

## DODGE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

January 8, 2018

Members present: Joel Kiesow, Dodge County Traffic Safety Coordinator; Pete Thompson, Dodge County Highway Department, Captain Chad Enright and Sergeant Dennis Walston, DSO, Ryan Mayer, WISDOT, E. Phillip Witkiewicz and Ben Hildebrandt, Wisconsin State Patrol, Trace Frost and Joe Davis, Sr, WISDOT BOTS, Brandon Stommel, Beaver Dam P.D., Dave Beal, Chief Juneau P.D., Jeremy Rasch, Waupun P.D., Tony Trunkel, Mayville P.D., Matthew Christian, Beaver Dam F. D., Mary Wendel

Also present were Eugene Goodearle, Dennis Kaczor, Carolyn Cotton, BDCH

Members absent: none

- I. The meeting was called to order by Kiesow at 9:30 am.
- II. The minutes from the October 9, 2017 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Trunkel and second by Rasch.
- III. There were five fatal crashes and six fatalities in the fourth quarter. 2017 total is 21.
  - A. On 10/04/17, a crash occurred about 7:20 p.m. on CTH P near O'Neill Road. The committee reviewed the video and pictures. A northbound motorcyclist, Richard Behling, 52 struck a deer and was ejected. He was subsequently struck by two more vehicles and died at the scene. He was not wearing a helmet.
  - B. On 10/13/17, a crash occurred about 10:51 a.m. on CTH A at the CTH B intersection. The committee reviewed the video and pictures. A westbound vehicle driven by Iva Schwoch, 90 failed to completely stop and entered CTH A and was struck by a southbound vehicle. Schwoch was not belted and died.
  - C. On 11/05/17, a crash occurred about 3:06 a.m. on USH 151 north of the CTH C intersection. The committee reviewed the video. A northbound vehicle driven by Joshua Williams, 28 failed to negotiate a curve and ran off the road, struck a tree and was pronounced dead at the scene. The committee discussed why a Crash Investigation Team response or crash diagram were unavailable for this crash. Enright and Walston gave background on department policy and associated internal time commitments and budget challenges. In general, the committee's role is to review fatal crashes for underlying, identifiable causes and the results of the investigations are important in that review. A motion was made by Trunkel and seconded by Thompson to recommend that the Sheriff's Department, at a minimum, consult with the Crash Investigation Team for every fatal crash. Motion carried with State Patrol abstaining.
  - D. On 12/08/17 a crash occurred about 1:27 p.m. in the public parking lot of Beaver Dam Community Hospital. The committee reviewed the video and pictures. Bonnie Meyer, 70 was walking in a marked crosswalk toward the entrance when she was struck by a vehicle who had slowed/stopped and then proceeded. Meyer died on December 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a small STOP/Pedestrian Crossing sign at the crosswalk. Hospital videos are being reviewed. The committee suggested improvements to be considered including: speed humps, raised crosswalk, larger STOP and Pedestrian Crossing signs.
  - E. On 12/31/17 a crash occurred about 5:34 p.m. on CTH R east of CTH EM. The committee reviewed the video and pictures. An eastbound vehicle driven by Gloria Batzler, 60 was in the westbound lane and struck a westbound vehicle driven by Curtis Wolter, 62 head on. Subsequently, another westbound vehicle struck both vehicles. Both Batzler and Wolter died at the scene. Neither driver was belted. Toxicology results are not available yet.

## IV. Old Business

- A. Thompson reported that a second, left-side STOP sign has been installed northbound on CTH FW at CTH G.
- B. Sign relocations to improve visibility at STH 26 and STH 33 are still on the list to be done by the WISDOT sign crew.
- C. No action was taken on the review of the speed limit on CTH Y north of CTH AY near Knowles.
- D. Mayer reviewed the sight visibility at the southbound STH 26 exit ramp at STH 16/60. Geometrics of the road, existing guardrail and vehicle location provide about 6 seconds of visibility for drivers. There has been one crash since the original construction. No changes are proposed at this time.
- E. Thompson reported visibility at the CTH TW and CTH AY intersection is adequate and no improvements could be made.
- F. Results of a poll favored meeting date and time to remain as is.

V. New Business

There was no new business.

Reports

A. BOTS.

Davis stated there were 600 fatalities statewide in 2017 vs. 588 in 2016. Final number is still subject to change.

Dodge County had 21 in 2017 vs. 12 in 2016. Our increase tallied 75% of the statewide increase. Our 5-year average is 11. Davis stated we should pinpoint causes of our increase to help with targeted grant applications. Full recap will be at the April meeting. Davis stated most TSCs have the coroner as a member.

Davis urged attendance at the Governor's Highway Safety Conference.

Frost showed Community Maps for our county. It is available on the TSC page on the Dodge County website. As of January 2<sup>nd</sup>, all crash info is seamlessly transferred from TraCS DT 4000 reports to Community Maps. The new ANALYZE tab allows the creation of heat maps.

Davis has a goal of getting Community Maps info on local library computers for public education of crashes.

Frost showed the powerpoint, A Road Ahead, which shows how TSCs work with info from the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. WISDOT budget contains \$11.6 million for grants on behavioral changes/targeted enforcement and \$31 million for grants on structural changes/physical improvements through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

- B. WIDSOT. Mayer showed a Crash Diagram for the CTH TW/STH 28/STH 28-67-175/STH 67-175 intersection. There were 13 crashes in 5 years with 10 injuries. The crash rate may warrant a safety grant (HSIP). He will work to create a project and see if it may be funded based on crash history.

- C. County. Nothing to report.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2018 at 9:30 am in the Training Room of the Dodge County Sheriff's Department.

Meeting adjourned 11:25 a.m.  
Pete Thompson,  
Secretary.

*Minutes approved at  
meeting of April 9, 2018  
Peter Thompson*