

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

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Law Enforcement Center Conference Room, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Members Present: Lt. Michael Morgan, Traffic Safety Commission President  
Chief Deputy Daniel Kontos, County Highway Safety Coordinator  
Joe Gemza, Assistant Chief of EMS, SPFD  
Mark Krutza, County Executive Appointment – Education  
Todd Makuski for Nathan Check, Portage County Highway Dept  
Don Jankowski, Portage County Safety Officer  
Tony Kernnitz, Dept of Transportation Rep – Highways  
Michael J. McKenna, County Representative – Law  
Asst. Chief Thomas Zenner, Stevens Point Police Department  
Lt. Ryan Fox, Plover Police Department)  
Bob Bott, Central Regional Program Manager, DOT BOTS  
Scott Rifleman, Portage County Coroner

Members Absent: Matt Dykstra, Emergency Management Director  
Patty Dreier, County Executive  
Lt. Stephen Retzki, Portage County Sheriff's Office  
Jeffrey Schuler, Director, Portage County Planning & Zoning  
Dan Gruebele, Dept of Transportation Rep – Law Enforcement

Members Excused: O. Philip Idsvoog, County Board Chairman  
Sgt Gina Boettcher, Traffic Safety Officer

Others Present: Deputy Joseph Mulrooney, Portage County Sheriff's Office  
Anton Anday, Village of Plover

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Recording Secretary Karen Moran at 10:00 a.m.

### **Quorum Call: Introductions as Needed**

A quorum of the Traffic Safety Commission was present.

### **Approval of March 1, 2016, Meeting Minutes**

Motion/second Kontos/Rifleman to approve the minutes of March 1, 2016, Traffic Safety Commission meetings. Motion carried.

### **Election of Officers of the Traffic Safety Commission**

Nomination by Kontos/Rifleman of Michael Morgan as President of the Traffic Safety Commission. No other nominations.

Motion by Kontos/McKenna to close nominations elect Michael Morgan as President of the Traffic Safety Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Nomination by Gemza/Jankowski of Daniel Kontos as Vice President of the Traffic Safety Commission. No other nominations.

Motion by Gemza/Jankowski to close nominations and elect Daniel Kontos as Vice President of the Traffic Safety Commission. 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:***

- **Business 51 (Post Road) between Green Drive and Springville Drive (Village of Plover) – March thru November 2016**

Business 51 has reached the end of its service life. Crews will reconstruct the roadway to provide wider lanes, a raised median, and designated turn lanes. Improvements also include new sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and street lighting. Utility work began in late 2015. Some tree cutting was expected to begin as early as February 2016. Long-term lane closures and road reconstruction is scheduled to begin as early as March 2016. The road will remain open to one lane of traffic in each direction throughout the majority of construction. It will become a Village street after construction. The cost of this project is estimated after slightly over \$8 million.

- **I-39/Hwy 51 Bridge Project: April – October 2016**

Work will begin redeck bridges from the Wisconsin Central Railroad overpass to Stanley Street. This work will consist of milling and placing concrete overlay on six bridges on I-39 near Stevens Point, along with necessary work on the approaches to the bridges. Bridges include the north and southbound I-39 bridges over the Little Plover River, Wisconsin Central Railroad and Stanley Street on WIS 66. Work on this project will run from April – October 2016. Project work will resume after the fourth of July. Project cost is estimated at \$1.5 million.

- **I-39/Hwy 51 Bridge CTHD to Birch Drive, April – May 31**

This is also a bridge project. This is in Southern Portage County from CTH D to Birch drive. It involves a rehabilitation of 13 bridges along the interstate—eight bridges carry interstate traffic and five bridges are overpasses. The bridges will be milled and have concrete overlays placed. The CTH D and CTH W bridges will have temporary traffic control signals to allow traffic to pass over a single lane on the bridge while the other side is being worked on. Work will run from April through September 2016. Work on the interstate proper below those structures will have work begin April through May 31<sup>st</sup> so that work can be completed before

the holiday rush. This work has been suspended except for the bridge overpasses due to increased summer traffic. Cost is estimated at \$2.65 million.

➤ **Hwy 66 Deer Lane to East of CTH Y (3 ½ miles): June through August 2016**

This project is a three and one-half mile project that runs from Deer Lane to the East junction of CTH Y. We are constructing a pavement rehabilitation on this section of Hwy 66. It will be milled and the roadway repaved. Shoulders are currently three feet; at the end of the project, they will be widening these out to five feet. Pavement work will primarily take place between June and August. Turtle crossings are being placed on this road. Construction begins on Monday, June 13, 2016.

➤ **Hwy 49 from Cedar Road to Lakeview Road.**

This project is located east of Rosholt to the County line. This is basically a high level maintenance project. The routing and sealing of roadway surface cracks has been completed. A chip seal over the entire roadway surface in July after the Iola Car Show is completed. The project will be completed in its entirety before September. This project will cost a little over \$250,000.

Kemnitz provided an overview of the Department of Transportation's website for construction news and how to access those web pages.

***Portage County Highway Department Projects (Makuski)***

➤ **CR T East of Amherst**

Recondition, pulverize and re-ditch. Should be paved week of June 20, 2016.

➤ **CR HH Post Road and Hoover**

Mill and fill. Plan to keep one lane of traffic open in each direction at all times. Should be paved next week.

➤ **CR P (through Junction City)**

Pulverize existing asphalt pavement, remove concrete, replace and repair deficient culvert pipes and catch basins, repair and replace curb, add gravel as needed, shape base, asphalt paving, gravel shouldering, sign replacements and pavement markings. Work will begin right after community picnic. Traffic be detoured Wis 34 to Hwy 10 and back to Wis 34.

