traffic Safety Commission meeting of **March 7, 2012** was held at the Washington County Sheriff's Department, and was called to order by Coordinator Jack Peters at 9:01 a.m.

The Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of **December 7, 2011** were approved as presented on the motion of Ken Pesch and seconded by Jon Edgren. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Jon Edgren, Washington County Highway Commissioner, to report on an accident history on USH 41 south of STH 167.

Jon reported that the area of USH 41, on the north side of Germantown just south of STH 167 westbound, has had a number of accidents over the last few years, the last one being a fatality in November 2011. At the Transportation Committee meeting there was a discussion on whether or not they felt there was a significant accident history there, and whether or not they would petition the D.O.T. to do a further study of this area. Jon asked for a discussion for input from this Commission to see if there was a feeling there was an extreme accident history going through that area. Tom Heydel reported he is not aware if D.O.T. has looked at this area specifically. No action will be taken by the Commission.

Jon Edgren to report on 2012 County and State road construction and improvements.

**1) County Highway Construction**

- A. CTH H from STH 144 to CTH XX: Completion of surface course
- B. CTH H Mitigation-Bindrich Wetland construction: Final seeding completion
- C. CTH D Bridge, west of USH 41: Completion of surface course
- D. Pulverize & Repave in 2012
  - a. Locations:
    - i. CTH NN from CTH G (North) to Ozaukee County line
    - ii. CTH D, West of USH 41
    - iii. CTH DW from Dodge County line to CTH W
  - b. Bids due on Friday!

- c. Oversight, striping & shouldering by Washington County crews

## 2) State Highway Construction

- A. STH 144 from City of West Bend to Sheboygan County: Completion of surface course
  - a. Construction was slow and inconsistent due to utility issues
  - b. Completed everything, but surface and some shoulder/ditch work
  - c. Surface course going down in spring
- B. STH 60 from CTH C to US 45
  - a. Roundabouts designed for the following locations:
    - i. CTH C
    - ii. CTH C & American Eagle
    - iii. Tillie Lake
    - iv. US 45: On & Off ramps
    - v. US 41 on & off ramps proposed as roundabouts, but as part of a different project scheduled for 2017/2018
  - b. Project going from 2 lane to 4 lane, divided with raised, curb & gutter median
  - c. Construction starting in mid-March with road closure from CTH C to Tillie Lake
  - d. Project estimated to be completed in November
- C. STH 60 & CTH G Roundabout
  - a. Bids due March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Project projected to be completed by August 30<sup>th</sup>
- D. STH 33 Bridge, between Main Street & Veterans Avenue
  - a. Project scheduled to begin mid-March
  - b. Project to be done under traffic
  - c. Limited work between April & July due to WDNR restrictions
  - d. Project estimated to be completed in November

Sheriff Dale Schmidt to report on a speed study, based on citizen complaints, on CTH I (Decorah Road) from STH 33 to CTH M.

Sheriff Schmidt reported CTH I from CTH M to STH 33 is not a County road anymore, it is a Town road. Extra patrol has been completed when times were reported to be the worst and excessive ratio normally is 10 to 15 over. There was no action taken by the Commission.

A local media source is asking about traffic cameras on USH 41 at the split with USH 45. A D.O.T. Engineer will report on criteria for installing such cameras.

Katie Belmne from WI D.O.T. submitted handouts on how to employ ITS (Intelligent Transportation System-cameras, over DMS signs etc.) equipment. The only way they are able to expand the system they have is to wait for a construction project to come through and then they can add things on as the construction projects come through. They have a pretty big limitation on how they deploy the equipment. Part of the way they addressed the issue is they put together a Traffic Operations Infrastructure plan. The point of the plan is to look ahead. There are specific criteria which are used to decide where they are going to deploy equipment. In Washington County there are a couple of locations that are identified as when they got the opportunity they would like to install cameras.

Katie Belmne also explained the ITSNet Communications map handout, which is where there are fiber connections. There are no fiber connections in the area of USH 41 at the split with USH 45. There are other options, such as microwave, but they are not as stable as the fiber. D.O.T. is looking to see if there are alternative ways to get something in the area. The biggest thing is until the fiber is there they cannot get

anything at the split. They might be able to go from STH 167 and hop with the wireless as they have it to that location, but they cannot get the distance all the way up to the split without moving the fiber closer. ATR means Automatic Traffic Recorder. There was a question if the funding was there if it was a State road or an Interstate. Tom Heydel advised he believes the funding is there whether it is a State road or an Interstate.

Jon Edgren to report on speed study review of CTH Y to Neuland Drive to STH 145.

Jon Edgren reported in the future all speed studies will be brought to the Commission so they are aware of the speed data.

This is a 55 mile per hour road along the majority of stretch of Goldendale Road to CTH Y. There is a two-way stop for north/southbound at Holy Hill Road, then it continues south at 55 miles per hour when you cross a railroad track where it slows down to 40 miles an hour when entering a subdivision area within the Village of Germantown. The request was looking for about a half mile stretch of the roadway be converted from 55 to 40 miles per hour to make it more consistent across the stretch in the area from the stop sign at Holy Hill going south versus having the railroad tracks to do the conversion.

Jon advised looking at the speed study data it does not meet the standards to change it. Jon did report this to the Transportation Committee. After a discussion, it will remain as is with the 55 mile an hour sign going all the way down to the railroad tracks. Jon has further details. If anyone is interested in viewing it, contact Jon. No action will be taken by this Commission.

