

**RACINE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**November 10, 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  
State Trooper Matt Barlar - Wisconsin State Patrol  
Chief Tom Ditscheit - Town of Waterford Police Department  
Sgt. Tim Koetter - Racine Police Department  
Lt. Gary Larsen - Caledonia Police Department  
John Barnes - Retired Caledonia Police Department  
Sgt. David Stroupe – Mount Pleasant Police Department  
Chief Sean Marschke - Sturtevant Police Department  
Joe Davis, Sr., Bureau of Transportation Safety Regional Program Manager  
Pat Starcken - Racine Unified School District Transportation  
Allison Blackwood – WisDOT, DTSD

**Members Not Present:**

Erin Donaldson - Safe Kids Coordinator  
Michael White - District Attorney's Office

**Others Present:**

State Trooper Joseph Dashek

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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 September 15, 2016, meeting**

02:01

**SGT. MARASCHKE MOVED, seconded by Tom Knitter**, to approve the September 15, 2016, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Fatalities since the last meeting**

2:01

(1) Capt. Lamke, Racine County Sheriff's Office, reported one fatality.

11/1/2016, 108<sup>th</sup> Street/ CTH "K", Town of Raymond

- One-unit accident, motorcycle

- While negotiating a turn on Highway K, eastbound motorcyclist went off the road on the south side of the highway, crossed 108<sup>th</sup> Street, struck a steel mailbox pole, continued east and then struck a large tree. Motorcyclist was ejected from the motorcycle and died at the scene (appeared to have been deceased multiple hours prior to the accident being reported).
- 55 mph posted speed limit; speed not a factor; road conditions not a factor
- Wearing a helmet.
- Payne noted that the decedent had a cardiac history; however, severed spine cause death.

(2) Sgt. David Stroupe, Mt. Pleasant PD, reported one fatality.

10/9/2016, 4:33 a.m., STH 32, north of Chickory Road

- Car vs. pedestrian
- 20-year old male was struck by vehicle going southbound on STH 32
- Pronounced dead on the scene
- Two occupants in car, driver and one passenger, coming back from Chicago
- No alcohol or drugs believed to be involved.
- Operator of vehicle stated that he went through lights at Chickory and back into the area that wasn't lighted and decedent was just standing in the road.
- Remains under investigation; decedent had no reason to be in the area; investigators are looking into some burglaries that occurred in the area on the same night around the same time as the accident.
- Decedent died of internal injuries. Payne noted that the toxicology report for the decedent is pending.

#### 4. Upcoming construction projects

2:08

Anderson noted three major construction projects for 2017:

- CTH "X" project will be completed, encompassing about 1 ½ miles, left from Bankers Road north to where last project stopped two years ago
- CTH "K", about 1 ½ - 2 miles, from CTH "K"/CTH "U", north to Village Center of Raymond near Six Mile Road
- Replacement of large culvert that is starting to collapse on CTH "A" in the Town of Yorkville

Anderson further noted the following:

- CTH "V" work is nearing completion; 7 Mile Road is due to open in the next couple days.
- Remaining projects are dependent upon what municipal monies become available from the State budget.
- Agreement with WisDot to install signals at the intersection of E. Frontage Road and CTH "K" in 2017, with a cost share of \$75,000 for the County, \$75,000 for the Village of Caledonia, and the remainder picked up by the State.
- The County will meet with WisDOT to discuss STH 20 and Sycamore.

Blackwood stated that State projects are scheduled at the following locations:

- STH 31, from CTH "C" to CTH "MM"
- CTH "K"/E. Frontage Road project will be let in April 2017; ramp intersection work is scheduled to begin in 2021.
- USH 45, from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to STH 20

- STH 142, from Burlington to Kenosha County line

Blackwood commented that the Village of Caledonia did not support a roundabout at the intersection of Five Mile Road. Due to there being additional concerns raised, the State is now looking at the feasibility of an all-way stop at this intersection.

**5. Discussion of BOTS *Anatomy of Traffic Safety* – Racine County**

2:16

Joe Davis summarized crash statistics and data for Racine County from 2010-2014 as contained in the “Anatomy of Traffic Safety”. Task forces, focusing on data-driven methodology, have been an effective tool in helping prevent and reduce crashes and fatalities. Three national mobilizations will occur in the upcoming year, “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”, one starting this winter and one in the summer, and “Click It or Ticket”, in which Racine County may participate for the chance to win an equipment grant. Davis commented on TraCS, software available to law enforcement for automated reporting, and stressed the benefit of using community mapping.

**6. Discussion and recommendation(s) concerning 2017 Monthly Safety Program assignments**

2:22

Chairman Maack commented that he believes the program is going well and suggested that the Commission give Journal Times staff a certificate or plaque in recognition and appreciation of efforts with poster design.

