

Portage County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Law Enforcement Center Conference Room, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Members Present: Chief Dep. Daniel Kontos, President/Cty. Hwy. Safety Coordinator
Sgt. Gina Boettcher, VP/Traffic Safety Officer
Rhae Stertz, Secretary of Transportation Rep – Law Enforcement
Don Jankowski, Portage County Safety Officer
Daniel Brugman, WisDOT NC Region Traffic Safety Engineer
Rick Olig, Secretary of Transportation Rep – Highway Safety
Lt. Ryan Fox, Plover Police Department
Scott Rifleman, Portage County Coroner
Christian Budzinski, County Executive Appointment – Education
James Williams, Emergency Management Coordinator
Attorney David Ray, County Representative, Law
Nathan Check, County Highway Commissioner
Deputy Joe Mulrooney, TIM Committee Representative

Members Absent: Lt. Josh Ostrowski, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Joe Gemza, Assistant Chief of EMS, SPFD
Al Haga, County Board Chairman
Chris Holman, County Executive
Sgt. Steve Spath, Stevens Point Police Department

Members Excused: Jeffrey Schuler, Director, Portage County Planning & Zoning

Others Present: Dan Bowers, Asst. Director, Portage County Planning & Zoning
Kasia Norgaard, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Kim Delikowski, Portage County Sheriff's Office

Call to Order

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

Quorum Call: Introductions as Needed

A roll call was read and a quorum of the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) was present.

Approval of June 5, 2018, Meeting Minutes

Motion/second by Rifleman/Boettcher to approve the minutes of June 5, 2018, Traffic Safety Commission Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Notice

President Kontos 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: (Brugman)

- **BUS 51 (Hickory to Minnesota)**
 - Reconstruction project started this past July, expected to be completed fall of 2019.
- **Business 51/North Point Dr. Roundabout completed**
 - Budzinski stated opening of roundabout went well, even with first day of school.

Portage County Highway Department Projects (Check)

- **CTY. RD. I Reconstruction**
 - Total reconstruction Cty. Rd. Z to Collins Lake Rd.
 - Base gravel is down, curve is realigned, layer of asphalt to be placed this fall with completion sometime next year.
- **CTY. RD. F (Hwy 54 to Cty. Rd. W)**
 - Resurfacing project ongoing.
 - Bridge replacement project to be completed mid-November.
- **Other Work**
 - Cty. Rd. HH (West Riverview) working with Canadian National to tear out tracks.
 - Joint repairs on Cty. Rd. HH & Cty. Rd. B in V-Plover.
 - Closure of Cty. Rd. R by Del Monte for approximately 1 week requested by Canadian National during removal of tracks.
 - Working on Traffic Control plan; Single lane closures planned for this work.

Municipal Projects:

- No one present. Business 51/North Point Dr. roundabout discussed above.

County Traffic Safety Coordinator Report (Kontos)

Nothing at this time.

Crash Spot Map/Law Enforcement Agency Report

- **Portage County Sheriff's Office:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 04/01/2018 thru 06/30/2018.* Sgt. Gina Boettcher stated there were 172 total accidents, 168 reportable during second quarter of 2018. There were 31 personal injury accidents, 2 fatal and 16 property damage accidents. There were 14 hit and run accidents, 4 involving personal injury and 2 involving property damage. There were 36 people injured and 5 vehicles in accidents involving alcohol. There were 2 fatalities:
 - **4/24/18 @ 3:18 PM on Hwy 54 // Coolidge Ave, T-Plover**
 - Two vehicle crash - Southbound vehicle on Coolidge failed to stop for stop sign and was t-boned by westbound vehicle on Hwy. 54. Blood alcohol on southbound vehicle was .094, blood results on other driver was negative.
 - Brugman stated there is no "Stop Ahead" sign for this intersection and he will contact Town of Plover suggesting one.
 - **6/21/18 @ 7:02 PM on Cty Rd J NB // Sherman Rd, T- Buena Vista**
 - Motorcycle vs. utility pole – excessive speed most likely cause. Blood results were negative per Coroner Rifleman.
- **Stevens Point Police Department:** No one present.
- **Village of Plover Police Department:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 04/01/2018 thru 06/30/2018.* Lt. Ryan Fox stated there were 49 accidents during the second quarter of 2018, all reportable. There were 12 personal injury accidents, 0 fatal and 6 property damage accidents. There were 4 hit and run accidents, 0 involving personal injury and 1 involving property damage. There were 12 people injured and 0 people killed, and 0 vehicles in accidents involving alcohol.

WisDOT Traffic Safety Engineer's Report (Brugman)

Cameras mentioned at last quarter's meeting previously on hold have now been installed and will be operational in near future. Possible letter from TSC Committee helped. "School's Open" posters were distributed from Governor's Conference for members to take back to their agencies and share.

