

# **ROCK COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

## Meeting Minutes April 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Online Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83079403147?pwd=MmIWS2pZbWdlQzRJM2EvbjFnQ0NiQT09>

Meeting ID: 830 7940 3147

Passcode: 939060

**Proposed Committee Members In Attendance:** Terri Carlson, Randy Gordon, Craig Morehouse, Duane Jorgenson, Brian Donohoue, Charlene Schmid, Mark Thompson, Lisa Wallenkamp and Randy Wiessinger.

**Proposed Committee Members Absent:** Ron Bomkamp,

**Others in Attendance:** Ahna Bizjak, Jason Dupuis, Madelyn Glaeden, Thomas Boguszewski, Dennis Ryan, Terry Sheridan and Diane Kowal.

### **Call to Order**

Captain Thompson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

### **Introductions**

Each attendee introduced themselves.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Captain Thompson explained that we are still not able to vote, but no one objected to the previous minutes. He explained that the County Board will be voting on the new membership list soon. This will be a vote on proposed members according to the statute written in the 1970's. The board will eventually vote to update those statutes.

### **Fatal Crash Review**

Three fatal crashes in Rock County in the first quarter of 2021.

- **January 3, 2021:** This was a crash involving three vehicles and two pedestrians. Unit 3 was stopped to change a flat front passenger tire on Henry Avenue east of the intersection of Fourth Street, facing eastbound. Unit 2 was stopped directly behind unit 3 facing eastbound. Drivers of both vehicles were out of their cars to attend to the flat tire. Unit 1 struck unit 2 from behind, causing unit 2 to strike both pedestrians. The decedent was pinned between units 2 and 3. Video reviewed.

As this crash was handled by Wisconsin State Patrol, Captain Thompson asked for input from Sgt. Randy Gordon. Sgt. Gordon stated the investigation is not complete, but alcohol on the part of the driver of unit 1 is a suspected factor.

Lisa Wallenkamp stated the blood alcohol level of the decedent was not a factor at 0.01%.

Possible contributing factors noted in the crash report were speed too fast for conditions; failure to control; and operate in an inattentive, careless or erratic manner.

- **January 5, 2021:** This was a two-vehicle crash in front of the Rock County Sheriff's Office. It was a cold evening with dense fog. Unit 2 was traveling west on Humes Road in the inside Lane. Unit 1 was traveling east on Humes Road in the westbound lane while also using the inside lane. The vehicles collided head on. It is believed Unit 2 missed a turn and ended up in the wrong lane. Unit 2 had Arby's in the car, indicating it had come from the direction of Arby's.

Lisa Wallenkamp stated toxicology testing was completely negative, and that the decedent died of injuries sustained in the crash. She noted the Medical Examiner's Office investigator had difficulty getting photos due to the dense fog, and the cause of the crash was likely weather.

Sgt. Gordon stated the front airbag deployed, but the driver was not wearing a seatbelt.

Video reviewed, as well as photos that show dense fog.

- **March 4, 2021:** This one-vehicle crash with a teenage female being the victim has received a lot of attention with requests for guardrails to be installed. Unit 1 was traveling southbound on County Trunk K. As it nearly completed a curve, it hit loose gravel/sand/salt and went off the road. The female passenger was ejected out the sunroof and the car rolled over her. The driver ended up in the passenger seat. Neither were wearing seatbelts. Airbags were not deployed as it was a rollover.

Lisa Wallenkamp stated they have no toxicology results yet, but alcohol is not suspected.

Cpt. Thompson stated the victim and the driver, victim's boyfriend, had just dropped victim's books off at home, so there would not have been opportunity to consume alcohol.

Video and photos reviewed. No suspicion of high speed. It was daylight, and the road had been cleared of snow.

Regarding the question of need for guardrails, Duane Jorgenson referred to a 2019 curve study done. That study showed this curve met all the parameters for not needing a guardrail.

Cpt. Thompson reiterated there appears to be no statistical data to support the installation of guardrails.

Charlene Schmid asked if widening the paved shoulder should be considered.

Duane Jorgenson said a widened shoulder could possibly blend to a more gradual slope which may be helpful.

Lisa Wallenkamp noted that the victim's siblings were following in another car and witnessed the accident. Family was there before emergency personnel.

Dennis Ryan noted that judging by the driver's address, the driver would have been familiar with this curve. Captain Thompson agreed, stating driver and victim had been dating for some time, and the route would have been familiar.

### **Old Business**

No old business.

### **New Business**

Randy Wiessinger went over his Predictive Analytics slides and gave his thoughts on this quarter's accidents overall. He stated these are situations that we unfortunately cannot enforce or engineer out of.

Charlene Schmid stated a HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Plan) roundabout has been approved for STH 81 and County Trunk T. It is planned for 2026.

Charlene also displayed a conceptual drawing for a roundabout at the STH 213 and STH 81 triangle as there have been several accidents there, and there could be significant funding available. She asked for feedback.

Cpt. Thompson questioned whether there would be enough room for the heavy semi traffic in that area.

Jason Dupuis stated there was a study done on that triangle. It revealed the triangle is privately owned, so there would be right-of-way issues. The study also noted it is a heavy truck route. He will share the results of the study with Charlene.

T intersection versus roundabout was discussed, citing a couple driveways that are very close. There is also a fire station on the southwest corner.

A last resort cul-de-sac was included in the conceptual drawing, but it does not seem feasible.

Cpt. Thompson asked Duane if he had any updates on road construction. Duane responded that the Interstate construction is scheduled to wrap up this fall. This would be the I-43 Interchange and USH 14/STH 26 Interchange. For the County, CTH F (USH 14 – Indianford) should be done early this summer; the CTH K (STH 81 – Laird Rd) rehabilitate should be completed early summer; and the CTH A (Tarrant Rd – CTH M) reconstruct should be done mid-late summer.

Duane mentioned next week is Work Zone Safety Week. They have a presentation ready to go. Sgt. Krahn has helped with video for it.

### **Public Input**

No public input

### **Set Next Meeting Date**

July 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.