

**RACINE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

**Summary Minutes – November 8, 2018**

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

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**Members Present:**

David Maack - Racine County Emergency Management  
Sgt. Tim Koetting – Racine Police Department  
Michael Payne - Racine County Medical Examiner  
Chief Matt Johnson – Town of Waterford Police Department  
Sgt. David Stroupe - Mount Pleasant Police Department  
Chief Sean Marschke - Sturtevant Police Department  
John Barnes - Retired Caledonia Police Department  
Allison Blackwood - WisDOT, DTSD  
John Strack – Racine Unified School District

**Members Excused:**

Capt. James Weidner - Racine County Highway Safety Coordinator  
Julie Anderson – Racine County Public Works & Development Services Director  
Tom Knitter – TRIAD  
Lt. Dan Klatt – Racine County Sheriff’s Office  
Sgt. Bill Jeschke- Town of Waterford Police Department  
Kwame Amegashitsi – WisDOT, DTSD  
Lt. Gary Larsen - Caledonia Police Department

**Members Absent:**

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

**Also Present:**

David Prott - Racine County Superintendent of Highways and Parks  
Jacqueline Bratz – Racine County Communications Director  
Lt. Brian VanScyoc – Racine County Sheriff’s Office (on behalf of Lt. Dan Klatt)  
Rick Olig, BOTS Law Enforcement Liaison  
Joe Davis, Jr., Bureau of Transportation Safety Regional Program Manager  
Mike Borck, WisDOT

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**1. Call to Order**

David Maack called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. Minutes of the September 13, 2018, meeting**

**MICHAEL PAYNE MOVED, seconded by Sgt. Tim Koetting,** to approve the September 13, 2018, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Fatalities since the last meeting**

**(a) Sgt. Koetting, City of Racine PD, reported one fatality.**

09/21/2018, 02:46 p.m./1200 block of Goold Street

- A child, who emerged from behind a parked vehicle in the driveway of 1210 Good Street, was fatally injured when struck by a vehicle traveling SB through the alley towards Goold Street.
- Slow speed accident; 75-year old driver; not impaired
- Child died on September 24 from blunt force injuries to head and torso

**(b) Lt. VanScyoc, Racine County Sheriff's Office, reported two fatalities.**

10/16//2018, 01:21 p.m. - STH 20, 0.50 miles west of Sharp Road

- Two-unit accident
- 27400 block of STH 20/Washington Avenue was a coned shoulder work area; gravel easement not in place at the time of the accident. WB shoulder was cut down 6"-9" at the fog line and EB shoulder was cut down 4"-8" at the fog line
- Westbound Unit 1 (automobile) veered off the fog line for an as-yet undetermined reason and drove onto the dropped northern shoulder and then over corrected toward the south, causing the vehicle to travel into the eastbound lane of STH 20 and strike Unit 2 (semi-truck/tractor) head on.
- Road factors: road was under construction; road cut at fog line/gravel easement not in place at the time of the accident
- No speed factors
- Preliminary findings: blunt force injuries to head and torso; toxicology and complete autopsy reports are pending.

10/25//2018, 03:36 a.m. - I-94/41 NB (just north of KR)

- Two-unit accident: two semi-truck/trailers
- I-94 construction zone with no shoulder and cement walls on both sides of roadway
- Unit 1 disabled due to loss of front passenger side tire; no shoulder to pull onto; flashers were engaged.
- Unit 2 crashed into Unit 1, for an undetermined reason, causing Unit 1 to spin in an eastern direction, fall onto its driver side, and come to a rest facing in a southeast direction, blocking both traffic lanes.
- Driver of Unit 2 died at the scene of the accident-crushed in cab/massive body injuries  
Toxicology and complete autopsy reports still pending.

**(c) Sgt. David Stroupe, Mt. Pleasant PD, reported two fatalities.**

9/17//2018, 12:59 p.m. – NB STH 31/S. Green Bay Road, south of Shirley Road

- Two-unit accident, involving a Mt. Pleasant DPW employee
- Unit 2, a DPW truck with flashers engaged, was in Lane 3, marking lines on the road for Digger's hotline. DPW employee stepped out into Lane 1 traffic and was struck by driver of Unit 1 traveling northbound on STH 31 and died from his injuries. DPW employee was wearing reflective and protective gear. Driver of Unit 1 stated that she saw the truck and flashers, but it was too late to stop.
- DPW worker pronounced dead shortly after being transported. No drugs or alcohol appear to be involved. Autopsy report still pending.