### **REVIEW OF FATAL ACCIDENTS**

There were 3 fatalities in Washington County for the year.

Washington County Sheriff's Department:

On 02/10/2012 Cheryl L. Mahloch (10/31/1960) died as a result of a two vehicle accident in the area of USH 41/45 southbound .5 miles north of STH 167/Holy Hill Road in the Village of Richfield. Cheryl had been driving southbound and struck a barrier cable with the driver's side of her vehicle. After striking the barrier she was able to position her vehicle back on the median shoulder of the roadway. At some point she exited the vehicle and was standing behind her vehicle when another southbound vehicle lost control on the snow covered roadway and slid into Cheryl and her vehicle. Cheryl was transported to the hospital and later pronounced deceased at Community Memorial Hospital. Preliminary information suggests that alcohol was not a contributing factor.

Hartford Police Department:

On 02/24/2012 Kenneth S. Josephson (08/29/1964) died as a result of a truck vs. train accident in the City of Hartford on North Wacker Drive just south of Pine Street at the railroad crossing. Kenneth was traveling south on North Wacker Drive just north of the tracks. It appears he slowed down and then proceeded across the tracks right in front of the train. It should be noted that Kenneth had snow on his windshield and driver's side per the train operator. The train struck the driver's side of the truck and it was tossed west and came to rest north of the railroad tracks.

Washington County Sheriff's Department:

On 03/08/2012 Moises R. Castaneda-Rogel (10/25/1992) died as a result of a two vehicle accident in the Town of Farmington. This occurred on Orchard Valley Road approximately .3 miles south of CTH H. Moises had been northbound on Orchard Valley Road when he unsuccessfully tried to pass another northbound vehicle. In

the process his vehicle careened directly into the path of a southbound vehicle driven by a Town of Farmington female. She along with three children were all transported via ambulance to St. Joseph's Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Preliminary information suggests that alcohol did not appear to be a contributing factor. Moises was not wearing his seatbelt; however, the female and children were.

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

Brian Bausch reported he has received multiple complaints regarding CTH H facing west at STH 144. When citizens look south there is a large sign that is blocking the view of traffic coming northbound. When stopped facing west there are five 4x4's for signs in view sight. Tom Heydel advised he will look into the issue and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission the motorcycle fatalities summary report 2002-2011 and 2011 fatal motorcycle crash statistics. There were 85 motorcycle fatalities in 2011 as of 12/31/2011. 2010 totaled 104 fatalities, and 2009 totaled 84 fatalities. Washington County had 3 fatalities each year.

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission the Weekly Fatality Report as of March 4, 2012. 2012 year to date there were 68 crashes and 81 fatalities. Andrea reported there were 520 crashes and 570 fatalities in 2011.

2012 Fatalities		2011 Fatalities	
Bicyclist	0	Bicyclist	0
Driver	56	Driver	44
MC Driver	0	MC Driver	0
MC Passenger	0	MC Passenger	0
Passenger	22	Passenger	8
Pedestrian	3	Pedestrian	12
Unknown	0	Unknown	0
Total	81	Total	64

February 2012: 35 fatalities

March 2012: 2 fatalities

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission a sample of the new driver's licenses. There are more holograms. The State of Wisconsin will not be producing the licenses. They are contracted with another company as the equipment is extremely expensive. The driver's licenses will arrive in the mail approximately 7 to 10 business working days. There will be a letter to carry with you and the old driver's license will be returned for a form of identification. This procedure was implemented to help reduce the potential for identity theft and fraud.

**Legislation**

Andrea Loeffelholz reported on the legislation SB 397/AB 490: Permits D.O.T. to use black and white photographs on motor vehicle operator's licenses. This has passed both houses and will be signed into law.

There was a question about the Traffic Attendant. Andrea reported the bills are nearly identical. The SB 439 is an earlier version that is not expected to go anywhere because SB 458 has been introduced with only a small modification to the original bill that eliminates the penalty. SB 458 was supported unanimously in Committee and is scheduled on today's calendar in the Senate. The bill will allow local government to pass an Ordinance to appoint traffic attendants for special events, similar to what a crossing guard would do. This will allow local

government to have civilians provide traffic control at the events. D.O.T. took a no position on the bill. In general, they believe this practice has been already occurring and they are just trying to make it legal. Ken Pesch reported he is on the City of West Bend Safety Commission. The City is looking at the intersection of Paradise Drive with USH 45, the off ramps for US 45. There are high accident rates there. There is a lot of rear end, right turn, accidents. Ken Pesch also asked for the accident history at the intersection of River Road and STH 33/CTH G. Ken advised he will report on this at the next meeting.

Brian Bausch reported he received a request for the State to have the speed limit reduced on CTH XX north of CTH H (old STH 84) about 1700 feet. The Transportation Committee will be conducting a speed study. Jon Edgren advised he has some information on this issue and will forward it to Brian Bausch.

For agenda items, please contact Jack Peters by telephone (262) 626-4633 or Merrilu Wright by email [merrilu.wright@co.washington.wi.us](mailto:merrilu.wright@co.washington.wi.us) or telephone (262) 335-4381.

### **ADJOURN**

The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. upon motion by Ken Pesch, and seconded by Jack Peters. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on **June 6, 2012 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 03/07/2012

DRAFT