

## LA CROSSE COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2010  
 La Crosse County Administration Building Auditorium  
 1:30 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Allison, Matt Gallager, Tim Hammes, Ilona Hansen, Thomas Knoop, Bill Lubinski, Roland Solberg, Evan Stone, Reiny Yahнке  
**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Tim Berg, Al Blencoe  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
**OTHERS PRESENT:**

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mike Allison, seconded by Roland Solberg, to approve the May 12, 2010 Highway Safety Commission minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously. (There was no La Crosse County Highway Safety Commission meeting in August 2010).

### LA CROSSE COUNTY CRASH DATA FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER OF 2010

2010	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	Yearly Total
<b>Sheriff Department</b>					
Hit & run	12	7	8		27
Car/deer	56	58	38		152
Injury	23	24	39		86
Property damage	86	38	40		164
Fatalities	0	1	1		2
Sub-total	177	128	126		431
<b>Comparison of Prior Year Totals</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> 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	128	126		

Since there was no Highway Safety Commission meeting in August 2010, crash data statistics were reviewed for both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2010.

There were 128 crashes reported in the second quarter. This is below the average. Five crashes involved the use of alcohol. Of 70 reported crashes with 126 occupants, 109 reported using seatbelts (87% compliance). There was a fatality on May 7, 2010 on County Trunk Highway M involving one occupant who was ejected from a pickup. Alcohol was involved in this crash.

For the third quarter, 126 crashes were reported. This is also below the average. Nine crashes involved the use of alcohol. Of 88 reported crashes with 157 occupants, 124 reported using seatbelts (79% compliance). There was a fatality on July 31, 2010 on County Trunk Highway M involving a person on a motorcycle. This person was not wearing a helmet. Alcohol was involved. The person involved in the fatality was a part of a group ride. Evidently the third motorcycle struck the second motorcycle which struck the pavement. An odd coincidence was that the motorcyclist involved in the fatality had a similar incident the year before on the same ride.

There have been six fatalities in La Crosse County so far in 2010. The number of fatalities in 2009 for the whole year was six.

### **WISDOT UPDATES & HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN SOLICITATION**

Thomas Knoop was introduced as the Regional Program Manager for La Crosse County. He distributed maps showing the redistribution of counties covered by the Regional Program Managers. La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon counties were added to his region. His office is in Wisconsin Rapids.

The number of fatalities in Wisconsin in 2010 is up 34 from the same date in 2009. 2010 is still below the five-year average, although motorcycle and pedestrian fatalities have increased.

A seatbelt use survey chart shows that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of child seats had not been properly installed. New vehicles being built are more foolproof.

There were seven fatalities and 471 injuries in 2009 involving motor vehicle/deer crashes. There were over 16,000 motor vehicle/deer crashes overall in Wisconsin in 2009.

There are 14 more pedestrian fatalities so far in 2010 than there were on the same date in 2009. 2010 statistics are about average. 2009 was unusually low. About 54% involve alcohol (driver or pedestrian or both).

In crashes involving driving too fast, the majority of drivers are male with a high number being between the ages of 16 and 35. Driving too fast crashes occur more often in rural areas.

A handout showing the results of the AAA Foundation's third annual 'Traffic Safety Culture Index' was distributed.

Act 220 makes it illegal to text while driving. This will go into effect in December. Cell phone usage while driving is also an increasing concern. When drivers multi-task, their minds are not entirely on their driving. Cell phone providers are looking into cell phones that work only if moving less than 7 mph.

More information on the federally funded mobile training unit to promote motor cycle safety may be found at [ZeroInWisconsin.gov](http://ZeroInWisconsin.gov).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/DISCUSSION**

There was discussion about a portable speed indicator sign. It could be attached to any road sign. It would be programmable to operate at certain times and is battery powered for two weeks. It records speed data which can be downloaded. It can record the fastest speed and calculate average speeds at certain times of the day. Some speed indicator signs may record data when the display is not on. Bill Lubinski will see if the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department sign has this capability. This is an effective tool and is a good use of grant money.

The Sheriff's Department received a citizen e-mail concerning County Road FO. It stated that a number of cars pass on the left where there is a double yellow line when vehicles are turning left. There are also a large number of bicyclists on that road.

The YMCA Triathlon may be on a Saturday next year in the West Salem area. The last triathlon involved 350 participants with 500-600 anticipated for next year. Volunteers in this area have been good about showing up to volunteer. If it is decided to have this event on a Saturday, there is concern that it may interfere with traffic for the landfill/dumping area which may be open on Saturday.

The Holmen School District had voiced a concern about Highway 53. When school buses are facing northbound with their stop arms extended, motor vehicles pass the school buses on the right. Bill Lubinski met with the Holmen School District transportation director. Bus drivers are allowed to pull over into the right turn lane to prevent vehicles from passing on the right.

A couple of days ago the local press began reporting on the AAA Traffic Survey results. The Highway Safety Commission was mentioned in a TV interview. The report emphasized drowsy drivers.

Reiny Yahnke reported about the 2011 TIME meeting schedule.

He also reported a safety project for 2013 on Highway 53 at the westbound off-ramp at Sand Lake.

A roundabout may be developed by Menard's. Roundabouts allow more traffic to flow through intersections than intersections controlled with traffic lights.

Mike Allison reported that there is one fewer trooper in La Crosse County down to an all time low of seven.

## **SET MEETING DATES FOR 2011**

Meeting dates for 2011 are February 9, May 11, August 10, and November 9 at 1:30 P.M. All meetings will be in Room B390 of the Administration building. Bill Lubinski will see about getting parking permits for the meetings.

## **AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2011 MEETING**

Items to be included on the February 9, 2011 agenda are La Crosse County crash data for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010 and year-end, WisDOT Updates and Highway Safety Plan Solicitation, and announcements/discussion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mike Allison, seconded by Matt Gallagher, to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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

Roxanne Felde, Recorder

*Approved 02/09/11, Roxanne Felde, Recorder*