

RACINE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Summary Minutes – February 14, 2019

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
David Maack - Racine County Emergency Management
Michael Payne - Racine County Medical Examiner
Lt. Dan Klatt – Racine County Sheriff’s Office
Sgt. Tim Koetting – City of Racine Police Department
Sgt. David Stroupe - Mount Pleasant Police Department
John Strack – Racine Unified School District

Members Excused:

Capt. James Weidner - Racine County Highway Safety Coordinator
Chief Sean Marschke - Sturtevant Police Department
Tom Knitter – TRIAD

Members Absent:

Michael White - District Attorney’s Office
Chief Matt Johnson – Town of Waterford Police Department
Sgt. Bill Jeschke- Town of Waterford Police Department
Lt. Dan Adams – Racine County Sheriff’s Office
Sgt. Gary Larsen - Caledonia Police Department
John Barnes - Retired Caledonia Police Department

Also Present:

Jacqueline Bratz – Racine County Communications Director
Joe Davis Jr., Bureau of Transportation Safety Regional Program Manager
Rick Olig, BOTS Law Enforcement Liaison
Mike Borck - WisDOT, DTSD
Rodrigo Martinez, WisDOT, DTSD

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes of the November 8, 2018, meeting

PAYNE MOVED, seconded by Koetting, to approve the November 8, 2018, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Fatalities since the last meeting

(a) Lt. Dan Klatt, Racine County Sheriff’s Office, reported one fatality.

11/27/2018, 76th Street/CTH “U”, north of 7 Mile Road

- Hit-and-run accident - vehicle vs. pedestrian
- Still under investigation. Pedestrian found face down in the NB lane of 75th Street. Pedestrian’s vehicle located a distance away; appeared to be walking to his nearby residence. As of today’s date, the driver of vehicle has not been located.
- Payne stated that the decedent suffered multiple blunt-force injuries to the head, neck, torso and upper extremities. BAC level of pedestrian was .304
- Neither traffic patterns nor road conditions were factors.

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

11/10/2018, 6:57 a.m., STH 20/CTH “V” intersection

- Two-unit accident
- Unit 1 failed to stop at a red light while traveling WB on STH 20 and struck Unit 2, facing a green light SB on CTH “V”. After impact, Unit 1 struck a power transformer and the vehicle ignited.
- Unit 1 driver died from blunt-force injuries a couple days later. Unit 1 driver not wearing a seatbelt.

01/07/2019, 10:05 p.m., 4500 block of STH 32, south of Hansche Road

- Two-unit accident: 18-year-old bicyclist vs. car
- While traveling southbound on STH 32, bicyclist was struck in the rear by a vehicle also traveling southbound on STH 32. Bicyclist struck his head on the windshield of the vehicle, sustaining fatal injuries. Cause of death: blunt-force trauma to the head, brain and torso.
- There is minimal lighting in area; only about 1 foot between fog line and edge of road. Bicyclist was not wearing reflective gear or a helmet; no evidence of bicycle lights on the bike or at the scene.

(c) Update on the October 20, 2018, fatality on the 9800 block of Four Mile Road in the Village of Caledonia involving a fallen tree branch.

Payne stated that the cause of death to the female passenger who died at the scene were blunt-force injuries to neck, torso and extremities; no alcohol involved; very high wind conditions.

4. Upcoming construction projects

Mike Borck provided an update on the I-94 project.

- Three lanes will be kept open in each direction for the remainder of the I-94 project in Racine County.
- All traffic will be moved to the northbound lanes in the Spring of 2019
- Southbound ramps at CTH “K”, KR, 11 will be closed at this time
- Anticipated completion date for Racine County project is November 2019. Work in Milwaukee County will continue in 2020.

John Strack inquired about the status of the CTH “MM” project and potential impact on 2019 school year and school bus routes. Julie Anderson commented that winter weather conditions have delayed work; however, asphalt approaches to individual driveways have been installed. The WisDOT is waiting to receive an updated schedule from the project contractor. It is anticipated that the “MM” project will be completed this summer.

Anderson stated that there are two culvert projects in the 2019 County budget for which bids have not yet gone out. Traffic signalization at the CTH “V”/CTH “G” and the CTH “V”/CTH “C” intersections is moving forward. The “V”/“G” signals will remain in place for at least the duration of the I-94 project. The “V”/“C” signals will more than likely be permanent.

In response to a question from Maack, Anderson commented that feedback concerning the CTH “C”/CTH “A” roundabout has generally been very positive, with safer conditions in now place.

5. Update on CTH “J”/STH 11 crash site

There was nothing new to report at this time. Discussion will be held over to the next TSC meeting.

6. Review of Monthly Safety Campaign

Maack indicated that all is going well with the monthly campaign. He encouraged Commission members to pass along any ideas for the monthly posters to the Journal Times contact..

