

RACINE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Summary Minutes – February 13, 2020

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
Kim Parsons – Racine County Public Works & Development Services Rep.
Lt. Dan Klatt – Racine County Sheriff's Office
Lt. Shawn Barker – Racine County Sheriff's Office
John Strack – Racine Unified School District
Mike Borck – DOT Traffic Regulations
Tom Knitter – TRIAD

Also Present:

Randy Wiesinger, BOTS Law Enforcement Liaison
Alex Valley, Racine County Public Works & Development Services Engineer
Alyssa Mauk, The Journal Times representative

1. Call to Order

David Maack called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Minutes of the November 14, 2019, meeting

PAYNE MOVED, seconded by Strack, to approve the November 14, 2019, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Fatalities since the last meeting

Michael Payne followed up on accidents initially discussed at the November 14, 2019 meeting:

11/1/2019: Caledonia, 36-year-old male operator, autopsy revealed multiple blunt force injuries to head, torso and right hand, acute mixed drug intoxication ethanol (.202) and cocaine (19 mg/liter). Report was completed and sent to the state from the medical examiner.

10/18/2019: Waterford, a 50-year-old female t-boned a 70-year-old. 70-year-old received massive thoracic and head injuries causing death. Clean toxicology for deceased.

10/19/2019: I-94 & Hwy 11, elderly man in early 80's massive thoracic injuries while driving into a construction zone ramp. Deceased had a clean toxicology.

10/28/2019: City of Racine, DPW Worker found lying on pavement outside of cab. Autopsy showed complications from blunt force injury to the head, toxicology was negative. Report was sent to Racine Police Department, State report has been completed, but still waiting for further studies to determine if this is a reportable crash.

Dan Klatt discussed the accident on 2/9/2020, which occurred on STH 20 near 63rd. The east-bound vehicle on Hwy 20 in snowy conditions outside, lost control and entered the west-bound lane and struck west-bound vehicle. Two large vehicles involved, an Expedition and a Tahoe. 10 people involved, one fatality. 32-year-old deceased was in the third row of the Expedition possibly not wearing a seatbelt. No other road factors indicated. Michael Payne has received preliminary results showing mainly thoracic injuries. It will be another 7 weeks until full report is received.

4. Upcoming construction projects

Mike Borck discussed DOT projects:

The North/South project will be finishing this Spring due to the DNC in Milwaukee. STH 11 close to STH 31 has a repaving project scheduled to start mid-April, weather dependent. STH 20 will be closed starting in May or June between round-about to Hwy 45 working on three bridges. The detour is going to take CTH A North to STH 45, STH 45 North to STH 20.

Julie Anderson specified an eight-month project to rebuild STH 20 will start in March from the roundabout east to where the new entrance/driveway is in place for Aurora Hospital/Froedtert facility. There will be no additional capacity added, it will remain 4 lanes. Closures of the on and off ramps of STH 20 will be split up depending on the phase of the project.

Julie requested Frank Pritzlaff to look with the team at the possibility of installing temporary signals at the East and West frontage roads at the top of the CTH C bridge overpass, because even during normal rush hours there are backups. To help aid that, lights were installed and activated at CTHs C & V.

Culvert replacement and pavement work on CTH S in the Town of Norway from STH 20 to CTH K will be scheduled as well.

We will be lowering the speed limit to 35 mph at the CTHs C & V intersection. The goal is to widen this narrow intersection later this summer if funding permits.

We have lowered the speed limits on CTH U from the County Line where CTH U goes into Franklin to 50 mph and to 45 mph just north of from 7 Mile Road all the way south to

CTH G. Speed limits have also been reduced on 7 Mile Road west of STH 45 all the way to Walczak Road to 45 mph. Dynamic Feedback signs will be installed at STH 45- and 7-Mile Road. We are also working with the DOT on that intersection which are outside of our area of jurisdiction.

5. Review of the 2020 Monthly Safety Campaign Posters

None

6. Around-the-table

Randy Wiesinger provided a brief review of the Anatomy of Racine County 5-year crash summary Randy reviewed alcohol and drug-impaired, lane departure crashes, distracted driving and speeding crash numbers in Racine County versus State numbers. OWI crashes highest in Burlington than in the rest of the County. He will send the link to Secretary to disseminate to the committee members. Julie mentioned that crash data such as this is useful in determining where rumble strips are installed throughout the County; eight set were installed this past summer.

Michael Borck mentioned a TRAWS (Through Route Activated Warning System) will be installed in spring or early summer for the intersection of STH 36 and CTH J. Traffic on CTH J will trigger flashing on mainline STH 36 to alert drivers of traffic on the minor street.

John Strack discussed incidents of drivers ignoring bus flashing lights and driving on either side of busses to get around it. A recent incident of a truck going around the right side of a stopped school bus with flashing lights and hit two students.

Dan Klatt mentioned that his department is issuing 300-500 speeding tickets per month on I-94; these tickets are for 23+mph over the posted speed limit. As part of the Interstate project, they are installing speed enforcement pads for Law Enforcement to use as somewhere safe to run radar and get out into traffic.

7. Other Business

- **Next Meeting: May 14, 2020**

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, David Maack adjourned the meeting at 2:32pm.