

LA CROSSE COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010
 La Crosse County Administration Building Auditorium
 1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Allison, Tim Berg, Al Blencoe, Matt Gallagher, Tim Hammes, Dennis Johnson, Bill Lubinski, Evan Stone, Reiny Yahnke
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ilona Hansen, Roland Solberg
MEMBERS ABSENT:
OTHERS PRESENT: John Flynn, Mike Horstman

CALL TO ORDER

Sgt. Bill Lubinski, Committee Coordinator, called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mike Allison, seconded by Matt Gallagher, to approve the February 10, 2010 Highway Safety Commission minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

LA CROSSE COUNTY CRASH DATA FOR 1ST QUARTER OF 2010

2010	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	Yearly Total
Sheriff Department					
Hit & run	12				12
Car/deer	56				56
Injury	23				23
Property damage	86				86
Fatalities	0				0
Sub-total	177				177
Comparison of Prior Year Totals	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	Total
2003	214	190	186	317	907
2004	199	195	162	295	851
2005	224	234	147	313	918
2006	215	192	150	251	808
2007	245	168	182	280	875
2008	228	150	158	284	820
2009	178	137	144	246	705
2010	177				

The 1st quarter of 2010 had 1 less crash than the 1st quarter of 2009 in La Crosse County. The average for the 1st quarter from 2003 through 2010 is 210. Four of the 12 hit & run crashes involved injuries. Of 121 crashes with 218 occupants, 193 reported using seatbelts for an 88% compliance. Eight of the crashes involved alcohol. A handout of La Crosse

County fatalities from 1963 through 1972 showed that there used to be more fatalities per year (average of 11) than there are nowadays (average of 7).

Although there were no fatalities in La Crosse County in the 1st quarter of 2010, there have already been two in the 2nd quarter of 2010.

Over the last decade La Crosse County's traffic death rate is the lowest in the state. 44% of La Crosse County' crashes involved alcohol compared to the statewide average of 40%.

WISDOT UPDATES & HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN SOLICITATION

Dennis Johnson reported that as of today, May12, 2010, there have been 148 fatalities in the State of Wisconsin compared to 155 on the same date in 2009. 202 is the average as of May 9. The total number of statewide fatalities for 2009 was 542 in 488 crashes. This is the lowest number of fatalities since 1944.

Motorcycle fatalities remain constant with 16 drivers and one passenger. This is only one less than last year. May is motorcycle safety and awareness month. Other drivers should be aware of motorcycles. Motorcycle drivers should wear helmets and be aware of sand that may still be on the roadway which could contribute to loss of control.

Wisconsin Act 28 regarding carrying an insurance card will go into effect on June 1st. If the driver doesn't have an insurance card with him/her, the Wisconsin State Patrol will assume there is no insurance and the driver will get a higher fine. Local law enforcement will decide how to address the issue if a driver will be allowed to drive after being stopped and having no proof of insurance. The La Crosse County Sheriff's Department can give a warning or a citation. If the driver is warned, s/he will have five days to prove s/he has insurance or will be issued a citation. Some police departments have decided to issue a citation and tow the vehicle at the time of the stop.

The law banning texting while driving will go into effect on December 1st. It would be difficult for an officer to tell if the driver is texting or calling. In either case an inattentive driving citation could be issued.

The law of the month for March 2010 was 'Move over law: Drivers must provide a safety zone for stopped emergency vehicle.' The April 2010 law was 'U-turns now permitted at some controlled intersections.' All the other states already allow U-turns. The May 2010 law of the month is 'Safety devices required when towing trailers.'

Anyone who has an idea for any safety plan funding should contact Dennis Johnson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/DISCUSSION

WisDOT revisited the policy on mile markers. Highway 53 will get enhanced mile markers every .2 mile from Highway 157 to the county line. I-90 from George Street to exit 5 will also get enhanced mile markers every .2 mile. These mile markers will be put on the computer mapping making it easier for dispatch to plot the location of an incident.

Safety project applications are due August 15th.

There was discussion about the traffic signals on Highway 16 at County Road B. As discussed in a previous Highway Safety Commission meeting, these LED lights are difficult to see from a

distance. There is a capacity problem with Highway 16. WisDOT maintains these signals, but most traffic solutions are very expensive.

Tim Hammes stated that the Highway Department is starting to reclaim County Road E. It is hoped that County Road M will be paved by mid-June. There is a lot of damage repair that needs to be done on a bridge on Highway 35 by Goose Island. A crash resulting in a large fire caused the damage, although the bridge is still useable. During the repairs, traffic will be cut down to one lane of travel.

Mike Allison announced that the Wisconsin State Patrol will be using a Click-It or Ticket grant in La Crosse County the last week in May and the first week in June.

AGENDA FOR AUGUST 11, 2010 MEETING

Items to be included on the August 11, 2010 agenda are La Crosse County crash data for the 2nd quarter of 2010, WisDOT Updates and Highway Safety Plan Solicitation, and announcements/discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Tim Berg, seconded by Mike Allison, to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 P.M.

The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next committee meeting.

Roxanne Felde, Recorder

Approved 11/10/10, Roxanne Felde, Recorder