Rick Olig stated that it was brought to his attention that a new law mandates that by July 1, 2019, the state statute number and language must be included when referencing state law on agency publications.* How this may apply to the monthly safety campaign posters should be explored.

** **Post-meeting note: Sec. 227.05, WisStats***

227.05 Agency publications. An agency, other than the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, the Technical College System Board, or the department of employee trust funds, shall identify the applicable provision of federal law or the applicable state statutory or administrative code provision that supports any statement or interpretation of law that the agency makes in any publication, whether in print or on the agency’s Internet site, including guidance documents, forms, pamphlets, or other informational materials, regarding the laws the agency administers.

NOTE: This section is created eff. 7-1-19 by 2017 Wis. Act 369. History: 2017 a. 369.

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

Olig stated that he will break down and discuss ten areas of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) at each upcoming quarterly TSC meeting.

Olig highlighted portions of the report. Racine County 2018 fatals are greater than 2017 fatals, with 18 fatal crashes compared to 10 in 2017 and 20 killed compared to 11 killed in 2017. “A” and “B” injuries are less than 2017. The number of more serious “C” injuries and property damages have increased in 2018. Commercial motor vehicle crashes increased from 231 in 2017 to 347 in 2018. Work zone crashes increased from 131 in 2017 to 322 in 2018. Olig commented that the increases may be related to ongoing construction projects in the County. He suggested perhaps placing an emphasis on work zone safety in the poster safety campaign. Maack stated that in addition to including the topic in the monthly campaign, issuing a press release about the subject may be advisable.

8. Review and discussion of the Community Maps portal as presented by Rick Olig, BOTS Law Enforcement Liaison/Consultant

Olig reviewed crash data and patterns on the community maps portal and the benefits of agencies utilizing the data when considering deployments. Discussion took place regarding the map portal as a useful tool when establishing bus routes in the County.

Olig informed the Commission that the 2019 Governor's Conference on Highway Safety will be held at Glacier Canyon in the Wisconsin Dells on August 20-22. Registration will open in April.

Joe Davis discussed task forces and deployments. Racine County is split into two task forces: Mt. Pleasant, east of I-94/Sgt. Stroupe, coordinator) and Racine County Sheriff's Office, west of I-94/Sgt. Schmidt. Both task force coordinators are using community maps for impaired driving and seat belt deployments. Other smaller municipal law enforcement agencies have expressed interest in becoming partners with both task forces. Mt. Pleasant partners with Caledonia, City of Racine and Sturtevant, and the smaller agencies are partnering with the RCCO. In this way, both task force coordinators are able to coordinate efforts east and west of I-94 and may possibly deploy at the same time, especially during high-volume times. Davis asked Sgt. Stroupe to share his task force strategy at today's meeting and future TSC meetings. Such information sharing by task force coordinators at meetings will provide an opportunity to allow others to see how grant monies are put to good use and what enforcement and traffic safety measures are being taken by the task forces. Stroupe proceeded to comment on the Mt. Pleasant deployment strategy and how the community map portal is used to target key areas, times, and dates when establishing deployments. Stroupe stated that over the past few months, there were 190 hours of seat belt deployments, with over 300 contacts, 284 hours of impaired driving deployments, with 484 contacts and 17 OWIs. He noted that public service announcements on social media, as well as press releases, are periodically made to follow suit with the State safety campaign.

9. Around the Table

Sgt. Klatt stated that, given the increased truck traffic in the area, the RCCO has sent three deputies to truck inspector school. The agency is also working with State Patrol for extra training concerning truck rules and regulations that will be beneficial to commercial motor vehicle enforcement.

John Strack stated that the RFP for the school district's busing service is out and it's anticipated a bus company will be selected by the end of March. Durham School Services is the current transportation service being used by the district. Strack noted that there have been numerous complaints from parents regarding cars passing buses that are stopped, whether the stop arm is out or not out. Durham buses are not equipped with stop-arm cameras that would take footage of passing vehicles; however, the installation and use of cameras may be considered in future years as a cost benefit and a safety benefit.

Sgt. Stroupe noted that COP House officers would like to put together a pedestrian traffic safety program to present to neighbor children this Spring. The officers are seeking resources or suggestions for development of such a program or campaign. Davis offered his assistance with this effort.

Sgt. Koetting announced that he will retire in April of this year. As of today's date, a new representative from the RCCO to the TSC hasn't been named.

Julie Anderson stated that she's received a large number of inquiries about recent winter weather conditions from the media the past several weeks. She commented that when contacted by the media about a snow event, she does her best to convey tips and messages and stress the importance of safety during such an event. Salt usage and snow removal were then briefly discussed.

10. Other Business

- Next Meeting: May 9, 2019

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Maack adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m. .