

LA CROSSE COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 8, 2012
 La Crosse County Administration Building Room B390
 1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Berg, Matt Gallager, Tim Hammes, Thomas Knoop,
 Robert Koenen, Bill Lubinski, Reiny Yahnke
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jackie Eastwood, Ilona Hansen, Evan Stone
MEMBERS ABSENT: Roland Solberg
OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Richards (Gundersen Lutheran)

CALL TO ORDER:
 Sgt. Bill Lubinski, Committee Coordinator, called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Thomas Knoop, seconded by Tim Hammes, to approve the May 9, 2012 Highway Safety Commission minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

LA CROSSE COUNTY CRASH DATA FOR 2nd QUARTER OF 2012

| 2012 | 1 st quarter | 2 nd quarter | 3 rd quarter | 4 th quarter | Yearly Total |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Sheriff Department | | | | | |
| Hit & run | 15 | 9 | | | 24 |
| Car/deer | 69 | 75 | | | 144 |
| Injury | 26 | 30 | | | 56 |
| Property damage | 65 | 73 | | | 138 |
| Fatalities | 0 | 2 | | | 2 |
| Sub-total | 175 | 189 | | | 364 |
| | | | | | |
| 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 | 128 | 126 | 260 | 691 |
| 2011 | 180 | 168 | 144 | 211 | 703 |
| 2012 | 175 | 189 | | | |

The average of 2nd quarter accidents from 2003 to 2012 in La Crosse County is 178. This is a little above average for the 2nd quarter. Of the crashes, nine involved the use of alcohol (5 of the 9 were injury accidents, 3 were property damage and 1 was a fatality crash). In the 2nd

quarter there were 113 reportable crashes with 182 occupants, 157 reported using seatbelts for an 86% compliance rate. Nine crashes were hit and run and one of those was an injury crash.

There was a fatality on April 26th up on the north end of the county (County Road XX .1 mile south of Briggs Road) in the Town of Onalaska. The vehicle (convertible) was headed northbound when it proceeded left off the roadway for quite a distance, overturning. Two people were involved; the operator was belted in, the passenger was not wearing a seatbelt. The passenger was ejected from the vehicle. Both were deceased at the scene and alcohol was a factor. The crash occurred around 12:30 AM.

Bill Lubinski reported that he is currently on a committee in Madison in reference to some MV4000 revisions; one being that the federal government will require with this new crash form officers on scene of a car vs. animal crash to determine if the animal was alive or dead prior to the crash. There will be a list of non-domesticated animals on the form. The reason behind this change being there are municipalities out there concerned that people they contract with are not removing the animals in a timely fashion. When referencing this on the crash report they will get an idea if they are in fact being removed in a timely fashion. In addition, there will be a place on the form to indicate whether or not the crash was a secondary crash. The new form is tentatively scheduled to be released on January 1, 2014.

Bill Lubinski also reported that the state wants to go with a different type of GPS tracking system (a statewide system to see everyone throughout the state). They are basing it on what Iowa has in place for their system.

GUNDERSEN LUTHERAN SIGNAGE UPDATE

Michael Richards reports there have been several meetings on this topic; with not a great deal of progress. Everybody realizes there is an issue, coming down to one solution; that being a public policy change. Signage is not allowed on the Interstate unless there is an emergency room, which this facility does not have. The city is interested in doing some signage on Highway 16. Gundersen representatives reached out to the DOT to see if there was a way to do something during the repaving of Highway 16. Gundersen Lutheran plans to do what they can on this issue, including raising more awareness with our lawmakers that something needs to be done, as well as educating their patients regarding directions to their facility.

Michael Richards has discussed this issue with the mayor of Onalaska and he is very receptive in trying to figure out a plan of action.

Tim Berg stressed the importance of getting this issue resolved since crashes occurring as a result of this are leading to fatalities and feels we need to get direction as to who we can go to for a resolution. Tim also suggested for agencies responding to crashes in this area to try to find out how the crash happened from those involved; consequently learning if it was a result of this issue.

Michael Richards will share updates as they become available.

