

Portage County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 6, 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 Nathan
Check, Portage County Highway Dept.
Don Jankowski, Portage County Safety Officer
Tony Kemnitz, Dept. of Transportation Rep – Highways
Lt. Ryan Fox, Plover Police Dept.
Bob Bott, Central Regional Program Manager, DOT BOTS
Sgt Gina Boettcher, Traffic Safety Officer
Lt. Stephen Retzki, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Dan Gruebele, Dept. of Transportation Rep – Law Enforcement

Members Absent: Matt Dykstra, Emergency Management Director
Patty Dreier, County Executive
Scott Rifleman, Portage County Coroner
Thomas Zenner, Stevens Point Police Dept.
Jeffrey Schuler, Director, Portage County Planning & Zoning
Andrew Hopfensperger, Plover Police Dept.
Mike McKenna, County Representative, Law

Members Excused: O. Philip Idsvoog, County Board Chairman

Others Present: Mike Rottier, Stevens Point Police Dept.
Kim Delikowski, Portage County Sheriff's Office

Call to Order

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

Quorum Call: Introductions as Needed

A quorum of the Traffic Safety Commission was present.

Approval of June 7, 2016, Meeting Minutes

A couple of corrections were brought forward, found on Page 4 of the minutes under "Crash Spot Map/Law Enforcement Agency Report", under "Stevens Point Police Department" change "Lt. Zenner" to "Asst. Chief Zenner." Under "Miscellaneous Traffic Hazards and Recommended Improvements," change "Hwy HHH and Eagle Street" to "Hwy HH and Nebel Street."

Motion/Second Kontos/Jankowski to approve the minutes of June 7, 2016, Traffic Safety Commission meeting after corrections made. Motion carried.

Election of Officers of the Traffic Safety Commission:

This item was inadvertently left on agenda from last meeting, therefore deleted from agenda.

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, updated given by Tony Kemnitz:

State Projects: (Projects are on website as well)

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

This work is currently underway and has been ongoing and involves removal of existing surface and installation of new storm sewers. Traffic right now has been shifted one lane in each direction in the new South bound lanes and is moving along. There will be periodic closures with additional utility work throughout the next month or so. Work is still on target for completion in November.

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

This bridge project is more in Stevens Point vicinity on I-39. Work began on April 4, 2016 and is scheduled to be completed in October of this year. Work on the Hwy 66/Stanley Street structure on I-39 is complete, as well as work on the railroad bridge near Stevens Point for the southbound complete, with work on the northbound bridge ongoing since July. Little Plover bridges will be worked as well as on I-39. That work will commence in the next couple of days (early September) and will run through late October.

- **Other I-39 Bridge Projects:**

Work is complete on the thirteen other bridge projects in the southern part of the county.

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

This was a pavement rehabilitation project for 3 ½ miles and involved some turtle crossings. This project is completed.

➤ Hwy. 49 from Cedar Road to Lakeview Road:

There is some ongoing work on the second phase of the Hwy. 49 Project from Cedar Rd to Lakeview Rd. This project is east of Rosholt near the county line. This is basically a high level maintenance project. The routing and sealing of roadway surface cracks will be done and then a chip seal over the entire roadway pavement. This is currently being worked on.

➤ Hwy. 54 and County Road U Project:

This has been completed. Thank you to the Sheriff's Office for providing speed board to help keep track of speeds on the worksite and also for working law enforcement speed details, as well as keeping traffic speeds in order. The project involved construction of a J-turn style intersection to address a reoccurring crash problem. That project has opened up last Thursday.

Portage County Highway Department Projects: (Nathan Check)

➤ CR P (through Junction City):

This project is going on right now and will go through the first part of November. The first part from the railroad tracks has the first layer of asphalt pavement on it. The railroad tracks will be worked on in the next couple of months. Crews will contact Comm. Center if additional patrol needed during this time.

➤ Hwy 66:

The State routine maintenance agreement includes some crack filling on Hwy. 66 and Hwy. 49 East north of Rosholt. Work should be starting this week.

➤ County Road J:

County Road J from Hwy. 10 to Hwy. 66 utility relocates are starting for that project reconstruction. County work will start in 2017.

➤ County Road R:

County crews are working with Amherst Telephone to install fiber on County Rd R from Porter down to Hwy. Shop (Cty. B). Work should occur in next couple of weeks.

Municipal Projects: (No one present to give report).

County Traffic Safety Coordinator Report:

Chief Deputy Kontos stated that State Highway Safety Coordinators met at the Governor's Conference on Highway Safety last month and had the opportunity to discuss projects for the future. Coordinators discussed being the "Voice" for the Traffic Safety Commissions as far as Traffic Safety Legislation around the state. Legislative sessions will start again in 2017 and Coordinators are going to make major push at the Traffic Safety Commission level regarding topics of interest. The Association will put together the project to send forward to target legislators for those. State-wide initiative will help give voice to those issues. Kontos encouraged members of Committee to consider any topic that would be of interest for this cause moving forward.

