

MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

PRESENT: Jack Peters, Coordinator; Jon Edgren, Washington County Highway Dept.; Dean Schmidt, Slinger Police Dept.; Mike Panosh, D.O.T.-BOTS; Ken Pesch; Dale Schmidt, Washington County Sheriff's Dept.; Kris Perales, WI State Patrol; Eric Perea, WI D.O.T.; Norbert Neuser, Chairman; Sgt. Cedric Rembert, WI State Patrol

GUESTS: David Wronski, City of West Bend

CALL TO ORDER

The Washington County Traffic Safety Commission meeting of **September 5, 2012** was held at the Washington County Sheriff's Department, and was called to order by Chairman Norbert Neuser at 9:01 a.m.

The Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of **June 6, 2012** were approved as presented on the motion by Ken Pesch, seconded by Kris Perales. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Jon Edgren to report on Safe Routes to School funding applications. Jon reported the applications were closed back in May. Jon advised it is a funding application to use for planning or construction for pathways, guards, and other safety features in regards to making it to school. The latest Transportation Enhancement bill passed by the Federal Government has removed the funding strictly for Safe Routes to School and it all comes in under a larger umbrella, Transportation Alternatives, and it carries money for the recreational trails, Safe Routes to School, and other transportation enhancement PE grants. It is all under one large umbrella and no specifics set for the funding at this time.

Discussion of the intersection of CTH G, River Road, Washington Street (STH 33). David Wronski from the City of West Bend provided collision diagrams to the Commission. The accident history from January 1, 2009 until December 31, 2011 showed 46 accidents at Washington Street and River Road. The accident history from January 1, 2012 until August 25, 2012 showed 10 accidents at this location. They are considering looking in to possibly lowering the speed limit on STH 33. Left turning vehicles would have more time to complete their maneuver before eastbound vehicles would strike them.

They are also considering making the left turn only on a green arrow. There are No Right Turn on Red signs on the off ramp of Paradise Drive to northbound USH 45. If this works, northbound right turn vehicles may have to stop at this intersection also. The state accident rate is .96 accidents per million entry vehicles. This intersection has 1.54 accidents per million entry vehicles; over the state average. David will check on changing the activation to one car rather than three cars. Eric Perea advised there is funding that the City may be able to obtain to make changes as the accident rate is high.

Eric Perea submitted to the Commission the Rumble Strips information sheet. Eric advised STH 83 north of STH 60, north of Hartford, is the only road in Washington County. Eric did not know if it is shoulder or center rumbles being installed.

NEW BUSINESS

Jack Peters will report on the 2012 Governor's Conference on Highway Safety. Jack advised the conference was held in Wisconsin Dells. Jack reported the Governor or Lt. Governor did not attend. Jack reported there was a discussion on crash reconstructions, how it is done and the new technology. Jack reported there was a discussion on how to set up detours, set up law enforcement, the timing, and how to determine the timing of their construction project. Jack also reported Dr. Stephen Hargarten spoke about injuries and how various organs react during sudden stop crashes, how the United States is behind in technology in vehicle safety, and global in Sweden. Jack also reported on the ignition interlocks. There was a media training session. Miss Wisconsin talked about her brother who passed away from Methamphetamines.

Mike Panosh also reported to the Commission there were approximately 425 people at the conference. A speaker at the conference indicated Volvo, as a car manufacturer company, has said their goal is to have no one die in a Volvo by 2020.

Sheriff Schmidt reported on motorcycle noise. Complaints from the public have been continuous over the decades. The Sheriff's Department had educated their Deputies on what is legal and what is not. The Deputies were then instructed to enforce the laws. This is not an initiative against motorcycles; it is the law to be enforced. Written warnings, notices for equipment violations, and some citations have been issued and will continue to be issued. ABATE conducted their own poster project for education purposes. The Sheriff's Department continues to educate the public and enforce these laws.

REVIEW OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

There were 12 fatalities in Washington County for the year.