Community Wellness and Prevention (Wellness Fest)

Michael Richards reports that Gundersen Lutheran had a Wellness Fest on August 4th and that if any law enforcement agency wants to have a booth at this event next year promoting safety topics, they would be happy to accommodate them.

WISDOT UPDATES & HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN SOLICITATION

Thomas Knoop reported that to date, the state is not looking good with regard to crashes, that being 302 crashes and 340 fatalities as of this last Sunday; up from 268 crashes and 296 fatalities last year. We have been above the five year average for the past couple of months.

In terms of fatality percentages, occupants are up 17% over last year and motorcyclists are up 28%. Total fatalities are up 15%.

In regard to La Crosse County, to date the state reports three fatalities altogether. We were at 17 last year. The five year average is eight. Alcohol related crashes show four total people killed in two crashes last year that were alcohol related; one was on a county highway and one was on a state highway.

In reference to OWI related convictions by violation county and repeat offender status, La Crosse County had 37.3% to repeat offenders.

Laws of the Month include:

- August 2012: Intersection crashes can be prevented by obeying traffic signals.
- September 2012: Drivers must be even more vigilant when school starts. (Stop for school buses, students walking to school).

In reference to crashes by county and highway class with inattentive driving listed as driver possible circumstance by crash severity, total killed and total injured; La Crosse County had four fatalities due to inattentive driving (one on a local road, one on a county highway, one on a state highway and one on the Interstate). There were 263 injuries due to inattentive driving. Statewide, there were 108 fatalities due to inattentive driving (about 1/5th of the total fatalities that occurred).

ANNOUNCEMENTS/DISCUSSION

Tim Hammes reported on the signage issue on County Road OT and US Highway 53 that a speed limit sign has been put up on the southbound on ramp; to eliminate the confusion of the two speed limits.

Bill Lubinski reported that on July 27th Keith Butler (Emergency Management) set-up a meeting reference to the situation out on Highway 16 near Losey Boulevard with all the crashes occurring out there. They shared information regarding the number of crashes that had occurred in that area (between 7/9/12 and 7/25/12); that being 21 crashes. The average in the area is normally about seven a month. Keith is trying to get people together to figure out a way to handle this situation.

Matt Gallagher reported that Gundersen Lutheran has hired a contractor for a line they need to put through the street. Due to this construction, there will be a one week shut down of South Avenue by Gundersen Lutheran. Highway 14 61 will be detoured away from that for at least a full week and there would be some single lane closures around that time also, leading up to it and after. The project is scheduled for October. The traffic would detour onto Highway 33 over to Jackson Street and State Road; part would go up West Avenue to Highway 35 and part would go to Losey Boulevard.

Tim Hammes reported that they will be widening Moos Road. The approach to the by-pass lane is being extended, moving everything 250 feet up the hill. The farm entrance driveway will be gone; utilizing a different access. Also, up on N to Northridge a fog seal oil was sprayed over the top of the chip seal. The benefit of using this is it helps hold the rock and keeps the road black.

Tim Berg reported that at the last TIME System meeting it was brought up that the Highway 53 northbound off ramp at Sand Lake Road is backing up to the top of the ramp. The thought is that is has to do with the State Road 35 construction. This is a concern; especially since the project to extend the ramp has been delayed. Once the roads become slippery, if the problem is still occurring, there is potential for a lot of crashes out there. It's a downhill ramp.

Reiny Yahnke reported that beginning this month a state wide rumble strip project will begin. There are no roads in La Crosse County that will be getting the rumble strips; the closest is Highway 21 between Sparta and Tomah, getting a rumble strip down the center line to the right of the fog line. Thomas Knoop added that studies have shown that the rumble strips drastically reduce incidents involving cross-over crashes.

CHANGE OF DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Motion by Thomas Knoop, seconded by Matt Gallager, to change the November 7th meeting (as listed on today's agenda) to November 14, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2012 MEETING

Items to be included on the November 14, 2012 agenda are La Crosse County crash data 3rd quarter, WisDOT Updates and Highway Safety Plan Solicitation, announcements/discussion and set agenda for the February 13, 2013 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Matt Gallager, seconded by Tim Hammes, to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 P.M. Motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Approved 11/14/12, Lisa Bruring, Recorder