

MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

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

GUESTS: Brian Bausch , County Board member

CALL TO ORDER

The Washington County Traffic Safety Commission meeting of **December 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 **September 7, 2011** were approved as presented on the motion of Ken Pesch and seconded by Jack Peters. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Jon Edgren to report on a speed study on CTH K from CTH E to Hartford City limits. Jon submitted to the Commission a speed study handout conducted August 10-17, 2011. The speed limit is 55 mph eastbound and 45 mph westbound. They are slowing down as they are going southbound near CTH K possibly due to the hills and curves in the area.

Jon Edgren would like a discussion on who, if anyone, is responsible for notifying schools of bad weather. Jon advised School Districts have been contacting him on how bad the weather is and if school should be closed. Captain Gonwa advised the Sheriff's Department will never cancel school buses. The school Administrator and bus service should be communicating with each other as to what they feel comfortable doing. The local law enforcement cannot take responsibility for every bus route and every decision. There will be no action by the Commission.

Andrea Loeffelholz: is there something about standardized weather terms coming from D.O.T.? Andrea reported there are terms; however, she is unaware of what they are at this time. Sgt. Burrell advised D.O.T. have done studies with the terminologies of the impassabilities, road closed, not advised to travel and there are some consistencies so they tried to come up with a list, which is now an advisor card. Captain Gonwa advised D.O.T. wants to discontinue the use of the word impassable and wants them to use the term travel not advised, travel restricted, or highway closed. The winter roadway conditions are going to be: good, slippery stretches, snow covered and slippery, ice covered and hazardous, and travel not advised.

OLD BUSINESS

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 submitted to the Commission a speed study handout conducted November 30-December 2, 2011. The speed limit in this area is 35 mph. There is about a 10 mph difference between northbound and southbound.

South of STH 175: northbound 41.4 mph, southbound 50.3 mph. North of CTH Q: northbound 42.4 mph, southbound 52.3 mph. The speeds have not changed much since the speed study completed in 2003 (north of CTH Q: northbound 50.9 mph, southbound 48.1 mph).

REVIEW OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

There were 9 fatalities in Washington County for the year.

On 10/28/2011 Kevin Michael Conroy Jr., DOB 09/09/1963, died as a result of a four vehicle accident on STH 60 a half mile west of Scenic Drive in the Town of Polk. A westbound vehicle went left of center striking a pickup truck traveling eastbound on STH 60. After the collision the pickup truck overturned and was struck by another westbound vehicle. The pickup came to rest on its roof completely blocking the westbound lane. The westbound vehicle that struck the pickup truck came to rest in the north ditch line. Kevin was the driver in the pickup truck. The first westbound vehicle continued westbound colliding head-on with an eastbound minivan and these vehicles came to rest in the middle of the roadway. Kevin was non-responsive upon our arrival and subsequently pronounced dead at the scene by the Medical Examiner. Kevin was wearing his shoulder belt and lap belt. The eight other parties involved in the accident all received injuries. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor.

On 11/08/2011 Jeffrey A Vis, DOB 04/27/1965, died as a result of a multi-vehicle accident in the Village of Germantown. This occurred on USH 41/45 just south of Holy Hill Road when a vehicle traveling north lost control (hydroplaned on rain slick hwy) and spun around into the path of a semi traveling behind it. The semi then crossed into the southbound lanes, where another semi trailer truck and seven more southbound vehicles crashed into each other. Jeffrey was not the driver of the vehicle that lost control. Jeffrey was pronounced dead at the scene. Six others were transported with non life-threatening injuries. The accident was handled by Germantown Police Department.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS PERTINENT TO THE COMMISSION

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission the Weekly Fatality Report as of December 5, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. 2011 year to date there were 479 crashes and 523 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	12	Bicyclist	9
Driver	288	Driver	268
MC Driver	77	MC Driver	96
MC Passenger	8	MC Passenger	8
Passenger	80	Passenger	102
Pedestrian	55	Pedestrian	50
Unknown	3		

December 2011 6 Crashes 7 Fatalities
 Weekend 4 Crashes 4 Fatalities

Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission the Fatalities by County report as of November 27, 2011. Washington County had 9 fatalities in 2011, and 17 fatalities in 2010. Five year average is 11.

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Andrea Loeffelholz submitted to the Commission the Wisconsin motorcyclist fatalities report. There were 85 motorcyclist fatalities in 2011 as of November 30, 2011. There were 104 in 2010, and 84 in 2009.

ADJOURN

The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. upon motion by Jon Edgren, and seconded by Norbert Neuser. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on **March 7, 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 12/07/2011