

Portage County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 6, 2018

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
Joe Gemza, Assistant Chief of EMS, SPFD
Daniel Brugman, WisDOT NC Region Traffic Safety Engineer
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
Mark Krutza, County Executive Appointment – Education
Lt. Ryan Fox, Plover Police Department
Sgt. Gina Boettcher, Traffic Safety Officer
Rick Olig – BOTS Law Enforcement Liaison

Members Absent: Assistant Chief Thomas Zenner, Stevens Point Police Department
Jeffrey Schuler, Director, Portage County Planning & Zoning
O. Philip Idsvoog, County Board Chairman
Patty Dreier, County Executive

Members Excused: Lt. Josh Ostrowski, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Scott Rifleman, Portage County Coroner

Others Present: Bob Kussow, Stevens Point Police Department
Paul Riegel, Emergency Management
Deputy Joe Mulrooney, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Jessie Rintala, Portage County Highway Department
Christian Budzinski, Stevens Point Schools
Kim Delikowski, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Kasia Norgaard, Portage County Sheriff's Office

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Morgan at 10:02 a.m.

Quorum Call: Introductions as Needed:

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

Approval of December 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Error correction on Page 4 of packet – change Hover to Hoover Rd. Motion/second by Kontos/Check to approve the minutes of December 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 active projects at this time.
- **For 2018:**
 - I 39 / US 51 from WIS 54 to N 2nd St. – \$8M resurface/paving project with night work to minimize traffic disruption.
 - WIS 54 from Hoover Ave. to Harding Ave. paving project tied to above project.
 - WIS 54 Bridge deck replacement on WIS 54 over Interstate.
 - BUS 51 from Tommy's Turnpike to Minnesota Ave. in V-Whiting, \$11M continuing with May 8th scheduled letting.
 - Intersection of North Point & BUS 51 to be reconstructed as roundabout; will impact ramps onto Interstate with closure & detour planned.

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

- **CTY RD P - Junction City:**
 - Resurfacing project with minimal traffic impact.
- **CTY RD I – CTY RD Z:**
 - Full reconstruction and culvert replacements with significant traffic impact expected.
- **CTY RD F - HY 54 to CTY RD W:**
 - Pulverize, pave and resurfacing with culvert replacements. Cty. Rd F bridge modifications with possible change in weight restrictions.

➤ **Municipal Projects:**

- No one present.

County Traffic Safety Coordinator Report: *(Kontos)*

- Meetings for Highway Safety Coordinators will be held in March and April. Additional meeting added April 2, 2018 in Conf. Rooms 1 & 2 at Portage County Annex Building.

Crash Spot Map/Law Enforcement Agency Report:

- **Portage County Sheriff's Office:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 10/01/2018 thru 12/31/2018.* Sgt. Gina Boettcher reported there were 276 total accidents, with 268 reportable during the fourth quarter of 2017. There were 45 personal injury accidents, 66 property damage accidents, with 8 non-reportable accident and 0 fatal accidents. There were 16 hit and run accidents, 1 involving personal injury and 6 involving property damage. There were 65 people injured and 10 accidents involving alcohol.
- **Stevens Point Police Department:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 10/01/2018 thru 12/31/2018.* Officer Bob Kussow reported there were 197 accidents, 196 reportable, and 1 non-reportable during the fourth quarter of 2017. There were 39 personal injury accidents, 28 property damage accidents, and 38 hit and run accidents; 3 with personal injury and 9 with property damage. There were 0 fatalities, 46 accidents involving injuries, and 5 accidents involving alcohol.
- **Village of Plover Police Department:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 10/01/2018 thru 12/31/2018.* Lt. Ryan Fox reported there were 74 accidents, all reportable, during the fourth quarter of 2017. There were 13 personal injury accidents, 6 property damage accidents, and 4 hit and run accidents, 0 with personal injury and 1 with property damage. There were 0 fatalities, 16 people injured in accidents, and 1 accidents involving alcohol.

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 on hold while investigating signing & paving updates to enhance traffic flow.
 - Funding not available based on crash history; modified stop control layout requiring stop on WIS 54 at ramp terminals being considered.
 - Tony will check on status of traffic cameras.
- **WIS 54 at 110th Street/McCain Foods Entrance:**
 - McCain Foods approved to secure work on right-of-way permit to construct right turn lane and installation of flashing yellow beacons on "Plant Entrance" signs.
- **WIS 54 at Harding Ave. Safety Concern:**
 - Sheriff Lukas requested DOT review for marked auxiliary lanes at Harding Ave as right turn only. Field observations completed and options are being developed for internal discussion.

