

Portage County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Law Enforcement Center Conference Room, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Members Present: Lt. Michael Morgan, President, Traffic Incident Committee Rep
Chief Deputy Daniel Kontos, County Highway Safety Coordinator
Nathan Check, County Highway Commissioner
O. Philip Idsvoog, County Board Chairman
Lt. Michael Morgan, President, Traffic Incident Committee Rep
Lt. Stephen Retzki, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Rhae Stertz, Secretary of Transportation Rep – Law Enforcement
David Ray, County Executive Appointment - Law
Mark Krutza, County Executive Appointment – Education
Don Jankowski, Portage County Safety Officer
Tony Kemnitz, Dept. of Transportation Rep – Highways
Sgt. Gina Boettcher, Traffic Safety Officer
Patty Dreier, County Executive

Members Absent: Lt. Ryan Fox, Plover Police Department
Scott Rifleman, Portage County Coroner
Jeffrey Schuler, Director, Portage County Planning & Zoning
Joe Gemza, Assistant Chief of EMS, SPFD
Assistant Chief Thomas Zenner, Stevens Point Police Department
Joe Brandt, Portage County Emergency Management Director

Members Excused: None.

Others Present: Bob Kussow, Stevens Point Police Department
Rick Olig– BOTS Law Enforcement Liaison
Karen Moran, Portage County Sheriff's Office

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Morgan at 10:00 a.m.

Quorum Call: Introductions as Needed

A quorum of the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) was present.

Approval of June 6, 2017, Meeting Minutes

Motion/second by Kontos/Jankowski to approve the minutes of June 6, 2017, Traffic Safety Commission Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Notice

President Michael Morgan declared 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 Commission President as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

Correspondence: President Morgan advised the Commission a letter dated August 18, 2017, was received from the Portage County Clerk appointing David Ray, Portage County Corporation Counsel, to the Portage County Traffic Safety Commission.

Status of Highway Construction and Safety Projects/Repair Proposals

State Projects: (presented by Kemnitz)

- **I39/US51 – Northbound Lane Paving County O to WIS54:** Work consists of 1-3/4 inch mill and placement of new asphalt surface along 17 miles of I39/US51. Ramp gates will be added at WIS73, County D and W interchanges. The timeline for this project is from August to September 2017 (35 working days). Traffic will be reduced to one lane at times (6 miles maximum). There will be ramp closures for 5 – 8 hours to accommodate paving.
- **US10 East – Pavement Repairs Country Club Drive to Badger Avenue:** There will be general maintenance and repairs on the structure over I39. Signal loop detectors at four intersections will be updated. New signage and pavement markings will be installed. Pavement repairs are planned for nighttime construction from 7 pm to 6am to accommodate closures and minimize delays. Should be completed by mid-September.
- **I39/US51 – Bridge Painting: County D to WIS 54:** Painting bridge girders over Interstate for overpasses at Cty Hwy D, 3rd Ave., Cty Hwy W, Coddington Rd, and Birch Road. Project has been completed.
- **I39/US51 – Culvert Replacements at County D:** Two culverts were replaced, WI 153 in Marathon County and Cty Hwy D in Portage County. Project has been completed.

Portage County Highway Department Projects:

- **Project: CTH J (USH 10 to STH 66) Reconstruction**

Project Description: This project consists of reconstructing the entire roadway to improve drainage and flatten side slopes for safety. The existing road base will be widened to accommodate 12' travel lanes, 4' paved shoulders, and 2' gravel shoulders. All culverts will be replaced along the project. The hill at the south project limits will also be cut down to improve sight distance.

CTH J will be closed to through traffic throughout construction. The speed limit has been dropped to 35 mph throughout this project and temporary traffic signals will be utilized to control the direct work areas.

Access will be maintained for local businesses and residents but **any traffic that does not have a destination that directly accesses CTH J must use alternate routes.**

Estimated Construction Date: April through November 2017.

- **Project: CR P (CTH G north to CTH G south) Reconstruction**

Project Description: This project is the continuation of the 2016 project which included pulverizing the existing asphalt pavement, removing concrete base, replacing and repairing deficient culvert pipes and catch basins, repairing and replacing curb, asphalt paving, gravel shouldering, sign replacements and pavement markings.

CR P will be closed during construction and a detour will be provided. Access will be provided to adjacent residences and businesses as well as emergency vehicles during construction but all other traffic shall utilize the detour.

Estimated Construction Date: August through October 2017.

- Project: Bridge Replacement CTH S over a tributary to Mill Creek in the Town of Carson is scheduled to be replaced. The bridge is located just south of the Lone Elm Road/CTH N intersection of CTH S.

Estimated Construction Date: September through November 2017.

Municipal Projects:

- No updates.

County Traffic Safety Coordinator Report:

DISCUSSION ONLY: Municipal Resources for Establishment of ATV Routes
Kontos discussed the contents of two “draft” documents included in the meeting packet.

- (1) *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2017 ATV Route Guidelines for Local Government;* and
- (2) *Wisconsin Highway Safety Coordinator’s Association ATV Guidelines.*

Kontos advised these draft copies are free to be shared with local governments and that non-draft copies with updates will be available soon. Check advised this subject is on the Wisconsin Town’s Association agenda for September. These documents be posted somewhere on the County’s website.

Olig advised the commission of the following bill that has been introduced related to this topic:

AB-485/S-392, Municipal Authorization of ATV/UTV Operation: This bill has only been introduced. Authorizes a municipality to enact an ordinance that authorizes the operation of ATVs and UTVs on a highway within its territorial boundaries that has a maximum speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less regardless of whether the municipality has jurisdiction over the highway, unless the highway is an interstate highway

Crash Spot Map/Law Enforcement Agency Report

- **Portage County Sheriff’s Office:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 04/01/2017 thru 06/30/2017.* Sgt. Gina Boettcher stated there were 140 reportable accidents during the second quarter of 2017. There were 46 personal injury accidents, 39 property damage accidents, and one fatal accident with one person being killed.