Non-reportable fatality involving an ATV vehicle in the vicinity of future Braun Road lane

- 21-year-old with passenger on ATV; alcohol was involved. It was dark outside and the decedent apparently didn't realize there was 10-foot drop-off and he hit the cement culvert.

Rick Olig noted that a fatality occurred on 10/20/2018 on Nicholson Road and 4 Mile Road – not yet on community mapping. Dead ash tree fell on vehicle. This fatality may be further discussed at the next meeting.

**4. Upcoming construction projects**

Allison Blackwood noted the following:

- I-94 will be open up to three lanes in each direction in approximately one month. Ramps will be open through the winter and some will close again in the Spring.
- Highway 11 and Willow Road work should be completed in about a week.
- Highway K, slightly east of the interstate, will close after Thanksgiving for about two months for construction of a box culvert.
- Braun Road construction is ongoing through next year.

**5. Review of Monthly Safety Campaign**

*(Discussed under Agenda Item No. 6 below.)*

**6. Discussion and recommendation(s) concerning 2019 Monthly Safety Program assignments**

The Commission expressed no concerns with the current campaign or the WRJN radio hosting.

The Commission then discussed topics and assignments for the 2019 Monthly Safety Program and made some minor revisions to the 2018 Program. Use of seat belts will be mentioned at additional radio spots and Maack will talk to the Racine Journal Times contact about noting the seat belt component and Click- It-or-Ticket campaign on numerous posters. Maack recommended including using the left lane as a passing lane as intended, running red lights, and using blinkers to the “Rules of the Road and Inattentive Driving” topic in February.

The Commission agreed to program topics and assignments as listed on the *2019 Monthly Safety Program Topics and Assignments* sheet on the following page (Page 4).

**2019 MONTHLY SAFETY PROGRAM TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>January 17</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 21</b>	<b>Rules of the Road &amp; Inattentive Driving</b> <i>(include: jaywalking; running red lights; not using directional blinkers; lane deviation; use of left-lane as a passing lane as intended; cell phone use; texting; eating or drinking coffee while driving)</i>	Racine County Sheriff's Office City of Racine PD
<b>March 21</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 18</b>	<b>Motorcycle Safety</b> <i>(include: use of helmets and seat belts)</i>	Michael Payne Mt. Pleasant PD
<b>May 16</b>	<b>Water and Boating Safety</b> <i>(include: swimming hazards and drowning statistics)</i>	Racine County Sheriff's Office Town of Waterford PD
<b>June 20</b>	<b>Too Old to Drive</b> <i>(include: aging population-hazards of driving)</i>	Tom Knitter AARP Driving Instructor
<b>July 18</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 15</b>	<b>School Bus Safety</b> <i>(include: stop for flashing red warning lights, as well as stop arms)</i>	City of Racine PD John Strack, Racine Unified School District
<b>September 19</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 Tom Knitter
<b>October 17</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 21</b>	<b>Winter Driving &amp; Driver Safety</b> <i>(include: snowmobile safety, use of seat belts)</i>	David Maack Racine County Sheriff's Office
<b>December 19</b>	<b>Drunk &amp; Impaired Driving</b> <i>(include: fatigue; drugs; use of seat belts)</i>	Michael Payne City of Racine PD

**NOTE: Radio spots are generally scheduled on the third Thursday of the month, 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

**7. Discussion and recommendation(s) concerning election of officers for 2019**

**PAYNE MOVED, seconded by Koetting,** to nominate Julie Anderson as secretary of the commission. Motion carried unanimously.

**KOETTING MOVED, seconded by Johnson,** to nominate Michel Payne as vice-chairman of the commission. Payne accepted and the motion carried unanimously.

**PAYNE MOVED, seconded by Koetting,** to nominate David Maack as chairman of the commission. Maack accepted and the motion carried unanimously.

**8. Establish dates and times for 2019 Commission meetings**

The Commission agreed upon the following meeting dates/times for the 2019 calendar year as follows:

Thursday, February 14, 2019  
Thursday, May 9, 2019  
Thursday, September 12, 2019  
Thursday, November 14, 2019

**9. Review and discussion of the Racine County Anatomy of Traffic Safety Report**

Joe Davis stated that grants and task forces are now active. He noted the desire for task force coordinators to attend TSC meetings in future months to talk about their deployments.

**10. Review and discussion of the Community Maps portal, including review of the CTH “J”/STH 11 intersection as recommended at the previous TSC meeting**

Rick Olig stated that the *Anatomy of Traffic Safety Report* is available on Community Maps website as a resource to TSCs. Included in the report is information and statistics regarding demographics, traffic volumes, commuting flows between residences and work, population changes and trends, economy, employment, alcohol beverages and licenses, injured-to-death ratio and correlation of emergency services, crash data and factors, grants and grant participation, and task force participation and mobilization.