Bureau of Transportation Safety Report: (Olig)

- **Changes in Regional Program Managing statewide:**
 - Two remaining Regional Program Managers will strictly handle grants. Randy Weisinger (Dane County), Trace Frost (Dodge County), and Rick Olig (Portage County designee) have been assigned as contacts throughout State; which is divided into three regions.
- **Fatal numbers:**
 - Better so far - 81 fatal crashes with 88 killed, compared to 78 crashes and 88 killed at this time last year. Weather was main factor in year's earlier crashes.
- **Community Maps:**
 - Significant changes made.
 - New features will be presented at next meeting.
- **Highway Safety Coordinators meeting:**
 - to be held in Portage County will discuss:
 - Strategic Highway Safety Plan – synopsis will be brought back to next meeting.
 - Crash assessment format review.
 - Crash data analytics and collection of TIM data.
 - Task force mobilizations.
- **Governor's Conference:**
 - August 22-23, 2018 (August 21st pre-conference), Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva.
 - Agenda items so far: Life cycle of crash with medical examiner opinions, recent court rulings with Dave Perlman, human trafficking, predicted analytics and using local data.
- **TraCS Location Tool:**
 - Push to use locator tool addressed. For 4th quarter, 2017, Portage County used 100% - 539 crashes entered, and 539 used tool and mapped.
 - Crash point critical, not squad location.

Traffic Safety Legislation: (Olig)

- **Act 87, Municipal Authorization of ATV/UTV Operation, SB-392:**
 - Recently passed authorizing municipalities to create ATV/UTV routes and enact ordinance authorizing operation of ATVs and UTVs on highway within territorial boundaries with maximum speed limit of 35 mph or less, regardless of jurisdiction over highway, unless Interstate.
 - Proposal regarding signage permits.
- **SB-189/AB-201, Traffic Violations Requiring Suspension:**
 - DOT now required to suspend operating privileges on large list of violations; mainly those causing great bodily harm or death.
- **AB-197/SB-135, Operating Privilege Revocation:**
 - No longer required to prove as “knowingly” operating.

- **Proposal for animal-drawn vehicles:**
 - Requiring lit headlights, rear lights and flashing amber strobe lights on lateral extremities of vehicle.
- **Proposal to change requirement for “marked” police vehicles for pursuit:**
 - To “authorized” emergency vehicle.
- **Proposal to change OWI laws to include ATV’s and snowmobiles:**
 - Absolute sobrieties and absolute sobriety under 21.
 - Revocation of driver’s license.

Emergency Medical Services Operations: *(Gemza)*

- April 2, 2018 is projected start date for Plover ambulance, anticipated to take southern portion of county. New email listing to be created to include Plover for highway notifications regarding closures, best routes, etc.

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

- Met prior to this meeting. Training outreach being pursued for local, new & volunteer firefighters and police officers for traffic incident management.

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.
- Possible local Traffic Incident Management courses.

Public Education Programs and Opportunities:

None.

Traffic Safety Grants Update: *(Morgan)*

- No funded grants targeted for some time. December Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over mobilization report submitted ensuring eligibility for drawing for equipment.

Unfinished Business: *(Morgan)*

- **Fatality updates:**
 - Scott Sawyer’s trial, whose passenger was killed in crash on Hwy. W, Town of Pine Grove, was found guilty of Operating by Reckless Operation.
 - Out-of-area driver involved in fatal crash from November of 2016, killing a second driver, is expected to be charged due to continuous use of technology while driving. Update will be at future meeting.

New Business:

- Reminder of TSC Elections, June 5, 2018.
- Request for Dynamic Message Boards: *(Kontos)*
 - Request was denied based on funds. Letter will be redrafted from TIM Committee to include these with requests for other items (i.e. cameras).
- April 9-13, 2018 is National Work Zone Awareness Week. *(Check)*
 - WI County Highway Association, along with Highway Department and emergency management personnel will be promoting through media. Resolution will be proposed at Highway Department meeting today, (3/6/18) then to County Board on March 20th, 2018.

Adjournment:

Motion by Kemnitz/Kontos to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 10:00 AM in the Law Enforcement Center Training Room.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/

Kim Delikowski
Recording Secretary