The Commission reviewed monthly programs and assignments for 2017 and agreed to the schedule below and on the following page.

**2017 MONTHLY SAFETY PROGRAM  
TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>January 19</b>	<b>Snow Plow/Emergency Vehicle Safety</b> <i>(include: keeping safe distance from plows/emergency vehicles; being aware of presence of plows/ emergency vehicles)</i>	Racine County Public Works WI State Patrol
<b>February 16</b>	<b>Rules of the Road &amp; Inattentive Driving</b> <i>(include: jaywalking; running red lights; not using directional lights; lane deviation; cell phone use; texting; eating or drinking coffee while driving)</i>	Racine County Sheriff's Office City of Racine PD
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Highway Work Zones</b> <i>(include: observing posted warnings and road marking; maintaining safe speed; Wis. Act 308: no hand-held mobile devices in work zones)</i>	Racine County Public Works WisDOT

<b>April 20</b>	<b>Too Old to Drive</b> <i>(include: aging population-hazards of driving)</i>	Tom Knitter AARP Driving Instructor
<b>May 18</b>	<b>Motorcycle Safety</b>	Michael Payne

	<i>(include: use of helmets and seat belts)</i>	Mt. Pleasant PD
<b>June 15</b>	<b>Boating Safety</b>	Racine County Sheriff's Office Town of Waterford PD
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Pedestrian Safety</b> <i>(include: street crossing; awareness of presence of children that may be behind vehicle when backing up -- always look twice)</i>	City of Racine PD Village of Mt. Pleasant PD
<b>August 17</b>	<b>School Bus Safety</b> <i>(include: stop for flashing red waring lights, as well as stop arms)</i>	City of Racine PD Patrick Starken
<b>September 21</b>	<b>Emergency/Disaster Preparedness</b> <i>(include: how to react to emergency or disasters, with emphasis on evacuation routes; assuring parents that schools have steps in place to handle disasters and will safeguard the lives of children)</i>	David Maack Sean Marschke, Village of Sturtevant PD
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Vehicle Road Emergencies</b> <i>(include: car-versus-deer crashes; vehicle fires and breakdowns on roadways; what to do when approached by an emergency vehicle, with emphasis on intersections with blocked lane)</i>	South Shore Fire Department Racine County Sheriff's Office
<b>November 16</b>	<b>Winter Driving &amp; Driver Safety</b> <i>(include: snowmobile safety)</i>	David Maack Racine County Sheriff's Office
<b>December 21</b>	<b>Drunk &amp; Impaired Driving</b> <i>(include: fatigue; drugs)</i>	Michael Payne City of Racine PD

**7. Discussion and recommendation(s) concerning election of officers for 2017**

2:30

**ANDERSON MOVED, seconded by Chief Ditscheit**, to nominate David Maack as Chairman. Maack accepted and the motion carried unanimously.

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**ANDERSON MOVED, seconded by Captain Lamke**, to nominate Michael Payne as Vice-Chairman. Payne accepted and the motion carried unanimously.

**MAACK MOVED, seconded by Chief Ditscheit**, to nominate Julie Anderson as Secretary. Anderson accepted and the motion carried unanimously

**8. Establish dates and times for 2017 Commission meetings**

2:33

The Commission established the following meeting dates for 2017:

Thursday, February 9, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday, May 18, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday, September 14, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday, November 9, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.

**9. Around the Table**

2:34

**Sgt. Stroupe** noted that traffic light cycling has been changed at the intersection of Highway 31 and Timber Drive and Regency West; The red light is now on Highway 31 and the green lights are on the cross streets.

**Chairman Maack** voiced safety concerns about the frequency of traffic going through the roundabout on Spring Street and State Street in the City of Racine at a high rate of speed and without yielding. The City PD will look into the matter.

**Sgt. Marschke** expressed appreciation for the installation of emergency vehicle pre-emption on Highway 11.

**Anderson** commented that the family of the Union Grove High School student who was killed in the accident that occurred at the intersection of Two Mile Road and Highway U in the Town of Raymond has been adamant about requesting the installation of solar flashing stop signs at this location. The Town of Yorkville and Town of Raymond agreed to cost share reinstalling rumble strips on Two Mile Road at this intersection for safety reasons. County staff will check the signs currently installed at the site to make certain they are the larger, high visibility variety. In addition, the County will add orange high visibility flags to the signs, which seem to have a positive effect.

**Anderson** informed the Commission that she has been contacted again by the individual who would like a pedestrian walkway installed over Highway 11 at its intersection Highway 31. The State Project Coordinator indicated that a plan is in place that will be more accommodating to pedestrians crossing Highway 11/31.

**Anderson** then thanked Chief Tom Ditscheit, who is retiring in January of 2017, for his years of service on the TSC. Commission members congratulated Chief Ditscheit and wished him well in his retirement.

**10. Next meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2017**

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Maack adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.