

## **Portage County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes**

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 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  
Rhae Stertz, Secretary of Transportation Rep – Law Enforcement  
Attorney David Ray, County Executive Appointment - Law  
Don Jankowski, Portage County Safety Officer  
Tony Kemnitz, Dept. of Transportation Rep – Highways  
Patty Dreier, County Executive

Members Absent: Assistant Chief Thomas Zenner, Stevens Point Police Department  
Joe Brandt, Portage County Emergency Management Director  
Jeffrey Schuler, Director, Portage County Planning & Zoning  
Joe Gemza, Assistant Chief of EMS, SPFD

Members Excused: Lt. Josh Ostrowski, Portage County Sheriff's Office  
Mark Krutza, County Executive Appointment – Education  
Lt. Ryan Fox, Plover Police Department  
Scott Rifleman, Portage County Coroner  
Sgt. Gina Boettcher, Traffic Safety Officer

Others Present: Bob Kussow, Stevens Point Police Department  
Rick Olig – BOTS Law Enforcement Liaison  
Kim Delikowski, 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 September 5, 2017, Meeting Minutes**

Motion/second by Idsvoog/Check to approve the minutes of September 5, 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:** None.

**Status of Highway Construction and Safety Projects/Repair Proposals**

**State Projects:** (Kemnitz)

- No ongoing projects at this time. Look for report of upcoming projects at next meeting.

**Portage County Highway Department Projects:** (Check)

- **CTY RD S Bridge:**
  - Still under construction, but finishing up by next week.
- **CTY RD P - Junction City:**
  - Ongoing. Construction discontinued due to weather. Resurfacing resuming next spring.

**Municipal Projects:**

- No one present.

**County Traffic Safety Coordinator Report:** (Kontos)

- Traffic Incident Management Committee sent letter to DOT North Central Region requesting design and installation of dynamic message signs along I-39 in upcoming projects. Currently message board exists south of airport. Portage County does currently qualify for a pair, however, Committee received response stating signs not possible at this time due to budgets. DOT built gravel pads along I-39 where portable changeable message signs can be deployed and controlled remotely by Statewide Traffic Operations Center operators with custom messages. Six traffic condition cameras will be deployed in Stevens Point area and shared with State Patrol, 511 website, media outlets, etc. The LINKS system will allow viewing live video from these cameras. Kontos urged Committee to continue requesting boards in future as these boards better at getting motorists' attention than 511 and other systems. Kontos requested item be added to next meeting's agenda for further discussion. Check will place on agenda for Highway Committee Meeting.

**Crash Spot Map/Law Enforcement Agency Report**

- **Portage County Sheriff's Office:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 07/01/2017 thru 09/30/2017.* Lt. Mike Morgan stated there were 123 reportable accidents during the third quarter of 2017. There were 38 personal injury accidents, and 27 property damage accidents, with 1 non-reportable accident. Fatal accidents were initially reported at 3, however 1 was medically related; therefore only 2. There were 9 hit and run accidents, 1 involving personal injury and 3 involving property damage. There were 49 people injured and 2 people killed, and 13 vehicles in accidents involving alcohol.

The first fatal occurred 7/8/17 was at approximately 1:00 in afternoon at Hwy 49 & Nerdahl Rd in Town of Alban and involved alcohol. Defendant had PAC of .258 and is facing felony charges: Homicide by Intoxicated use of Motor Vehicle, Injury by Intoxicated Use/Vehicle; Operating While Intoxicated Causing Injury. Was defendant's third offense; had minor child in vehicle and was operating left of centerline. Crash resulted in death of motorcyclist and serious injury to motorcyclist's passenger. Photos shown of crash scene. No environmental factors or roadway factors present.

Second fatal crash occurred 8/9/17 at 12:15 a.m. on CTY BB and Beaver Lane in Town of Buena Vista. Was single vehicle with single occupant, off road right rollover into utility pole with ejection. Excessive speed, alcohol .239 PAC and failure to wear seatbelt were cause of fatality. Crash photos were shown.

- **Stevens Point Police Department:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 07/01/2017 thru 09/30/2017.* Officer Bob Kussow stated there were 138 accidents, 136 reportable, and 2 non-reportable during the third quarter of 2017. There were 35 personal injury accidents, 27 property damage accidents, 25 hit and run accidents, 1 with personal injury and 4 with property damage. There were no fatalities, 42 accidents involving injuries, and 2 accidents involving alcohol.
- **Village of Plover Police Department:** None present.

#### **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:**
  - Roundabout options on hold.
  - Investigating low cost stop control modifications at ramp terminals.
  - Two projects scheduled for next year:
    - Asphalt overlay Hoover Ave. to Harding Ave.
    - Bridge deck overlay WIS 54.
- **WIS 54 at 110<sup>th</sup> Street/McCain Foods Entrance:**
  - McCain Foods applied for flashing yellow beacons on "Plant Entrance" warning signs.
    - Permission granted to McCain Foods.
    - Operational only during shift changes to alert WIS 54 traffic.
    - Cost estimates for acceleration lane given.
      - \$370K to \$400K.