Davis noted that a national mobilization will begin in December. Individual law enforcement agencies need only participate in a minimum of one deployment in order to be eligible for a chance to receive an equipment grant. The goal is have more visible enforcement on the streets. Task force funding and mobilizations are separate. There is an opportunity to participate in the three mobilizations (Sober or Get Pulled Over-Labor Day, Click-It or Ticket, Sober or Get Pulled Over-winter holiday) and the Law Enforcement Luncheon at the Governor’s Conference and to receive an equipment grant for each.

Olig commented on some changes in TraCS. The diagramming tool has been improved--when zooming in on the map to drop the pin, cutting and pasting into the crash diagram is easier than before. The TraCS location tool override will no longer be a default--only supervisors will have the ability to do so.

Discussion of measures taken by the WisDOT in an effort to alleviate the number of crashes at the CTH "J"/STH 11 intersection ensued. Failure-to-yield is the cause of the majority of crashes at this location. Some changes have been made to signage, including increasing the number of intersection-ahead signs and removing some signs for possible sight distance issues. The use of sensor-driven technology to install a warning system that will alert oncoming traffic on STH 11 that vehicles may be entering from the CTH "J" intersection is a possible consideration. Crashes will continue to be monitored at this intersection and if the problem persists, the sensor warning system may be installed. The estimated cost of such a system is \$70-\$80,000, with a minimal maintenance cost. An update regarding this crash site will be provided at the next TSC meeting.

**11. Around the Table**

**John Strack** informed the Commission that school buses will no longer make stops on Spring Street, between Fancher Road and Stuart Road, in an effort to avoid potential accidents and to help ensure the safety of children. Instead, buses will be routed through the subdivisions in this area. He indicated that an effort is being made to have buses make as many stops as possible on the right side of the road, thus limiting the number of children having to cross the road. The school district is working with Durham School Services to review safety in unusually hazardous locations in the City of Racine and environs in terms of parent responsibility areas (two miles and under). Any unsafe stops for children will be investigated. Strack commented that there was a lot of discussion at the recent National Association of Transportation Conference in Kansas about the increased number of driver fatalities involving school buses. He noted that school buses aren't equipped with a safety bar that engages when struck by a vehicle that would prevent the vehicle from going under the bus. Strack then noted his intention to be readily available at PTSA meetings, for the radio station, and for any other interested party to talk about safety on buses, proper riding and bus stop behavior, etc.

**Mjke Borck** discussed measures the WisDOT is considering to reduce the increased number of angle crashes occurring at on CTH "J" and STH 36. One option is to use the same sensor-driven warning system that may be used at the CTH "J" and Highway 11 crash site. Another option would be construction of a j-turn that would restrict left turns and through movements on Highway J and require a right turn off of Highway J and then a u-turn at the next intersection. The j-turn may be a safer option, but the question is whether people will be willing to drive approximately 1½ miles to get onto Highway 36.

Borck then provided an update on the USH 45/STH 20 crash sight. An intersection control evaluation report is currently underway. There isn't available funding at this time for construction of a roundabout. Installation of signals to help reduce crashes may be an option.

Davis commented on crash statistics, noting that there were 20 fatal crashes in Racine County in 2015, 16 fatal crashes in 2016, 10 in 2017, and 16 in 2018 to date. The State of Wisconsin currently has 20 fewer fatalities than last year. Davies encouraged high visibility enforcement to assist in helping reduce the number of fatal crashes.

**Sgt. Koetting** informed the Commission that he will retire from the County in April of 2019. The Commission thanked him for his years of service.

**Michael Payne** stated that as of Labor Day weekend, the Medical Examiner's Office has been relocated to the Dennis Kornwolf Service Center on Taylor Avenue.

**Dave Prott** stated that the County continues to work with the contractor for completion of the CTH "MM" project. He then expressed a concern about the safety of groups who are participating in the County's Adopt-a-Highway Program, given current traffic patterns and behavior. Jackie Bratz suggested that perhaps group leaders could be told to contact Dispatch when and where a trash clean-up is scheduled, and if available, a squad car could provide groups with extra attention while patrolling in the vicinity of the clean-up. Public Works staff will facilitate an effort to reach out to AAH group leaders to request that they contact County staff to provide a date and time for a scheduled litter pick-up.

**12. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Maack adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m. Motion