

(approved by committee on May 13, 2021)

RACINE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Summary Minutes – February 11, 2020

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 and Development Services Director
Daniel Adams – Racine County Sheriff’s Office
David Maack - Racine County Emergency Management (via conference call)
Tom Czerniak - Racine County Chief Deputy Medical Examiner
John Strack – Racine Unified School District
Tom Knitter – TRIAD
David Strobe – Mt. Pleasant Police Dept.
Brandon Muehleisen – Wisconsin State Patrol
Sean Wiedershem – Wisconsin State Patrol
Randy Wiessinger – WisDOT/BOTS
Bill Jeschke – Waterford Police Department
Shawn Engleman – Caledonia Police Department
Gary Larsen – Caledonia Police Department
Martin Pavilonis – Racine Police Department

1. Call to Order

Julie Anderson called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Minutes of the November 12, 2020, meeting TOM KNITTER moved, seconded by David Maack, to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Fatalities since the last meeting

Bill Jeschke of the Town of Waterford Police Department discussed December 7th at 2:38 p.m. A local farmer was heading eastbound on a two-lane highway on his tractor and was rear-ended by a Silverado truck. Farmer fell backward and was impaled on the hitch of the tractor and died at the scene. Toxicology still pending for both drivers and preliminary report not back yet. Weather was not a factor.

In Racine County on January 11, 2021 vehicle was northbound on South Wind Lake Road. A forty-one-year-old male in a pickup truck. Appears to be a medical event prior to the crash, no other injuries or contributing factors. No report available yet.

In Caledonia on October 27, 2020 in the seventy-four hundred block of STH 32. Female driver died of blunt force trauma from car vs. semi-tractor trailer. No autopsy was performed. Negative for ETOH.

4. Upcoming construction projects

Julie indicated that most projects were covered at the prior meeting. Racine County is currently getting underway with design and planning for some of those paving projects, road projects and a couple of culvert projects. Once a list is finalized, it will be sent out to all agencies. A lot of surface paving projects and a lot of small segments of repair on various County highways.

5. Around-the-table

The DOT put up stop signs at STH 31- and 6-Mile Rd and there has been a reduction in accidents as a result.

Randy Wiessinger recapped last year totals with 2020 having increases to 23 fatalities. Statewide numbers were up as well even with less cars on the road. He also discussed some gaps in statewide reporting of suspected drug and alcohol related crashes which may result in less targeting grants. He highlighted legislative updates including proposed changes to sexual assault kits in evidence for 50 years, cocktails-to-go and curbside pickup, choke holds, marijuana possession/legalization and no-knock search warrants.

Julie Anderson discussed speed on the Interstate and asked law enforcement colleagues their opinion on whether to ask legislators to reduce the speed from 70 to 55 miles per hour. This led to a brief discussion on how the pandemic has led to a negative impact on traffic safety and enforcement.

John Strack stated that Racine Unified schools will be going back to classroom sessions on March 1st. On Saturday, February 20th, the buses will do a complete test run for both the pickup and take-home runs to make sure the routes are running effectively. 30-40% of students and the parents are choosing to stay remote instead of in-person.

Dave Maack reminded everyone to be careful of the bitterly cold temperatures. More snow is expected this coming weekend.

Daniel Adams stated that speeders and reckless drivers were more evident during protests or response from Milwaukee to Kenosha. When driving around and protests are active, heightened civil disobedience was promoted or active. You will see a lot more cars without license plates driving over 100 cause a lot of accidents. He would say it is not just Covid having the roads more open but having several protests happen in such a short period of time caused a lot more individuals to drive reckless. It is not just the Covid open roads that cause the heightened fatalities. There are multiple dynamics in Southeastern Wisconsin.

A brief discussion occurred about the truck that went over the Hone Bridge in Milwaukee. The driver is blaming it on the snow being piled up on the wall. Julie indicated that DOT has scheduled meetings with the Public Works Department to discuss snow plowing on the interstate in the next week or so.

6. Other Business

The next meeting is not scheduled until May 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Tom Knitter Motioned, seconded by Gary Larsen, to adjourn the meeting at 2:43 p.m.