- **WIS 54 Speed Zone Request:**
  - Contacted by resident seeking lower speed limit on WIS 54 from roundabout to I-39/US 51.
  - Petition submitted 8/02/2017 (9 signatures).
  - Town and Village support obtained at 8/16/2017 meeting to request DOT conduct study.
  - Collected speed data in November 2017.
  - Speed zone creation requirements discussed -
    - Measured travel speed must support reasonable and prudent posted speed limit.
      - 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed within 5 mph increment of posted.
      - Posted speed no lower than 2 mph of 50<sup>th</sup> percentile speed.
      - Speed limit within 10 mph pace.
      - Average speed comparison to posted speed.
    - Other considerations -
      - Driveway and access frequency (150 ft. average spacing).
      - Speed related crashes.
  - Speed study data does not support speed change at this time.
    - Crash rate below safety threshold for similar two lane state highways.
    - Driveway and access spacing exceeds “semi-urban district” criteria in ss. 346.57 (1) (b).
    - Municipality notified speed will not change.
  
- **Wrong Way Driver (WWD) Safety Initiative:**
  - Lt. Morgan attended breakout session at Governor’s Safety Conference where initiative was discussed. He requested possible signing and marking changes for US 10 and WIS 54 corridors, such as arrows or dashed lines on roadway, or red reflective strips added to signposts
    - Urban areas have more tools such as traffic cameras.
    - Rural areas have no real tracking mechanisms to accumulate data.
  - WisDOT developed tracking spreadsheet and Google Earth Map to document “all” reported incidents via Statewide Traffic Operations Center.
  - More data to be collected as this could be high cost issue.

**Bureau of Transportation Safety Report** (Olig)

- Drive Sober Mobilization is December 15, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Agencies should sign up for to be eligible for possible equipment grant award. By turning in one report for the two week time period, agency gets entered into drawing for \$4,000 award.

**Traffic Safety Legislation** (Olig)

- **Act 87, Municipal Authorization of ATV/UTV Operation, SB-392:**
  - Recently passed authorizing a municipality to enact an ordinance that authorizes operation of ATVs and UTVs on a highway within its territorial boundaries that has maximum speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less, regardless of whether municipality has jurisdiction over highway, unless Interstate. Township has authority to create ATV/UTV routes even if county is not in agreement.

- **Other legislation changes:**
  - See attached Legislation Update.
- **First Time OWI's (Civil):**
  - Court Commissioner can now by statute sign search warrants.
- **Changes in Regional Program Managing statewide:**
  - Northwest and Southwest managers left (Bott) and positions not being replaced. Two current managers will be mainly grant specialists statewide. Three Law Enforcement liaisons (Weisinger, Frost & Olig) will be attending majority of Traffic Safety Meetings. Rick Olig was assigned to Portage County as primary point of contact.
- **Community Maps:**
  - Test site is up and running and going well. When crash data transmitted, will be viewable in test site following day. Site will be active as of January 1, 2018 and will have all 2017's data in and all prior fatalities and serious injuries.
  - Go into site and test to help work out bugs prior to system going live.
  - Couple of flags added, possibly more in future. Goal is to look 3-6 months back at locations of crashes based on day of week, month, and shift. Will help with patrol decisions, and could be used as tools to correlate where citations are being written and crashes are occurring.
- **Strategic Plan for Highway Safety Presentation:**
  - Just signed last week with some changes. Olig will send out before next meeting.
- **Regional Meeting for Highway Safety Coordinators in April**
  - Dates for meeting are being worked on and will be finalized beginning of 2018.
  - Association is looking for President.
  - Kontos offered Portage County for more centralized meeting area.

### **Emergency Medical Services Operations**

No one present.

### **Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Operations** (Morgan)

- Met prior to this meeting. Discussed reviews of prior incidents. Nothing outstanding to report. Scheduling of four traffic incident management classes has been decided: One night and three day trainings for newer responders, police officers, first responders and firefighters as practitioners in TIM principles, training tasks and field training operations.

### **Upcoming Traffic Safety Training Opportunities** (Morgan)

- **Governor's Conference:**
  - August 21-23, 2018, Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva.
- **Train the Trainer for Traffic Incident Management:**
  - June 26-27, 2018, State Patrol Academy.

### **Public Education Programs and Opportunities:**

No one present.

### **Traffic Safety Grants Update** (Morgan)

Mobilization period as mentioned by Olig.

### **Unfinished Business:**

None.

### **New Business:**

- Reminder of TSC Elections, June 5, 2018.
- Highway Department (Check)
  - Working on three different speed zone requests:
    - CTY K from CTY B south of CTY B.
    - CTY Q from HWY 161 to CTY SS.
    - Speed zone increase request for CTY R between Porter Rd and CTY HH.
  - Purchased speed data collection equipment to be deployed for capturing geometric data and running accident reports.
  - New Assistant Commissioner and county engineer will be developing County policy on how to review request and create decision tree for running through committees, highway commission and county board if county ordinances to be changed due to speed changes.
  - Working on analysis of CTY HH and Bremer St. intersection regarding site distance issues.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Kontos/Idsvoog to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 10:00 AM in the Law Enforcement Center Training Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/

Kim Delikowski  
Recording Secretary