

ROCK COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

**April 14, 2010, @ 9:00 a.m.
at the Rock County Sheriff's Office Conference Room**

The quarterly meeting of the Rock County Traffic Safety Commission was held on April 14, 2010, at the Sheriff's Office at 9 a.m. Present were: Capt. Jude Maurer-RCSO, Chief Deputy Barbara Tillman-RCSO, Jeff Kuglitsch-Rock Co. Corporation Counsel, Andrea Loeffelholz-DOT/BOTS, Hank Brill-Co. Board, Dena Dramm-WIDOT, Mike Flesch-City of Beloit, Barbara Abraham-Retired BTC, Tom Boguszewski-Retired Rock County, Christian Dalton-WSP, Ben Coopman-Rock County DPW, Andrew Emmel-WPS, Jenifer Keach-Rock Co. Coroner, Deputy Chief Dan Davis-Janesville Police Dept., and Grace Becker.

Capt. Maurer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Hank Brill made a motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2010. Barbara Abraham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fatal accidents reviewed

- 01/11/10 East County Trunk Highway X .6 miles west of South Summerville Road. There were bad road conditions that day, including snowing and drifting. The driver did use safety belt. The blood test is not back from the state lab yet.
- 03/11/10 Highway 51/Riverside Drive at Inman Parkway. The weather was one of the first warm days of 2010. The motorcycle driver appeared to be going too fast and tried to run through the yellow light. There was still some sand and debris on the roadway from the winter. The motorcycle driver was not wearing a helmet. There was no alcohol in the driver's system but they are still waiting for the drug test results.

Old Business

The discussion turned to the issue Mr. Brill mentioned at the January 13 meeting that he felt the island area across from the Department of Motor Vehicles on Highway 11 was in an awkward place and impedes drivers trying to turn into local parking lots. Dennis Ryan from the City of Janesville was unable to attend this meeting but he did email the diagrams of this area. Mike Flesch was kind enough to explain the diagrams to everyone. Ms. Dramm stated that the Wisconsin DOT does not have a lot of control over these situations. She did say that a speed study was scheduled to be done in this area by the end of this year. Speed trailers are being used in this area to collect data.

New Business

The off ramp from I-39/90 to Hwy. 14 (#171B) was discussed. This off ramp exited next to the Olive Garden restaurant. This area is very congested and it is difficult to exit from this ramp and into traffic safely. Ms. Dramm said she would look into this and report back with her findings.

Ms. Abraham brought up the fact that many drivers are running the red arrow lights at the intersection of Hwys. 26 and 14 and at Kennedy Road and Hwy. 14. Deputy Chief Davis stated that the Janesville Police Department did recently set up an officer at the intersection of Hwys. 26 and 14 who would radio to chase cars the licenses of vehicles that ran the lights. He stated that this was quite successful. It was suggested that the Janesville Police Department continue

doing this periodically until drivers stop constantly running the red lights. Ms. Dramm stated that the Wisconsin DOT currently is responsible for those traffic lights but are looking to transfer the lights to the responsibility of the city of Janesville.

Mr. Coopman asked when he would be able to get internet access to the MV4000s that occur in Rock County. He wants to use the information for analysis. Ms. Loeffelholz said that they are working on a program right now that would work with Badger Tracs. However, he could get some information from TOPS which he would have access to now. Mr. Coopman said he has tried to use the TOPS program but it does not list all the accidents in Rock County and appears to not be working properly. Ms. Loeffelholz said she would look into why it was not showing all the accidents that occurred at a specific area.

Ms. Dramm announced that the Wisconsin DOT will be changing the stoplights at the intersection of Highway 51 and Highway 14 to have specific left arrow turn only lights. She also said that a new safety engineer has been hired, Mr. Jeff Berens, and he would be attending the Traffic Safety Committee meetings soon.

Deputy Chief Davis asked for clarification regarding vehicles passing on the right at intersections. Depending on the interpretation of two different statutes, it is either legal to pass on the right if there is pavement or illegal, regardless of if there is pavement or not. Ms. Dramm said she would ask for clarification and report back her findings. Captain Maurer said he would also contact the state to try to get clarification on this question.

Finally, Mr. Brill mentioned that now that spring is coming and new weather is on the way, he would like to see bicycle laws more closely enforced and to stop seeing bicycles running red lights.

DOT Information Packet and Highway Safety Input

Andrea Loeffelholz distributed the DOT information packet for the quarter and reviewed it with the committee. She also mentioned that the No Texting While Driving law has been passed and will be put into effect. She also covered several other Acts either pending or recently passed. Her packet also included an article on Ignition Interlocks for information.

Barbara Abraham moved to adjourn the meeting. Andrew Emmel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting is set for July 14, 2010, at 9 a.m. at the Rock County Sheriff's Office.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Becker
LES Administrative Secretary