

**RACINE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**September 15, 2016 - Summary Minutes**

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

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**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  
Tom Knitter – TRIAD  
Michael Payne - Racine County Medical Examiner  
Michael White - District Attorney's Office  
State Trooper Matt Barlar - Wisconsin State Patrol  
Lt. Gary Larsen - Caledonia Police Department  
Sgt. Tim Koetter - Racine Police Department  
Brian Smith - Mount Pleasant Police Department  
Sgt. David Stroupe – Mount Pleasant Police Department  
Matt Johnson - Town of Waterford Police Department  
Joe Davis, Sr., Bureau of Transportation Safety Regional Program Manager  
Pat Starcken - Racine Unified School District Transportation  
Allison Blackwood – WisDOT, DTSD

**Members Excused:**

Chief Sean Marschke - Sturtevant Police Department

**Members Not Present:**

John Barnes - Retired Caledonia Police Department  
Erin Donaldson - Safe Kids Coordinator

**Others Present:**

Jacqueline Bratz – Racine County Communications Director  
Dave Spacowitz – Statewide Traffic Operations Center (STOC)  
Randy Wiessinger – BOTS Law Enforcement Liaison

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**1. Call to Order**

02:00

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

**2. Minutes of the May 12, 2016, meeting**

02:01

**MICHAEL PAYNE MOVED, seconded by Capt. Lamke,** to approve the May 12, 2016, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Fatalities since the last meeting**

2:01

(1) Capt. Lamke, Racine County Sheriff's Office, reported four fatalities.

(a) 5/31/2016, 3:04 a.m., 15800 block of Durand Avenue (STH 11), Town of Yorkville

- Semi tractor-trailer versus pedestrian collision
- Tractor trailer (Unit #1) traveling westbound on STH 11 struck a pedestrian who was in the westbound lane; pedestrian's pick-up truck (Unit #2) was parked in the eastbound lane of STH 11 while she reportedly was trying to retrieve her dog.
- Investigation found that the driver-side headlight of Unit #2 appeared to be misaligned, which would have affected vision line of Unit #1 and could have been a contributing factor. A witness vehicle that was parked behind Unit #2 could have also affected the sight line.
- No indication of speed, alcohol or roadway factors.
- Pedestrian pronounced dead at Wheaton Franciscan-All Saints Hospital.

(b) 6/15/2016, 6:00 p.m., Two Mile Road/CTH "U" intersection, Town of Raymond

- Two-unit accident
- Unit #1 traveling westbound on Two Mile Road, approaching intersection of Raymond Avenue (CTH "U"), and struck Unit #2 that was traveling southbound on CTH "U".
- Driver of Unit #1 stated that he stopped at the stop sign on Two Mile Road, but didn't see Unit #2 before entering the intersection. Driver stated his view may have been obstructed by trees or shrubs. Based on investigation, sight line wasn't affected by trees or shrubs in the location.
- Cell-phone use, alcohol not factors
- Driver of Unit #1 cited for failure to yield right-of-way
- Two passengers in Unit #2 survived; driver pronounced deceased the next day.
- Payne added that lap and shoulder belt was in use at the time of crash; toxicology revealed no impairment

(c) 7/18/2016, 10:23 a.m., Burlington Bypass/Pine Street, Town of Burlington

- Two-unit accident; motorcycle and semi tractor-trailer
- Driver of semi tractor-trailer traveling westbound on the Burlington Bypass proceeded to negotiate a left-hand turn on a flashing yellow light onto southbound Pine Street and struck a motorcycle traveling eastbound on the Burlington Bypass on a green light.
- Motorcycle driver not wearing a helmet sustained fatal injuries.
- Motorcycle driver's failure to yield was cause of death.

(d) 8/30/2016, 2:26 p.m., 1500 block of S. Sylvania Avenue, Town of Yorkville

- Two-unit accident
- When negotiating a left turn from northbound S. Sylvania Avenue, Unit #1 struck southbound Unit #2, which was going straight on S. Sylvania Avenue, head-on.
- Front seat passenger and succumbed to fatal injuries shortly after accident.
- Seat belts were in use at the time of crash.
- Citation issued for failure to yield to Unit #1.
- Alcohol not a factor. Investigation still ongoing.

(2) Lt. Gary Larsen, Caledonia PD, reported three fatalities.

- (a) 4/18/2016, 1:47 p.m., Six Mile Road (CTH "G") /Douglas Avenue (STH 32) intersection
- Two-unit accident
  - Unit #1 was traveling eastbound on Six Mile Road and had a right light prior to entering the intersection and struck Unit #2 that was traveling northbound on Douglas Avenue and was going through the intersection with a green light.
  - Driver of Unit #1 was unconscious at the scene. She was elderly and a medical issue may have caused her failure to yield right-of-way or she simply failed to yield.
- (b) 6/18/2016, 11:18 p.m., Northwestern Avenue (CTH "K") RR track crossing
- A vehicle traveling eastbound on Northwestern Avenue hit a southbound Amtrak train; driver of vehicle ejected from car; taken by Flight for Life to Froedtert Hospital and later pronounced dead.
  - Toxicology report still revealed use of marijuana and prescription drugs for anxiety and hyperactivity.
- (c) 6/25/2016, 10:04 p.m., CTH "V" and Stefanie Way
- One-unit accident; motorcycle versus deer
  - While traveling northbound on CTH "V", motorcycle driver hit a deer
  - Taken by Flight for Life to Froedtert Hospital and later pronounced dead.