The fatality occurred on April 29, 2017, at 3:15 a.m. in the Town of Hull on 2nd Street North just north of Jordan Road. It was a one vehicle crash where the vehicle left the roadway and struck a brick and rock landscaping on the property and went airborne into some trees. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene. Alcohol was believed to be a factor, but do not have test results from the Coroner. Lt. Morgan provided an overview and pictures of the accident scene.

- **Stevens Point Police Department:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 04/012017 thru 06/30/2017.* Officer Bob Kussow stated there were 135 reportable accidents during the second quarter of 2017. There were 26 personal injury accidents, 14 property damage accidents, 31 hit and run accidents, and no fatalities. Two of the Vehicles in Accidents involved alcohol. Officer Kussow also presented information on the deadly vehicular accident on February 5, 2017, at 10:12 p.m. on Main Street at Michigan Avenue in the City of Stevens Point. A truck was stopped at a red light on Main Street at Michigan Avenue facing westbound. A sedan traveling westbound on Main Street approached Michigan Avenue in the same lane as the truck at a high rate of speed according to driver of the truck, struck rear end of the truck and the impact caused both vehicles to spin 180 degrees. Driver of sedan died at scene. Alcohol was believed to be a factor.
- **Village of Plover Police Department:** None presented.

Locations of Interest and Possible Countermeasures to Enhance Safety

None.

Miscellaneous Traffic Hazards and Recommended Improvements

None.

WisDOT Traffic Safety Engineer's Report (Kemnitz)

- **I39/US 51 Interchange at WI 54 Study Update:**
 - Study summary was provided
 - New interchange cost \$10 million +
 - Mini roundabout option dropped due to direction from Madison (\$300k/intersection) untested in Wisconsin
 - Only northbound ramps qualify for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to construct conventional roundabout (\$1.2 million)
 - Other inexpensive option is a multi-way stop
 - Region Traffic engineer will provide recommended alternative to project design team.
- **WIS 54 at 110th Street/McCain Foods Entrance:**
 - Meeting was held with Representative Shankland and McCain Foods
 - Shared video of intersection operations (also shown at meeting)
 - Investigating possibility of installing flashing yellow beacons on warning signs.
 - Developing preliminary costs to modify turn lanes to better accommodate truck movements.

Bureau of Transportation Safety Report (Olig)

- Olig reported the Highway Safety Conference was well attended this year; there was a huge influx from the Traffic Incident Management program.
- There were 366 total crashes and 398 fatalities in the State so far for 2017 compared to 357 crashes and 399 fatalities in 2016. Last year, Portage County reported two fatalities compared to 5 so far in 2017. Milwaukee had 58 so far this year and 73 all of last year.

Traffic Safety Legislation

Olig discussed *Bills of Interest to the Wisconsin Traffic Safety Community 2017-2017 Legislative Session (Current as of September 1, 2017)*. He will email a copy of this document to the Commission members.

- **AB-98/SB-74, Court Orders for IIDs (Ignition Interlock Devices):** This bill has passed in 1st House and is Awaiting Action in 2nd House. Requires a court to specify the date by which an ignition interlock device must be installed; allowing citations for operating without an IID if a person doesn't follow through with the order; currently a person cannot be cited for not having an IID although ordered until the license is reinstated.
- **AB-442, ATV Route Signage:** A public hearing has been held on this bill. Provides that, if a political subdivision designates specific highways within its territorial boundaries as ATV routes, the political subdivision is required to erect a sign at each point on a highway where the ATV route begins and at each point where the ATV route intersects a highway that is not part of the route; alternatively, authorizing a political subdivision to designate all highways within its territorial boundaries as ATV routes and to erect signs at the entrances to the political subdivision alerting motorists to this designation.
- **AB-482, Legalizing Marijuana:** This bill has only been introduced. Permits recreational and medical use of marijuana with no effect on federal law; establishing a prohibited tetrahydrocannabinol limit of 5.0 ng/mL, instead of a detectable amount, of delta-9-THC in the blood while operating a vehicle, etc.

Trace Frost, R. Wiessinger and Rick Olig will be covering our Traffic Safety Commission meetings as Bureau of Transportation Safety Law Enforcement Liaisons. Contact Teresa Nelson regarding WISE grants.

Olig would like to make a short presentation of the Strategic Highway Plan at the next TSC meeting.

Olig presented an update on Community Maps. Starting in January 2017, when an agent submits a crash report, the following morning it pops up on the map. This will allow you to see your maps in real time, so you can recognize a problem before it becomes a problem. The map will not show car vs. deer or property damage reports. For fatals and "A" injuries, you will be able to go back to 2002. Olig recommended linking community maps to the County's website. Must use the TRacs Location Tool (TLT) in order to auto-submit.

Emergency Medical Services Operations

None.

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Operations

- Met prior to this meeting and reviewed incidents in previous quarter.
- TIM refresher courses will be scheduled for later this year or early 2018.
- Chief Deputy Kontos and Lt. Michael Morgan of the Portage County Sheriff's Office attended the Highway Safety Conference.

Upcoming Traffic Safety Training Opportunities

Stevens Point Police Department is sponsoring a Below 100 Training September 13th and 18th, 2017.

Public Education Programs and Opportunities:

None.

Traffic Safety Grants Update

None.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Adjournment

Motion by Idsvoog/Kontos to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at 10:00 AM in the Law Enforcement Center Training Room.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/

Karen M. Moran
Recording Secretary