➤ **PBM work on bridge decks on I39 by Reserve Street and down by the Little Eau Claire River down by the County line.**

**County Traffic Safety Coordinator Report:**

Chief Deputy Kontos advised the commission that he and Commission President Michael Morgan had attended the Northeast Regional Meeting of highway safety coordinators and there is a move afoot to have Highway Safety Coordinators take on projects that promote

highway safety. More information will be available after the Governor's Conference on Highway Safety.

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

- **Portage County Sheriff's Office:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 01/01/2016 thru 03/31/2016.* Chief Deputy Kontos stated there were 137 reportable accidents during the first quarter of 2016. There were 28 personal injury accidents, 63 property damage accidents, and eight hit and run accidents. There were no fatalities during this time, but there were three crashes involving alcohol.
- **Stevens Point Police Department:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 01/01/2016 thru 03/31/2016.* Asst. Chief Zenner stated there were 125 reportable accidents during the first quarter of 2016. There were 19 personal injury accidents, 25 property damage accidents, and 22 hit and run accidents. There were no fatalities during this time, but there were six crashes involving alcohol.
- **Village of Plover Police Department:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 01/01/2016 thru 03/31/2016.* Lt. Fox stated there were 38 reportable accidents during the first quarter of 2016. There were eight personal injury accidents, five property damage accidents, and five hit and run accidents. There was one fatality during this time, but there were zero crashes involving alcohol.

Bott demonstrated how to use Community Maps' advanced search feature to determine locations where to focus on enforcement in the future.

### **Locations of Interest and Possible Countermeasures to Enhance Safety**

None.

### **Miscellaneous Traffic Hazards and Recommended Improvements:**

Kontos address intersection of Hwy HH and Nebel Street in the City. Asked for additional signage to let people know the right lane is for right turn only. Kemnitz was fine with this.

### **Bureau of Transportation Safety Report**

- Bott reviewed statutory requirements to provide crash information at these meetings (Wis Stats 346.70(4)(h)).
- Bott reviewed the *Year-to-Date Traffic Deaths and Fatal Crashes as of 06/06/2016.* He noted there has been an 18.3% increase in total fatalities between 2015 and 2016 for the period ending 06/06/2016.
- Bott directed Commission members' attention to the *Summary of 2015 Legislative Session Enacted Legislation May 23, 2016.*

### **Traffic Safety Legislation**

See above.

### **Emergency Medical Services Operations**

Gemza reviewed his handout titled *1/1/16 to 5/31/16 SPFD Ambulance Request*. There were a total of 104 ambulance requests during this timeframe. Thirty-six (36) of the Traffic/Transportation Accidents had patients transported to a hospital; sixty-eight (68) had no patients transported. EMS did provide mutual aid to Marathon County for a traffic accident.

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

None.

### **Upcoming Traffic Safety Training Opportunities**

- 2016 Governor's Conference on Highway Safety: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 through Thursday, August 25, 2016 at the KI Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin.
- FREE Vehicular Homicide Conference: September 7 – 9, 2016, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, at the Holiday Inn.

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

None.

### **Traffic Safety Grants Update**

The distracted driving grant was closed at the end of April; funding was maximized. Portage County Sheriff's Office participated in a grant with Stevens Point Police Department and the Waupaca County Sheriff's Office.

Portage County Sheriff's Office and Stevens Point Police Department are partnered in a task force for Speed Enforcement May thru September 2016. An equipment award will be used for items for squads.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- Traffic Concerns at PJ Jacobs Junior High School

This topic has been tabled. No new information has been brought forward.

### **New Business:**

- Discussion/Possible Action: Supporting the Alternate Route Signing Project by WisDOT for I-39

Kemnitz presented the I-39/US 51 Emergency Alternate Route Signing Plan which included the following information:

- Overview of Presentation
- Background Information
- Traffic Data
- Project Status
- Benefits of Alternate Route Signing

- Potential Risks and Concerns
- Emergency Alternate Routes
- Signing Plan Implementation Strategy
- Contacts and Resources

Motion by Kontos/Jankowski to authorize Traffic Safety Commission President to draft a letter in support of Alternate Route Signing. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion/Possible Action: Supporting the design concept for the Diverging Diamond Intersection at County Highway B and I-39

Motion by Kontos/Rifleman that the Traffic Safety Commission support the DOT Diverging Diamond Intersection at Hwy B and I-39. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion/Possible Action: Supporting a Grant Application for the Addition of Sidewalks and Other Related Pedestrian Safety Features by the Village of Plover.

Anton Anday from the Village of Plover presented information regarding a grant for sidewalks and other pedestrian safety measures in the Village of Plover and asking for the Traffic Safety Commission's support for the grant.

Motion by Kontos/Jankowski that the Traffic Safety Commission support the Village of Plover grant application for sidewalks on Willow Drive and the Traffic Safety Commission President draft a letter of support. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion/Possible Action: WIS 54 Plover Speed Study

In general, speeds are running higher than the posted speed limits. In the 65 mph area, it is running five miles higher. In the 40 mph zone, they are driving 7 to 8 mph over the speed limit. Crash issues were also identified during the speed study. Additional investigation will address the crash issues. No action other than added enforcement.

- Discussion/Possible Action: Recommendation of Safety Improvements on Wisconsin Highway 54 from Moodie Lane to County Highway R

Motion by Kontos/Zenner to support application for safety funding on Wisconsin Highway 54 from Moodie Lane to County Highway R. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Morgan/Fox to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Tuesday, September 6, 2016, at 10:00 AM in the Law Enforcement Center Training Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/

Karen M. Moran  
Recording Secretary