

**MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 7, 2011**  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**PRESENT:** Jack Peters, Coordinator; Tom Heydel, WI D.O.T.; Sgt. Tony Burrell, WI State Patrol; Chief Dean Schmidt, Slinger Police Dept.; Sheriff Dale Schmidt, Washington County Sheriff's Dept.; Norbert Neuser, Chairman; Andrea Loeffelholz, D.O.T.-W.S.P.-BOTS; Ken Pesch; Jon Edgren, Washington County Highway Commissioner

**GUESTS:** Joseph Gonnering , County Board member; and Dave Rank, West Bend Daily News

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Washington County Traffic Safety Commission meeting of **September 7, 2011** was held at the Washington County Sheriff's Department, and was called to order by Chairman Norbert Neuser at 9:02 a.m.

The Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of **June 1, 2011** were approved as presented on the motion of Norbert Neuser. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Report on the 2011 Wisconsin Governor's Highway Safety Conference by Jack Peters. Jack Peters reported the big theme of the Conference was Emergency Traffic Control and Scene Management Guidelines. The main purpose is to promote state wide consistency in establishing a safest possible environment for all incident responders. The Governor did not attend the Conference. There was also a session on Public Safety as a Priority. Another presentation was on how to help older drivers. There was another session on improving Wisconsin communities safe route to schools on how to make an environment safer for walking and biking. The last program was on who is in charge about the traffic controls, communications, coordination, use of incident command systems during incident responses.

Jon Edgren advised there is a meeting scheduled in September for a D.O.T. member with the School Board Committee on the STH 175 and STH 167 intersection for a roundabout. The School Board has decided they do not want a roundabout at this location. Jon Edgren advised he prefers roundabouts to four-way stop intersections for safety reasons as well as they work well for pedestrians. Jon Edgren was not sure if the Commission had discussed this in the past. The Commission had discussed this issue in 2003, but there was no vote. It was an informational discussion on roundabouts. Jack Peters made the motion to endorse a roundabout concept at this location. Ken Pesch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Request from Ken Pesch for a brief update on the county's new radio system. Has it been useful yet? Sheriff Schmidt advised the new radio system still has problems and are being resolved. However, the radio system is being used by all agencies.

Request from Ken Pesch for a brief update on our highway reconstruction program. How much progress has there been on the STH 144, CTH H, and CTH D projects? Jon Edgren advised STH 144 was running very late.

They have abandoned the south part of the project until 2012. There are several intersections on the north end being worked on. The majority of the work is on the CTH H and STH 144 intersection. There is a lot of utility work going on in the area. They will complete the intersection at CTH H then go north building and paving to the county limits and then work south to CTH A this year. Next year they will continue south of CTH A and redo a number of intersections and lower some hills. There is a cul-de-sac at CTH HH, and the intersection at CTH H has been realigned. The delay of the project was due to land acquisitions.

Jon Edgren reported CTH H is going well. A majority of the road is complete on the west side. The paving is expected by the beginning of October. The binder will be going down before the final layer.

Jon Edgren reported on the CTH D bridge project. This just started about two weeks ago. The bridge is going to be coming down today or tomorrow. The grading of the road has started. The road is expected to be back open the beginning of November.

Request from Ken Pesch. Have any speed studies been done on CTH Y west of USH 41 since the road was reconstructed a year or two ago and if so, what were the results? Should the posted speed be changed? Jon Edgren reported this item will need to be tabled due to speed studies not being completed in some time. The design speed was done at 45 mph; however the speed limit is 35 mph currently for safety factors. Jon Edgren will complete a speed study and report back to the Commission. This item has been tabled until the next meeting.

Request from Ken Pesch for an update on the time line for the reconstruction of the intersection of STH 60 and CTH G. Tom Heydel reported the leading is scheduled for March of 2012 for construction taking place next year. It is right now at the 60 percent level and the final draft will be coming up soon. It is moving forward for a roundabout at this location.

