

RACINE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Summary Minutes – September 12, 2019

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

Members Present:

Dave Prott - Racine County Public Works Highway & Parks Superintendent
David Maack - Racine County Emergency Management
Lt. Dan Klatt – Racine County Sheriff’s Office
Chief Matt Johnson – Town of Waterford Police Department
Sgt. David Stroupe - Mount Pleasant Police Department
Sgt. Gary Larsen - Caledonia Police Department
John Barnes - Retired Caledonia Police Department
Mike Borch – WisDOT Traffic Regulations Engineer
Tom Knitter – TRIAD
Randy Wiesinger, BOTS Law Enforcement Liaison
Kim Parsons – Racine County Public Works Admin. Assistant

Members Excused:

Julie Anderson – Racine County Public works & Development Services Director
Michael Payne – Racine County Medical Examiner
John Strack – Racine Unified School District

Other Attendees:

Jonathan Sadowski – Racine Journal Times

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes of the May 9, 2019, meeting

Tom Knitter MOVED, seconded by Gary Larsen, to approve the May 9, 2019, minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Fatalities since the last meeting

David Maack indicated that with Michael Payne being absent, no toxicology or autopsy reports will be reviewed at this meeting. He will update the committee on the reports at the November meeting.

5/2/2019: 76th Street vehicle traveling northbound went into gravel shoulder and over corrected, southbound vehicle stopped and was struck by the northbound vehicle and rolled over several times. It was raining, speed and over-steering were contributing factors. Nothing in the roadway.

6/27/2019: 83 Maple Road, Vehicle #1 northbound on STH 83 failed to negotiate curve and crossed into southbound lane was going 81 mph. Blood alcohol came back at .039 - 4 ½ hours after accident. Speed and alcohol were contributing factors. This is the 2nd or 3rd accident at this curve. Suggestion to add signage or center rumble strips. DOT will look into and report back at the next meeting.

5/16/2019: 7 Mile and Hwy 41 in a work zone. Two units, one killed. Unit #1 traveling at high rate of speed, crossed over into other lane, disregarded traffic sign proceeded through construction barricades and struck crane operating on the shoulder. Pickup truck split in half, driver of vehicle #1 ejected from back window. Speed and construction zone were contributing factors. No alcohol or drugs suspected.

6/19/2019: Hwy 41 and Kraut Road, two fatalities. Two semi-trucks. Closed down the interstate for hours.

7/14/2019: In Caledonia/Oak Creek, at County Line Road. Single vehicle, motorcycle accident. Went off the road. Driver at fault, no problems with the road. Alcohol is a suspected contributing factor. No results are back yet to confirm.

7/18/2019: Vehicle going southbound on Hwy J went through stop sign at Hwy 11 and struck by a vehicle. Driver didn't stop and was going about 80 mph. Vehicle rolled, and the driver died. No toxicology results are back yet. There have been several accidents at this location.

Dave Prott spoke of rumble strips in both directions, new hi-intensity stop signs, flags, and tags have been installed on J and 11.

Rumble strips have been installed at Highways G & 45, A & W, U & G. Intersection U & 7 Mile will be installed once the paving project is completed.

7/29/2019: 7 Mile Rd and US 45. Vehicle failed to stop on 7 Mile and was struck by southbound vehicle and rolled over. Another bad intersection, no attempts to stop. No rumble strips planned to be installed. A traffic study being done in that area. Solar speed signs to be installed. Speed limit is 45 mph not 55. Report back on progress at next meeting.

8/10/2019: Hwy K and 108th St. Single motorcycle accident; failed to negotiate curve. Struck a post and died. Speed was a contributing factor. No toxicology report yet.

8/25/2019: In the city of Racine, no specific location indicated. Single vehicle crossed center line and struck tree, one injured, one killed. Alcohol suspected.

4. Upcoming construction projects

In the County, Dave Prott discussed:

Hwy A still closed. Mid-October completion dependent on weather.

Hwy 31- and 4-Mile Road is a terrible mess. No left turn signal on 31. Traffic control from DOT will look into it. Anticipated to be completed in a couple of months.

From the State:

I-41 Project from Hwy G going south to be completed about mid-November. The north segment expected completion is June of 2020.

5. Discussion of Community Maps Portal

Driver performance report: since the first of May, there have been 57 crashes; 2 fatalities, and 93 injuries involving drivers 65 years and older versus new drivers involved in 30 crashes with 1 fatality and 51 injuries for the same period.

Government property damage flag available to assist in billing insurance companies. Allows you to download the crash report.

5-year average in the state; 363 fatalities with 411 the same time last year. Down just under 12%; 385 5-year average – currently under the average. 8% down motorcyclists; Bicyclists up 16% and Pedestrians are up just a little bit.

Legislative Update report will be sent to Kim to forward to the committee. Discussion regarding proposed legislation coming up.

6. Review of Monthly Safety Campaign

We missed a couple of months but are back on the track now. David Maack to notify the committee member via e-mail to remind them to connect with Mike Clements for the interview.

7. Around the Table

BOTS traffic grants, Wind Point joining the task force on the east side of Racine.

Intersection of Highways 11 & J intersection WISDOT working on safety program money to do something.

36 & J installing a through route activated warning sign in Spring 2021 which forewarns driver on major road that a vehicle is approaching on minor road.

Hwy 20 speed reduction to 45 mph by Yorkville School.

8. Next meeting: November 14, 2019;

Elections and establishment of 2020 monthly safety campaigns will take place.

9. Adjournment

David Maack adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.