Crash Spot Map/Law Enforcement Agency Report:

- **Portage County Sheriff's Office:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 04/01/2016 thru 06/30/2016.* Sergeant Gina Boettcher stated there were 180 accidents of which 178 were reportable during the first quarter of 2016. There were 69 personal injury accidents, six hit and run accidents, no fatalities. Eight crashes involved alcohol.
- **Stevens Point Police Department:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 04/01/2016 thru 06/30/2016.* Sergeant Mike Rottier stated there were a total of 133 reportable accidents during the first quarter of 2016. There were 30 personal injury accidents, 13 property damage accidents, and 21 hit and run accidents. There were no fatalities during this time, and one crash involving alcohol.
- **Village of Plover Police Department:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 04/01/2016 thru 06/30/2016.* Lt. Ryan Fox stated there were 38 reportable accidents during the first quarter of 2016. There were nine personal injury accidents, four property damage accidents, and four hit and run accidents. There were zero fatalities during this time and zero crashes involving alcohol.

Locations of Interest and Possible Countermeasures to Enhance Safety:

None.

Miscellaneous Traffic Hazards and Recommended Improvements:

None.

Bureau of Transportation Safety Report:

- Bott stated that Community Maps will be integrated into TraCS sometime next year. Bureau is encouraging counties to become involved in Community Maps to see current operational aspect so when integration takes place, counties will be able to identify potential software bugs. This was a project for January, but looks more like later next year. Integration will show a great deal more information. Bott encouraged attendance at any of the upcoming "Crash Form Training & Registration" meetings if haven't already attended.

- Bott advised now is the time to let him know if anyone is having issues with any mobile data terminals that are either outdated or non-compliant or are using base software that is not maintained anymore, or if any additions to fleet are anticipated, as there will be some funding available for this. Bott noted he has helped replace these for some counties that were very outdated.
- Bott reviewed the *Year-to-Date Traffic Deaths and Fatal Crashes as of 09/07/2016*. He noted there has been a 5% increase in fatal crashes since last year. Last year was higher than year before. Number of deaths is up 8% higher than crashes. Passengers in motor vehicles are accounting for 33% over last year. This is category with greatest increase and indicates a seat belt issue.
- Bott advised the ban on ALL handheld devices (including iPads, etc.) in construction zones starts October 1st. Hands-free devices are still allowed. Any local press will be appreciated (Facebook, website, media releases, etc.). As this date gets closer, there will possibly be PSA's and additional information on WI DOT web page that can be used for local use.
- Bott stated Portage County is not on target list for next two years for any kind of Traffic Safety grants (i.e. specifically excluded from seatbelts, OWI and speed). Possibility of funding available in spring (next construction season).
- Bott advised that there hasn't been any specific data tied to the 70mph speed increase on interstates. Currently not enough data. However, most counties he has talked with have noticed more crashes when vehicles are exiting interstates.
- Bott stated total fatalities for this year so far is 379. He projects this year will probably get up to 600's. Trends including lower gas prices are contributing to this as more vehicles on road.
- Bott will discuss "Anatomy of Traffic Safety – Portage County Bureau of Transportation Safety" information (provided in this meeting pack) at next quarter's meeting. This will be added to next meeting's agenda.

Traffic Safety Legislation:

None.

Emergency Medical Services Operations:

Gemza stated nothing new to report. Bott questioned if Narcan use was increasing. Gemza stated that patient management has changed, therefore Narcan use has actually gone down a bit.

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Operations:

TIM Committee met prior to this meeting and reviewed incidents. Nothing major to report. TIM operations are going well. Participating agencies are embracing. Biggest concerns are additional training opportunities and reissuance of some equipment needing replacement (such as cones, etc.). Funding options are being explored.

Upcoming Traffic Safety Training Opportunities:

- FREE Vehicular Homicide Conference: September 7 – 9, 2016, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, at the Holiday Inn.
- Next Governor's Traffic Safety Conference will be August 23 & 24th, 2017 in Brookfield, WI.

Public Education Programs and Opportunities:

None.

Traffic Safety Grants Update:

Portage County Sheriff's Office and Stevens Point Police Department are partnered in a task force for Speed Enforcement May thru September 2016 (currently in last month of operation). Enforcement was targeted in areas where DOT had projects such as on Hwy. 54 West. Ratios for number of contacts look on track for equipment reimbursements.

Unfinished/Old Business:

Kemnitz reported that he has received the signed Memorandum of Understandings for Park Ridge, Plover, Stevens Point and Portage County for the I-39 alternate route signing plan. The signs have been ordered to be installed. Sign locations will be staked on October 4th. County crews will be able to install signs through rest of October and mid-November.

The Hwy 54 speed study in Plover showed rise in crashes over on Grant Avenue. Signs were moved for the 50 to 65 mph speed transition on Hwy. 54 (while entering Plover) to outside in between the two horizontal curves, and moved away from Grant Avenue to the West to help address issue and get people to slow down. Law enforcement can begin to enforce this as soon as signs are up. Recommendation is for more enforcement.

Regarding the I-39 and Hwy. 54 interchange: The letter was received from Mike Morgan, TSC, President, in support of a State Highway Safety Program application to secure safety money to address ramp intersections at Hwy. 54 and I-39. The intersections of Harding and Hoover Avenue will also be looked at as part of that project. Intersection Controls Report at the scoping level is looking at options. A consultant will be solicited and a report will be coming in the future regarding this. Letter of support will help funding initiative. Single lane roundabouts have been discussed as option.

New Business:

- 2017 Quarterly Traffic Safety Meeting Schedule: These were set at last meeting and were confirmed for Recording Secretary to be:
- Tuesday, March 7, 2017
 - Tuesday, June 6, 2017
 - Tuesday, September 5, 2017
 - Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Adjournment:

Motion/Second by Kontos/Retzki to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Tuesday, December 6, 2016, at 10:00 AM in the Law Enforcement Center Training Room.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/

Kim Delikowski
Recording Secretary