

## DODGE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

October 14, 2019

Members present: Joel Kiesow, Dodge County Traffic Safety Coordinator; Pete Thompson, Dodge County Highway Department, Sheriff Dale Schmidt and Captain Chad Enright, DSO, Ryan Mayer, WISDOT, Ron Zenk, Wisconsin State Patrol, Kurt Klomberg, District Attorney and Maggie Kunisch, Asst. District Attorney, Trace Frost, WISDOT BOTS, Dave Beal, Juneau P.D., Matthew Christian, Beaver Dam F.D., Brandon Stommel, Beaver Dam P.D., Jeremy Rasch, Waupun P.D., Mary Wendel and Rob Kocinski.

Also present were Eugene Goodearle, Judy Haddad, Scott Smith, Roger Schepp, Jeff Repalje and Dave Blank, Town of Clyman Chair.

Members absent: Dennis Kaczor, Joe Davis, Sr.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Kiesow at 9:30 am.
- II. Attendance sheet was circulated and introductions were made.
- III. The minutes from the July 8, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion by Klomberg and second by Rasch.

### Old Business

1. Sign relocations to improve visibility for a STOP AHEAD sign at STH 26 and STH 33 will be done as part of a blanket sign replacement on STH 26 and is scheduled for this year.
2. Speed complaint on CTH W on the "S" curve just west of Juneau. DSO had assigned some Community Service Officers to do a radar check in this area. Enright also ran some radar. There were no serious speed violations. Thompson said no speed reduction from posted speed is required on these curves after analysis by an outside firm. No action taken.
3. Point of Last Drink. Rasch said Waupun has been tracking and from 2018-10/14/19 there have been 80 OWI arrests. A bar in Waupun had the most POLD with five. Enright has tracked all alcohol-related contacts from 2013-10/4/19, there has been one bar in Juneau with 9 and another with 5. No specific patterns due to the long timeframe. This will continue to be tracked and monitored.

### New Business

1. Sheriff Schmidt gave a point-by-point presentation in response to Judy Haddad's email to Captain Enright. The email was inquiring about specific policies of the department and gave multiple suggestions for improvement. Schmidt explained the reasons when investigators are assigned to fatal crashes. He also welcomed the suggested improvements and explained how some are either not allowed by statute or curtailed or eliminated by budgetary restraints. Haddad and Schmidt will continue with a dialogue to improve safety in the county.
2. Review the intersection of STH 26/CTH A/Willow Road. In light of recent crashes, Lee Bruni, Supervisor for Town of Clyman, asked for a review. Mayer supplied a Collision Diagram covering 2014 to present. There were 16 crashes, including 6 injury related. There were many minor, rear-end crashes on the southbound leg of CTH A. Two recent injury crashes were northbound STH 26 vehicles turning left and striking southbound vehicles. One was in significant fog. The overall crash rate was within the normal range. Since construction of the STH 26 and STH 60 interchange, more vehicles are using northbound CTH W from STH 60 to westbound Willow Road to avoid the interchange. The area will be monitored, but no action at this time.

3. Jeff Respelje, resident on CTH MM, immediately south of Waupun city limits was present to discuss speeding concerns. He stated specific times when it is happening. The rural section is posted at 45 MPH and the urban section is posted at 25 MPH. Southbound vehicles are accelerating to speeds above posted. Rasch and Enright stated there have been enforcement efforts and have caught speeders. Both will continue efforts when manpower allows. Thompson will review the specific speed limit sign locations.
4. Roger Schepp voiced his concern about the vision obstructions at the corner of CTH SS and CTH S. Multiple departments will work toward a solution on this longstanding issue.

Fatal Crash reviews. There were 4 fatal crashes and 4 fatalities in the third quarter. YTD there have been 12.

On 7/30/19, a crash occurred at approximately 6:30 p.m. on CTH E near Swan Road. An eastbound vehicle crossed centerline, struck a westbound car and the crashed head-on into a second westbound vehicle. An unbelted passenger in the second vehicle, Gavin Rivas, 22 died. No video was available as the report was written by State Patrol. The crash is still under investigation.

On 8/26/19, a single-vehicle crash occurred at approximately midnight on STH 68 near Lakeland Road. An eastbound car left the roadway and struck a utility pole on the driver's side. The commission viewed the video. Christopher Balsewicz, 26 died. He was belted at the time. Alcohol may have been a factor.

On 8/28/19, a crash occurred at 5:50 a.m. on Kellom Road north of CTH W. A northbound motorcycle turned into a private driveway and was struck by a southbound vehicle. Jacob Harshbarger, 29 died. The commission viewed the video. Driver error appears to be the cause.

On 8/31/19, a crash occurred at 3 p.m. on STH 33 near CTH AY. A motorcycle was travelling eastbound on STH 33 near CTH AY when the rear tire blew ejecting both occupants. The commission viewed the video. Passenger Dawn Fellner, 47 died on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Neither driver nor passenger were wearing helmets.

## Reports

### A. BOTS.

Frost showed enhancements to Community Maps including a Gov't Property Damage flag in the Advanced tab. Also, the TSC Resources tab contains the weekly Legislative Summary and is available to the general public.

There have been 431 fatalities YTD statewide vs. 464 in 2018 (576 total) vs 596 total in 2017.

### B. WIDSOT.

Mayer asked for feedback on the All-Way stop at the STH 28/67/175 and CTH TW intersection north of Theresa. There were no specific complaints.

Christian stated there was an initial meeting for the upcoming safety improvements on Gateway Drive and Frances lane in Beaver Dam when the DOT will do some deck rehabs.

### C. County.

Thompson stated a pipe replacement project began on STH 60 between Jefferson Road and CTH P and will last a week or so.

Also, a bridge deck rehab on CTH S near Blackbird Road started and will last about two weeks.

The county will establish an ALL-WAY stop at CTH AY and CTH TW in late October. CTH AY will now also be required to stop.

Klomberg stated Kunisch will become the 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic prosecutor and homicide investigator. She will attend TSC meetings in his absence.

Christian stated there is an ongoing study for EMS delivery county wide. Aging and declining membership is the driving force. The fire service is close behind with the same challenge.

Stommel stated there is a new ALL-WAY stop on N. Spring Street and Woodland Drive. This is an interim measure until signals or roundabout are installed in a couple of years.

Rasch stated the S. Madison Street project is progressing and should be finished soon.

Goodearle still appreciates the new roundabout at STH 33 and CTH P. He asked if a tree at W5833 CTH E is in the right of way. Thompson will check

Zenk stated there has been targeted speed enforcement on CTH A in Oak Grove.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2020 at 9:30 am in the Training Room of the Dodge County Sheriff's Department.

Meeting adjourned 11:20 a.m.

Pete Thompson,  
Secretary.

*Approved at 1/13/2020 meeting*

*Peter Thompson*