

MANITOWOC COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

January 21, 2025

Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office

Present: Todd Blaser, Karen Elsenpeter, James Falkowski, Jason Freiboth, Christine Glaser, Curt Green, Gregory Grotegut, Justin Hansen, Barbara Herrmann, Joseph Jeanty, Gary Mueller, Dave Murack, Michael Polich, Todd Rasmussen, Mason Simmons, Amanda Ziarnik

Excused: Daniel Hartwig, Benjamin Meinnert, Jason Orth

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Michael Polich

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from October 15th made by Todd Blaser, seconded by Greg Grotegut. Minutes will stand as written.

Public Comment: None.

Request for Site Evaluations:

Intersection of E Hillcrest Rd at STHY 147: Safety concern due to cars not stopping at intersection. Possible vision issue due to house in SW corner of intersection and confusion with hill while traveling WB. Review of crash data showed 2 PD crashes and 1 NFI crash at this location in 2024. Greg Grotegut requested Mason Simmons review crash data at this location.

Village of Kellnersville request to add 4-way stop at CORD K/CORD T: Greg Grotegut advised this topic was a referendum on the ballot in April 2021. However, due to the lack of crashes at intersection, residents voted to make no changes at that time. Greg advised there are 2 stop ahead signs. Review of crash data showed 1 crash at location in 2024. Motion made by Greg Grotegut to make no changes to intersection; seconded by James Falkowski. Motion carried.

Follow-up on Site Evaluations:

CORD P/CORD R: Signage has been placed at the T-intersection. Reflective markers have been placed on the stop signs. Item to be removed from agenda.

CORD XX/STHY 67 and STHY 67 / STHY 57: Mason Simmons advised a letter will be sent to the school district in March or April to remove signage within 60 days.

Appointments: Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office Todd Cummings to replace Jason Orth due to change in position. Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office Kyle Stotzheim to replace Michael Polich due to retirement. Motion to approve made by Greg Grotegut; seconded by Joseph Jeanty. Motion carried.

DOT Update Report from WI DOT-BOTS Representative: Todd Rasmussen reported there were a total of 8 crashes in Manitowoc County in 2024 resulting in 10 fatalities as compared to 10 crashes in 2023 resulting in 14 fatalities. Todd reviewed crash history at fatal crash locations. Manitowoc County had a total of 2067 crashes in 2024 as compared to 1999 crashes in 2023. Information was provided regarding the new Driver Orientated Screening for Cognitive Impairment (DOSCI/TREDS) roadside screening tool/app. App is used for driver who displays impairment after alcohol/drugs have been ruled out. Use of the application is anonymous, and data is purged after use and not stored on a smartphone. Scoring criteria was explained.

Information was provided regarding Community Maps Zoom meetings which are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at noon. Traffic Safety Commission Tool Kit was explained to promote increased member, law enforcement, and community involvement in traffic safety. Safe Roads Challenge program was explained. Drug Recognition Expert training classes will be held in April and October of 2025. Contact information for those who wish to attend training is provided on attached report from Todd Rasmussen. Unintroduced Draft Legislative Proposals included criteria for Vehicle Impoundment for Traffic Offenses, the creation of black and white registration plates, and making Battery to a Community Service Officer a Class H Felony. Lastly, the Governor's Conference will be held in Wisconsin Dells on August 19 and 20, 2025.

Recent Fatalities:

12/01/24 – I 43 / CORD JJ: Vehicle #1 (wrong way driver) struck vehicle #2 causing fatal injuries to both operators. Wrong way driver possibly suffered from confusion as MTPD took a call at 2300 hrs on 11/30/24 of individual looking for directions to Forefront Dermatology. It is believed this was the wrong way driver. MTPD was UTL vehicle, and fatal crash was called in to MTSO at 0145 hours. Toxicology from vehicle #1 operator revealed no alcohol in system.

12/19/24 – CORD K / Oakwood Rd: Vehicle vs power pole. Crash occurred during blowing snow, icy road weather conditions. Crash handled per Wisconsin State Patrol. Will be ruled medical and not fatal.

12/23/24 – Hilltop Rd / Menchalville Rd: Vehicle #1 was NB on Menchalville Rd. failed to stop at stop sign at Hilltop Rd and collided with vehicle #2. Operator of vehicle #2 was ejected and later pronounced deceased.

Next Meeting: April 15, 2025 at 10:00 am.

Motion made by Barbara Herrmann to adjourn at 11:10 a.m.; seconded by Greg Grotegut. Motion carried.

Submitted by:
Christine Glaser, Secretary