(3) Sgt. Koetter, City of Racine PD, reported one fatality.

- 6/25/2016, 1:05 a.m., Marquette Street at Prospect Street
- Single-unit accidents
  - Witness accounts indicate that vehicle was traveling northbound and suddenly started fishtailing, went into a counterclockwise spin and struck a utility pole.
  - Passenger in front died a day or two later; driver and passenger in back were severely injured
  - No road condition factors; driver was impaired at the time and is now undergoing the prosecution process.
  - Payne added that the death was actually a bilateral pulmonary thrombosis—a blood clot formed as a result of the injuries.

#### **4. Upcoming construction projects**

2:13

Julie Anderson commented on current projects:

- Highway V project: Utility coordination issues caused a delay in the project this summer; however, pulverizing the main line is scheduled to begin today. Pulverizing and repaving between Highway G and the County Line Road may be done later this Fall.
- Highway D project: Pulverizing and repaving through the central downtown business district in Rochester, where the Highway D ended a couple years ago, to the new bridge and then from the new bridge to Highway 36 will be pulverized and repaved in the next couple weeks. As a result of the favorable pricing for pavement on this project, \$75,000 may now be used to cost share for installation of a traffic signal on Highway K and E. Frontage Road in 2017.

**5. Update on WisDOT highway improvement projects, including STH 38, STH 20  
CTH “K” projects**

2:15

Allison Blackwood commented on the following State highway improvement projects:

- Highway 38, City of Racine: Roundabouts are being constructed at Albert and Spring Streets . Installation of a new traffic signal on High Street will be completed this Fall.
- Highway 38, from Highway K to Milwaukee County Line: Centerline and shoulder rumble strips are being installed.
- Highway 38, proposed roundabout at Five Mile Road in the Village of Caledonia: The State did not support the proposal for a roundabout at this location; however, this doesn't rule out pursuing safety actions in this area.
- Highway 11: Union Grove portion is complete. Sturtevant segment, from 92<sup>nd</sup> Street to Highway to 31 is set to be completed in late Fall of this year.
- Highway K: East and West Frontage road intersection work is scheduled for next year; ramps and I-94 main line is scheduled for 1920-21
- Highway 20 interchange: Replacement of concrete pavement will be done for the next few weeks.

**6. Presentation by Dave Spakowicz regarding WisDOT's State Traffic Operations  
Center (STOC) and traffic incident management program**

2:18

Chairman Maack introduced Dave Spakowicz, from the State Traffic Operations Center (STOC). The STOC handles traffic management for the state of Wisconsin. The physical center is located at 433 W. St. Paul Avenue, Suite 300, Milwaukee. Spakowicz summarized the work being done by STOC and the Traffic Management (TIM) Program (in Wisconsin the acronym is TIME. The TIME Program is a comprehensive multi-agency, multi-disciplinary program enacted by the DOT to manage incidents and to improve the safety of motorists, crash victims and emergency responders at a crash scene by clearing traffic incidents so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. Spakowicz gave a power point presentation illustrating features of the TIME Program, including statewide traffic maps, and showed videos that illustrated examples of distracted driving incidents and potential traffic hazards.

**7. Review of Monthly Safety Program**

3:09

2017 Monthly Safety Program topics and assignments will be discussed at the next meeting in November. Chairman Maack suggested that the Commission present Amanda at the Racine Journal Times with a certificate or plaque in recognition and appreciation of her efforts in preparing the safety posters.

**8. Around the Table**

3:10

**Julie Anderson** received an inquiry while attending a meeting recently asking why there isn't a pedestrian bridge over Highway 31, near Highway 11, because using the crosswalk at grade is dangerous given the amount of pedestrian traffic and traffic volume in this area.

**Allison Blackwood** commented that there is a traffic signal at Highway 32 and 7 Mile Road in Caledonia that will be removed shortly. It was installed because of power plant construction and has remained in place longer than anticipated.

**Tom Knitter** stated that TRIAD still promotes AARP driver safety programs for older adults and a number of classes are being held locally. He shared a Milwaukee Journal article that he found interesting reporting that the National Guard was used to assist with traffic safety in 1954.

**Joe Davis** introduced himself as the new Regional Program Manager from the Bureau of Transportation Safety.

It was suggested that the meeting be moved from August to September in 2017, as it had been done this year.

**9. Next meeting:** November 10, 2016

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Maack adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m.