

MANITOWOC COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

July 16, 2024

Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office

Present: Todd Blaser, Daniel Diedrich, James Falkowski, Jason Freiboth, Christine Glaser, Daniel Hartwig, Barbara Herrmann, Joseph Jeanty, Gary Mueller, Dave Murack, Rick Olig, Jason Orth, Mike Polich, Mason Simmons, Amanda Ziarnik.

Also Present: Boden Brooks, Elizabeth Miller, Todd Rasmussen.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Jason Orth.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from April 16th made by Rick Olig; seconded by Jason Freiboth. Minutes will stand as written.

Public Comment: Concern was raised by 3 citizens regarding safety issues at the intersection of CORD F and Marken Rd due to the number of crashes, near crashes, and a fatal crash on 04/16/24. Citizens indicated many motorists are running the stop sign at that location, and there is poor visibility at the intersection looking east from Marken Rd. The Commission's review of this intersection is documented below under the "recent fatalities" section.

ATVs/UTVs on County Highways. Bill Rexses spoke about allowing ATVs/UTVs on Manitowoc County highways. He provided unverified statistics from other counties which do allow ATVs/UTVs on county highways. Board discussed numerous safety concerns including factors such as narrow roadway shoulders, slow-moving vehicles, distractions, speed limits, and lack of information from the DNR regarding crashes and statistics. It was also discussed that 12 to 15-year-old ATV riders could be on the roadway with limited knowledge of all the rules of the road which other licensed drivers have. Mr. Rexses brought up the fact that slow-moving farm equipment along with horse and buggies are allowed on county highways; however, those are allowed by statute. Motion made by Barbara Herrmann to table discussion until further data can be collected. Motion seconded by James Falkowski. Motion carried.

Follow-up on Site Evaluations:

CORD AA/Park Ave at 1st St in the City of Kiel: KLPD Joseph Jeanty advised user-activated pedestrian crossing lights were recently turned over to DPW to be installed.

CORD C/CORD CR: County Highway installed stop bars and flags at this location. Unnecessary signage has been removed.

Appointment of Members: Motion made by Mike Polich to appoint Todd Rasmussen to the Traffic Safety Commission, replacing Rick Olig; seconded by Todd Blaser. Motion carried.

DOT Update Report from WI DOT-BOTS Representative: Todd Rasmussen provided statistics regarding the current number of crashes and fatalities as compared to 2023 numbers. Information was provided regarding Community Maps Zoom meetings which are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at noon. Data was provided regarding proven safety countermeasures along with mumble vs. rumble strips and updated lighting on highways to improve safety.

As a reminder, the Governor's Conference on Highway Safety will be August 19-21, 2024 in Wisconsin Dells.

Recent Fatalities:

04/16/24 – CORD F / Marken Rd: WSP Daniel Diedrich advised surviving operator involved in crash received 3 Citations including an OWL Citation. Crash data was reviewed and indicated there were a total of 5 crashes reported in the last 5 years resulting in one fatality and one injury. It was discussed that this intersection already has double stop signs for NB and SB traffic, double stop ahead signs for SB traffic, and one known stop ahead sign for NB traffic. This intersection does have reduced visibility due to trees to the east. Gary Mueller indicated County Highway recently approached the property owner, and they would allow County Highway to remove the trees even though they are not within the road right-of-way. Motion made by Rick Olig to recommend County Highway remove the trees; seconded by Dan Hartwig. Recommendation forwarded to County Highway Commission.

Note: On July 17, 2024, a patrol deputy verified there is only one stop ahead sign for NB traffic, and it appears to be lower than DOT standards. Jason Orth relayed this information to Peter Moehring, Road Superintendent for the Town of Meeme. Peter indicated he will correct the height of the stop ahead sign and add a second stop ahead sign.

04/23/24 – USHY 151 / STHY 42: MTPD Jason Freiboth advised 82-YO male operator of pickup truck pulled out in front of tanker truck. Victim vehicle was T-boned, and victim was subsequently ejected. Crash data indicates lower than average crashes compared to similar intersections. There are no apparent view obstructions. Cause of crash appears to be operator error, failure to yield right-of-way. No further discussion.

Next Meeting: October 15, 2024 at 10:00 am.

Motion made by Todd Blaser to adjourn at 11:39 a.m.; seconded by Joseph Jeanty. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Christine Glaser, Secretary