



PORTAGE COUNTY

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

PORTAGE COUNTY LEC TRAINING
ROOM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

10:00 AM

1500 STRONGS AVE.

STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

1. REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone, dial 608-338-1399 and enter the conference ID: 708 182 027#

To attend this meeting by video, please email Kate Snow at snowk@co.portage.wi.us no later than 10 am on August 30th, 2020 and instructions will be sent to you.

Due to COVID-19 and the potential risk to members of the public who attend meetings in-person, any person who plans to attend the meeting remotely, but wishes to comment on an agenda item can send their comments via email to snowk@co.portage.wi.us. The deadline for sending comments by email is 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Emailed comments will be delivered to committee members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Remote comment by the public during the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chair.

Face coverings are required for in-person attendance unless an exemption applies.

2. CALL TO ORDER (PRESIDENT OSTROWSKI) (10:00 AM)

Members Present: A. HAGA, B. BEAUDOIN, C. LOISELLE, D. KONTOS, J. MULROONEY, J. OSTROWSKI, N. CHECK AND R. FOX

Members Absent: C. BUDZINSKI, C. HOLMAN, D. RAY, J. GEMZA, J. KEIFFER, J. SCHULER, S. RIFLEMAN AND S. SPATH

Members Excused: D. JANKOWSKI, J. WILLIAMS AND R. STERTZ

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS PRESENT: J MUELLER

OTHERS PRESENT: K NORGAARD (PCSO), K SNOW (PCSO), M SMALLWOOD (PCSO)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[June 2nd, 2020 Minutes](#)

Motion/Second by Fox/Check to approve the June 2nd, 2020 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS

- Status of Highway Construction and Safety Projects/Repair Proposals:
 - Wisconsin Department of Transportation - None
 - Portage County Highway Department (Check)
 - County KK in Amherst should wrap up next week
 - County SS in Nelsonville, has started and will finish in October
 - Municipal Projects - None
- County Highway Safety Coordinator Report - Nothing to report
- Crash Spot Map
 - [Portage County Sheriff's Office](#) (Loiselle)
 - [Stevens Point Police Department](#) (Mueller)
 - [Plover Police Department](#) (Fox)
 - Haga had question regarding if the number of crashes involving alcohol are in line with previous years. Per Kontos, TYD 42 Alcohol-related crashes County-wide versus 38 alcohol-related crashes during same time period in 2019. 24 personal injuries involving alcohol vs 13 in 2019. Drug-related is up to 13 vs 3 in 2019.



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- WisDOT Traffic Safety Engineer's Report - None
 - **Bureau of Transportation Safety Report (Kontos)**
 - YTD Crash Spot Map Review: While overall number of crashes have decreased compared to 2019, statewide the severity is up. Higher speeds and drug use are contributing factors.
 - Northpoint Dr and Division St Round About review: Aug 2018-Aug 2019 there were 53 crashes, 0 fatalities and 3 injuries. Aug 2019-Aug 2020 there were 26 crashes, 0 fatalities and 0 injuries. Learning curve with driver's during first year causing initial increase? Injuries decrease significantly since go from 32 conflict points to 18 and T-bone type crashes are usually completely eliminated. Loiselle had question regarding if traffic volume decreased at that intersection but no recent traffic counts at this time to determine if that is a factor.
 - Ostrowski had follow up question regarding Pursuit data on Community Maps. At this time, it is still in the planning stages but will take DOT data and overlay to Community Maps. All user provided data so agencies need to report appropriately, even minor or zero pursuits.
 - Reminder on drug/alcohol related accidents, as data comes in, amend crash reports to reflect new information.
 - Traffic Safety Legislation - Nothing additional
 - Emergency Medical Services Operations - None
 - Traffic Incident Management Operations (Mulrooney)
 - No meeting this quarter
 - DOT is suspending all in-person Traffic Incident Management courses
 - Train-the-Trainer course at LEC in October
 - Upcoming Traffic Safety Training Opportunities - None
 - Public Education Programs and Opportunities (Ostrowski)
 - Will have to coordinate with the different school's schedules regarding enforcement
 - Traffic Safety Grants Update - Nothing additional
 - Locations of Traffic Hazards and Recommended Improvements - None
 - New Business
 - May 3rd Multi-Vehicle Dust Storm Crash Review by PCSO (I39 & Cty Tk D) (Smallwood)
 - Heavy winds and dust blowing across the roadway caused whiteout-like visibility conditions on I 39 just north of the Waushara County boarder. Field just to the west of the interstate was recently disked with loose, dry soil. Vehicles slowed due to low visibility and occupants remember being rear-ended.
 - 25 vehicle crash in the SB lanes and 7 vehicle crash in the NB lanes, 10 injuries (no serious injuries) and no fatalities.
 - A SB unit crossed median and entered NB lanes either causing or contributing to NB crash.
 - Towed vehicles to nearby business to quicken removal of vehicles from interstate and bussed occupants to Tri-County School in Plainfield to stage for pickup.
 - Designated alternate route to redirect traffic from Cty Tk D to BB to Hy 73. However, many driver's took own route along Harding Ave/5th Ave which caused backup. Route was marked with signage but unless physically man other intersections, drivers will find alternate routes.
 - That section of the interstate remained closed for additional 5 hours to minimize risk of another accident until wind conditions decreased.



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- There is relatively new windbreak planted along that section but it will be several years before it is effective.
- Emergency Management is working with Emergency Weather Services on warning that conditions are optimal to cause dust/wind storm.
- High Tension Cable Barrier (Check)
 - TIM team, Towing companies and First Responders will need to take training on removing vehicles from the barrier. Will email more details in the future.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SPECIAL MEETINGS (PORTAGE COUNTY ORDINANCE 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)

- REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETING ATTENDANCE
- APPROVAL OF ATTENDANCE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS
- SPECIAL MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORTS

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

December 1st, 2020 at 10:00 AM, Portage County Law Enforcement Center Training Room

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Fox/Mulrooney to adjourn meeting at 11:02 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

10. NOTICES

Notice: Any person who has special needs and plans on attending this meeting in-person or remotely should contact Facilities Office at 715-346-1595 as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Notice: A quorum of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, or any committee thereof, may be present at this meeting.