

RACINE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

May 12, 2016

-Summary Minutes -

Public Works & Development Services Conference Room
Ives Grove Office Complex
14200 Washington Avenue,
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Members Present:

Julie Anderson - Racine County Public Works & Development Services Director
Capt. Thomas Lamke - Racine County Highway Safety Coordinator
David Maack - Racine County Emergency Management
Michael Payne - Racine County Medical Examiner
Sgt. David Stroupe - Mount Pleasant Police Department
Chief Tom Ditscheit - Town of Waterford Police Department
John Barnes - Retired Caledonia Police Department
Allison Blackwood – WisDOT, DTSD
Tom Knitter – TRIAD
Corey Foster, Bureau of Transportation Safety Regional Program Manager
Pat Starken - Racine Unified School District Transportation
Gerad Dougville - District Attorney's Office
Lt. Gary Larsen - Caledonia Police Department

Members Excused:

Chief Sean Marschke - Sturtevant Police Department
Sgt. Tim Koetter - Racine Police Department

Members Not Present:

Sgt. David Coughlin - Racine County Sheriff's Office
Erin Donaldson - Safe Kids Coordinator

Others Present:

Jacqueline Bratz – Racine County Communications Director
State Trooper Matt Barlar - Wisconsin State Patrol
Michael Miller
Harman Chahal
Nathan Schwabenlander

1. Call to Order

02:00

David Maack called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Commission members introduced themselves and the meeting began.

2. Minutes of the February 11, 2016, meeting

02:01

CHIEF DITSCHHEIT MOVED, seconded by Capt. Lamke, to approve the February 11, 2016, minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Fatalities since the last meeting

02:02

(1) Sgt. Stroupe, Mt. Pleasant PD, reported two fatalities.

- (a) 01/24/2016, 1:11 p.m., Spring Street (CTH "C")/Windsor Street, Village of Mt. Pleasant
- One-unit crash
 - While traveling westbound on Spring Street, just west of Windsor Way, the 79-year-old driver had a medical incident and lost control of her vehicle, striking a curb and coming to a stop on a snow-covered median. No other factors.
- (b) 03/07/2016, 10:28 p.m., Washington Avenue (STH 20)/90th Street, Village of Mt. Pleasant
- Two-unit crash
 - Unit 2 was traveling eastbound on Highway 20, approaching 90th Street with a green light. While executing a left turn from westbound Highway 20 to southbound 90th Street (green light), Unit 1 failed to yield and was struck by Unit 2 (Dodge Ram) going 55-60 mph
 - Passenger in Unit 1 was taken by Flight for Life to Froedtert Hospital; pronounced dead by ER physician
 - Operator uninjured – admitted both had been smoking marijuana
 - Driver factor (Unit 1): operator error; failure to yield right-of-way
 - An officer was present at the scene and witnessed the incident

(2) Two additional fatalities are depicted on community mapping:

- (a) 02/26/2016 fatality on South Wind Lake Road: Commission members are unaware of depicted fatality and will investigate further.
- (b) 04/18/2016 Caledonia (STH 32/Six Mile Road) fatality: Autopsy report pending; will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Upcoming construction projects

02:10

Director Anderson commented on the following:

- (1) Highway D bridge project is progressing well and ahead of schedule. It is anticipated that the bridge will be open in time for the July hot air balloon event in Waterford.
- (2) In addition to the utility work that is being performed for the Village in the vicinity of Highway V/Highway K, initial work has begun in preparation for the roundabout construction at this intersection. Some local road improvement program monies have been received for this project that now has an estimated cost of roughly 2 ½ million dollars and a projected start date in 2018.
- (3) Highway V project, from Highway G to Milwaukee County Line: Surveying is currently being done and additional right-of-way is being obtained to help make this intersection larger and safer. The project will be going out to bid very shortly and construction will begin sometime this summer.

Allison Blackwood commented on the following project:

- Highway 38, City of Racine, two roundabouts will be added at Spring Street and High Street; bike accommodations will be added; new traffic signal will be installed on High Street; end date sometime this year

Chief Ditscheit noted the deteriorating road conditions on Loomis Road and asked if anyone has followed up on this matter. Anderson will check with staff.

5. Review, discussion and possible recommendation regarding a letter of support for a potential State project for construction of a roundabout at the intersection of State Trunk Highway (STH) 38 and Five Mile Road in the Village of Caledonia

02:12

Anderson noted that Allison Blackwood provided information at the last meeting that Anderson in turn forwarded to the Village of Caledonia. Blackwood indicated that Stacey Pierce, WisDOT Safety Engineer, met with Village staff and is scheduled to meet with the Village Board on June 6 and hopes to get a resolution of support for the proposed roundabout at that time. Blackwood noted that the crash rate has more than doubled from the base line rate and the injury and fatality rates are extremely high at this intersection. She stated that measures have been taken over the past years to improve safety under the existing control (e.g., stop signs) without much success. Anderson added that Village staff mentioned to her the possibility of the State considering a roundabout at the intersection of Four Mile Road and STH 38. Commission members concurred to support the proposed roundabout project.

TOM KNITTER MOVED, seconded by Patrick Starken, to support the State's proposed project to construct a roundabout at the intersection of State Trunk Highway (STH) 38 and Five Mile Road in the Village of Caledonia. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Review of Monthly Safety Program

02:18

Maack distributed a revised radio spot time schedule, noting that the radio station asked that the sessions be changed from the third Friday to the third Thursday of the month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m.

7. Around the Table

02:20

Julie Anderson commented that the Public Works Division has had a relatively safe winter season, with no reported property damage, no crashes involving snow plows, and no injuries to the crew or the public.

Tom Knitter stated that Chuck and Linda Miles from TRIAD, who are involved with the AARP Driver Safety Program, will conduct a few senior-driver safety sessions in May. He indicated that the AAA Traffic Safety Foundation seems to be getting more involved in safety programs. Corey Foster stated that part of their funding involves the Operation Click Program, based in Illinois, that offers safety program for teens. The Seat Belt Program offers teenagers a chance to win an automobile. Commission members expressed interest in contacting a local chapter and invite a representative to possibly address the Commission at a future meeting. Foster will provide additional information and forward contact information to the Commission.

Chief Tom Ditscheit expressed appreciation for grant monies received to assist with road and safety improvements. He believes the funding has been put to good use and has made a difference in the reduction of accidents.

Michael Payne thanked Corey Foster for providing the drunken driving coasters that he has successfully distributed to the Racine Tavern League. He noted that the number of traffic fatalities is down from last year.

Trooper Barlar stated that Trooper Graf will no longer serve on the Commission. An appointment to the Traffic Safety Commission for Trooper Barlar will be requested.

Corey Foster summarized the State fatality report and statistics. He reminded law enforcement officers to sign up for the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” Program. The 2016 Governor’s Conference on Highway Safety will be held at the Ki Center in Green Bay on August 23. Foster provided a print-out of legislative updates. He noted that a coordinators meeting is being organized on June 1 in Milwaukee to discuss TSCs and best practices. Participants from the SE Region are being sought. Foster informed Commission members that he is relocating out of State this summer. He expressed his pleasure in working with the Racine County Traffic Safety Commission and thanked members for their efforts.

Allison Blackwood stated that it is now legal at signalized intersections with dual right lanes, to turn right on red from the left lane. The State is identifying intersections, but has not yet removed signs. Blackwood indicated that Dave Spakowitz, from the Statewide Operations Center, has offered to do a presentation in September, if the Commission is interested. The Commission agreed to request him to address the Commission on September 15.

8. Next meeting: September 15, 2016

9: Adjournment

02:37

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.