Request from Ken Pesch for an update on the time line for the reconstruction of the highway project of STH 33 from USH 41 to CTH Z. Tom Heydel reported the leading is for 2013 with construction in 2014. There are some right-of-way issues. Jon Edgren advised he believes they are extending the divided four lanes to STH 144, and from STH 144 west to USH 41 will be a resurface.

### **REVIEW OF FATAL ACCIDENTS**

There were 7 fatalities in Washington County for the year.

On 06/26/2011 Stacey Dawn Brunner, DOB 04/17/1972, died as a result of a three vehicle crash. Stacey was the passenger on the motorcycle that was traveling westbound on STH 167 at Friess Lake Road in the Village of Richfield. A SUV in front of them slowed because the vehicle in front of them stopped to wait for eastbound traffic to pass prior to turning left. The driver of the motorcycle did not see the SUV slowing down and struck the left rear corner of the SUV. Both passenger and driver from the motorcycle were ejected with Stacey landing on the back of the vehicle waiting to turn left. Stacey was initially transported to a nearby landing zone where she was pronounced deceased by a doctor on the flight crew at the landing area.

On 09/02/2011 Jessica Laura Smith, DOB 08/10/1991, died as a result of a two vehicle accident at CTH H .2 miles west of Kettle Moraine Drive in the Town of Kewaskum. She was traveling westbound on CTH H when her vehicle drifted slightly right of the fog line. The vehicle then sharply veered back left and over the centerline, directly into the path of an eastbound vehicle. Neither vehicle contained any passengers. Jessica was found to be unconscious and trapped in her vehicle. Jessica

was flown from the scene to Froedtert Hospital. Jessica succumbed to her injuries on 09/04/2011 at 23:55 hrs. Alcohol appears to be a contributing factor.

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

Joseph Gonnering asked the Commission about the amount and who makes the decision of how many Officers were patrolling the special event (golf outing). State Patrol was involved with traffic control only, no enforcement action. Sgt. Burrell advised there is a formula the PGA comes up with for the event. The uniqueness for this event was the location of the golf event, a windy and twisty area on STH 167 which presents some potential hazards. The numbers were much lower than expected as this was a free event and they were gearing up for a future event in 2017. There will be a lot more traffic at that time. The D.O.T. highways will have a challenge for the next event. This was a trial run for State Patrol. There were a couple of crashes. There were vehicles driving right through an intersection with two squads there. The biggest challenge will be for routing and signage for the next event. This is one of the challenges they faced for this event. Overall on State Patrol's perspective, it was a job well done. Their presence was not to intimidate anyone, just too simply keep traffic moving smoothly through the area in the event something took place.

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission the Weekly Fatality Report as of September 4, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. 2011 year to date there were 342 crashes and 370 fatalities. Andrea reported there were 517 crashes and 562 fatalities in 2010 and 488 crashes and 542 fatalities in 2009.

2011 Fatalities		2010 Fatalities	
Bicyclist	9	Bicyclist	6
Driver	198	Driver	185
MC Driver	66	MC Driver	80
MC Passenger	5	MC Passenger	5
Passenger	58	Passenger	73
Pedestrian	33	Pedestrian	29
Unknown	1		

September 2011    9   Crashes        9   Fatalities  
 Weekend            6   Crashes        6   Fatalities

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission the Fatalities by County report. Washington County had 7 fatality in 2011, and 17 fatalities in 2010. Five year average is 11.

**LEGISLATION**

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission the Bills of Interest to the Wisconsin Traffic Safety Community 2011-2012 Legislative Session (Current as of August 1, 2011) for review.

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted the Final Year End 2010 Crash Statistics to the Commission for review.

**ADJOURN**

The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. upon motion by Ken Pesch, and seconded by Jack Peters. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on **December 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.** in a meeting room at the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Washington County Traffic Safety Commission Minutes

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Lt. John C. Peters, Coordinator

JPC/mew

quarterly traffic safety minutes 09/07/2011