Bureau of Transportation Safety Report (Olig)

- **Statewide:**
 - 339 fatal crashes compared to 366 last year; 379 individuals killed compared to 398 last year. Down from last year, however, still above five-year average.

- **TraCS locator tool:**
 - Reminder to turn off “snap to center of roadway” if in parking lot and having issue mapping crash correctly.
 - Online web version being worked on currently for future web-based training.
- **Mobilization:**
 - “Drive Sober” just ended. Get reports in by 15th if your agency took part in.
 - WISE-Grants email sent out as reminder that agencies can win four times a year. Beneficial to enter.
 - Portage County won \$4,000 for Click-It-Or-Ticket participation and also won 4 streamline flashlights.
- **Grants:**
 - Portage County is not targeted for any grants at this time.
- **Crossroads through Children’s Hospital:**
 - Developed visor card for teen driver citations with statutes and synopses of law. Working on getting PDF document.
- **Next year’s Governor’s Conference:**
 - Looking for place to hold conference for 2019. Date has not yet been decided. Once date is determined, information will be shared.
 - This year’s conference at Grand Geneva had good content, but 20% less attendance possibly due to location.

Traffic Safety Legislation (Olig)

- Nothing new on horizon at this time.
- Reminder to agencies that for *any* “Failure to Yield” citation, driver is automatically required to complete an on-line mandatory training session within six months of receiving citation.

Emergency Medical Services Operations

- No one present.

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Operations (Kontos)

- TIM Committee met prior to this meeting and discussed fatal incidents which occurred this quarter.
 - Also reviewed fatal, two-vehicle crash on Hwy. 10 near County Concrete which State Patrol lead. TIM team from Amherst Fire District recognized for great job setting up safe accident scene.
- Deputy Joe Mulrooney has been recommended by TIM Committee to fill vacancy left by Lt. Mike Morgan, as representative to TSC. Recommendation will be sent to County Executive for approval.

Upcoming Traffic Safety Training Opportunities (Kontos)

- Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Program is holding training sessions:
 - September 12th, 2018, day and evening classes (8AM & 7PM) at Waupaca County Courthouse.
 - September 19th, 2018, day and evening classes (8AM & 7PM) in Manawa.
- Traffic Incident Management classroom training scheduled October 19th, 2018, at Portage County Highway Department from 11 AM to 3:30 PM.

Public Education Programs and Opportunities

None.

Traffic Safety Grants Update (Kontos)

- Portage County appreciative of \$4,000 Click-It-Or-Ticket grant award announced at Governor's Conference.

Locations of Traffic Hazards & Recommended Improvements (Kontos)

- Budzinski stated School District currently handles reports regarding vehicles not stopping for bus stop arms by faxing to Stevens Point Police Department.
 - Hwy. 54 is trouble spot.
- Kontos mentioned "School Bus Safety" class held at Governor's Safety Conference is beneficial and suggested agencies attend in future.

Unfinished Business

- Traffic Fatality Review Guidelines (Kontos)
 - TSC Guidelines attached to this meeting's packet and also located on TSC webpage.
 - Will start new review process next meeting.
 - Kontos asked Stertz (State Patrol) to review two-vehicle, fatal crash on Hwy. 10 next meeting using new review guidelines.
 - Quarterly requests will be made to different agencies to present fatal crash reviews at future meetings for discussion and recommendations.
 - Olig suggested Coroner also report on cause of death for fatal crashes, as cause of death may differ than what crash suggests.
 - Rifleman will provide this information for future meetings.

New Business

- Fatal Crash Review (Kontos)
 - Will start next meeting, as stated above.

- 2019 Traffic Safety Meeting Schedule approved and set for:
 - Tuesday, March 5, 2019
 - Tuesday, June 4, 2019
 - Tuesday, September 3, 2019
 - Tuesday, December 3, 2019

- Clear Zone Recommendation for Portage Cty. Hwy. Maintenance Policy (Check)
 - Attachments in packet include policy adapted in 2000 which was vague regarding clear zone distances.
 - Last three years clear zone has been set at 18', clearing out approximately 30' out from centerline of the road, based on facilities development manual. Typical right-of-way is 33" out from centerline of road which allows extra if needed.
 - Last year Highway Dept. reduced down to 10' due to a few stakeholders' concerns regarding aesthetics and beauty.
 - Check asking Highway Commission to review policy and provide recommendation for standard of 18' clear zone. Necessity for driver safety and highway worker safety.
 - Motion/second by Jankowski/Budzinski to recommend Highway Committee establish policy for 18' standard clearance for highway setbacks along county roads,. Motion unanimously approved. Formal recommendation will be put together by Kontos and Check and sent to Committee chair.

Adjournment

Motion/second by Boettcher/Rifleman to adjourn meeting at 10:54 AM. Motion carried unanimously. Next meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Tuesday, December 4, 2018, at 10:00 AM in the Law Enforcement Center Training Room.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/

Kim Delikowski
Recording Secretary