

HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Columbia County Law Enforcement Center

John Roche Community Room

Friday, May 12, 2006

9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Doug Jarzynski, Tom Knoop, Avis Link, Darrell Parker, Pat Beghin, Dan Pruene (sp), Greg Jenswold, Penny Kiefer, T.O. Boge, Jim Mitchell, Dan Pulsfus

Meeting Called to Order: 9:33 a.m. by Doug Jarzynski

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes from 02/10/06 made by Knoop. Seconded by Pulsfus. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. *Placement of chevrons at STH 23 and CTH O in Newport Township.* These were placed earlier this spring and they will hopefully reduce the number of accidents at this location.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *Request by Township of Arlington to review intersection of WIBU Road and Meek Road for safety improvements.* Jarzynski indicated that he had correspondence with the Township Chair Plenty in reference to this location and the complaints they had and the numerous accidents at this location including a fatality the previous year. The township was currently looking at doing some improvements that location. A video was shown of the location in question. Discussion then ensued about the intersection and the perceived problems. Crash data for the last five years only indicate the one fatal accident at that location and that was not an intersection-related accident. The circumstances on the fatal accident were that the young adults in question were attempting to become airborne going over that area and had lost control resulting in a crash that claimed the life of a young female at that location. It also appeared that the roadway is currently posted at 40 mph as it is in that area to attempt to reduce any problems. ***Motion was made by Jarzynski to send a letter of support to the Township of Arlington in their efforts to realign the roadway and to also review the area for signage. Seconded by Knoop. Motion carried.***
2. *Request for lighting at the intersection of CTH P and CTH G in the Township of Pacific.* Jarzynski read a letter from Eugene Hahn's office listing a complaint he received from a constituent who felt that there should be a overhead streetlight at that location. A video of the specified area was shown and a discussion ensued as to problem in the area. Crash data indicated that there were a number of crashes located at that intersection within the last five years, but that out of the five that were listed as intersection-related accidents, two were car versus deer accidents and the other ones were vehicles heading eastbound waiting to turn into a subdivision north of CTH P and not turning onto CTH G. All of these crashes that were intersection-related occurred during daylight hours. ***Motion was made by Parker to send a letter to the township stating that the committee is not opposed to a light being placed at that location at the township's expense, but that the crash***

data did not appear to support the need for a light at that location. Seconded by Knoop. Motion carried.

FATAL ACCIDENT REPORT by Pat Beghin

1. Beghin went over the list of four fatal accidents that occurred since the last Columbia County Highway Safety Committee meeting. These included one bicycle versus vehicle fatality with a fatal occurring to the bicycle operator; a two-vehicle fatality on the Interstate system resulting in a death and serious injuries to a number of other parties; a single-vehicle fatality in the trees that was alcohol-related; and a two-vehicle fatality that occurred under icy road conditions as well as the operator not wearing a seatbelt.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Also brought up to be placed on the agenda as new business for the next Highway Safety Committee Meeting was a concern of a lack of signage on the Wisconsin River Bridge on I39/90/94 and that this should be reviewed for a possible increase in signage indicating that the presence of black ice or slippery conditions may be appropriate to be placed on the bridge. We indicated that we would obtain the crash data for that location as well as any other pertinent information to review at the next Highway Safety Committee Meeting.

Another item for the next meeting was a review of the Township of Lodi CTH V/J area. This again came to the attention of the committee because of the continued number of accidents including one of the fatalities during the preceding months that occurred on this section of roadway and a concern to review this section by the committee to see if there is anything that could be done to reduce the number and severity of crashes on this section of roadway.

DOT Update. This information was brought forward indicating that this summer there would be a replacement of pavement on the 151 bypass near Columbus. This would be a project redoing the southbound lanes and that the crossovers have been in place to move the southbound traffic into the northbound side and result in a one-lane traffic in each direction. They also indicated that STH 73 by the county line would also be having some work done on it. Lastly, on STH 127 bridge over the big slough will likely be replaced starting in August for the project and would result in that section being detoured and closed down at that time.

Motion to adjourn by Pulsfus. Seconded by Knoop. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 11, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.
Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, John Roche Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Beghin
Sergeant

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