Wisconsin State Patrol:

On 06/08/2012 Rick M. Steger, 12/18/1962, died as a result of a two vehicle accident at USH 45 and CTH PV in the Town of Polk. Rick was traveling eastbound on CTH PV when he collided with a vehicle that pulled away from the stop sign at the top of the northbound off ramp from USH 45. Rick was flown from St. Joseph's Hospital to Froedtert via Flight for Life where he was then pronounced dead. Alcohol and drugs do not appear to be a factor.

Germantown Police Department:

On 07/05/2012 Michael J. Cramer, 11/19/1962, died as a result of a one vehicle accident in the Village of Germantown. Michael was traveling northbound on Mary Buth when he exited the roadway striking a large rock in a nearby yard. After hitting the rock, his vehicle continued northbound eventually overturning. The vehicle then started on fire. Michael was pronounced dead at the scene.

Slinger Police Department:

On 07/13/2012 Robert D. Lubow Jr., 02/06/1971, died as result of a motorcycle accident which occurred on 07/10/2012 on E. Washington Street/Beine Drive in the Village of Slinger. Robert was operating on E. Washington Street when he lost control and hit a curb. Robert, along with his passenger, was ejected from the bike. Local EMS and Flight for Life were called to the scene. Robert and his passenger were transported via Flight for Life. Both Robert and his passenger, Becki, succumbed to their injuries on 07/13/2012. Neither was wearing a helmet and speed may be a factor. Alcohol was involved with the driver. Case remains under investigation.

On 07/13/2012 Becki L. Lubow, 08/14/1971, died as a result of a motorcycle accident. See narrative on Robert Lubow Jr. for details of the accident.

On 08/10/2012 Hillary L. Enriques, 07/01/1978, died as a result of a motorcycle accident that occurred on E. Washington Street (STH 175) at Corporate Drive in the Village of Slinger. Hillary was the passenger on a motorcycle that was traveling eastbound on E. Washington Street. The driver of the motorcycle had just been tapped on the shoulder by his passenger to get his attention. He finished shifting gears and looked back to see what she wanted. He then looked forward and saw the vehicle in front of him. He realized he couldn't stop in time and was going to try to pass the vehicle on the left. He then lost control, laying the bike down on the pavement and both occupants were ejected. There was never a collision between the motorcycle and the vehicle. The motorcycle driver was cited for Inattentive Driving. Hillary was transported to the hospital and succumbed to her injuries 7 days later.

Washington County Sheriff's Department:

On 08/09/2012 Troy William Ganther, 11/09/1967, died as a result of a single motor vehicle accident on STH 175 south of Pioneer Road in the Village of Richfield. It appears he was southbound on STH 175 when he lost control of his vehicle coming up a hill and negotiating a curve in the roadway and drove off road to the right striking a utility pole. He was trapped and partially ejected from the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Speed and alcohol are believed to be contributing factors in the accident, along with slippery road conditions from heavy rains. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

On 08/21/2012 Timothy John Jerdee, 01/06/1973, died as a result of a two vehicle accident. The vehicle Tim was in was traveling southbound on USH 41 when for an unknown reason left the roadway, entered the grassy median, rolled over, and came to rest in the left lane of USH 41 northbound. Both Tim and the driver were ejected from the vehicle. Both were flown to Milwaukee Medical Complex where Tim later succumbed to his injuries. While under investigation, it is believed a second unit was involved, but no contact was made. Case remains under investigation.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS PERTINENT TO THE COMMISSION

There were no reports to report to the Commission.

Legislation

There was no legislation to report.

Other Business

There was a discussion regarding operating while intoxicated test results. The Deputy has the choice to send the blood kit to the State of Wisconsin Crime Lab or the State Laboratory of Hygiene. The Medical Examiner's Office uses a private company.

Sheriff Schmidt advised he will provide statistics for alcohol and speed grants at the next meeting. D.O.T. to report on the PAC levels at the next meeting.

Sheriff Schmidt reported on the TAD grant (Treatments, Alternatives, and Diversions). Second offense OWI drivers potentially get pulled out of the criminal justice system for treatment programs. They have to qualify for it, and their sentence is reduced. This program has decreased the population in our jail.

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

ADJOURN

The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m. upon motion by Ken Pesch, and seconded by Norbert Neuser. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on **December 5, 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 09/05/2012