



MOVING FORWARD WITH SAFETY

MEMBERS

Robert Andler
 Jerry Blystone
 Michael Brouette
 Roger Brandner
 Joe Davis
 James Foley
 Chris Hardy
 Richard Hoege
 Sgt. Todd Horn
 Kenneth Hutler
 Kathy Johnson
 Scott Klicko
 Avis Link
 Ryan Mayer
 Chuck Miller
 Margaret Rudolph
 Joseph Ruf
 Sgt. Mike Vasquez
 JoAnn Wingers

MISSION

Columbia County strives to make our roads the safest they can be.....

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
 TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
 MEETING MINUTES**
 Columbia County Law Enforcement Center
 John Roche Community Room
 May 10, 2019 @ 9:30 AM

Commission Members Present: Sgt. Todd Horn, Chris Hardy, Ken Hutler, Joe Davis, Sr., Ryan Mayer, Michael Brouette, Kathy Johnson, Robert Andler, Margaret Rudolph, Jerry Blystone, Avis Link, James Foley, Barry Pufahl, Rich Hoege

Commission Members Absent with Notice: Chuck Miller, Roger Brandner

Commission Members Absent: JoAnn Wingers, Joe Ruf, Richard Hoege, Scott Klicko, Sgt. Mike Vasquez

Guests: Trace Frost (BOTS), Brad Allen (Portage Daily Register), Tom Borgkvist (District 3), Cody Doucette (Divine Savior EMS), Les Crandall (Marquette Co. Sheriff), Matthew Shappell (Poynette Schools), Jeremiah Johnson (State Patrol), Jacob Devries (State Patrol), Jacob Jones (CP Railroad), Brian Kusmirek (CP Railroad)

The meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Sgt. Todd Horn. Introductions were made by all present. An attendance sheet was distributed.

Motion by Foley to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Blystone. Motion carried. Item #2 CODES presentation was moved to the beginning of the agenda as the speaker had another commitment to attend.

Motion by Hutler to approve the February 8, 2019 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Andler. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. CODES (Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System) (Wayne Bigelow)

A presentation was given on an overview of CODES and how to access it. CODES is funded through BOTS from NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). A handout was distributed. CODES will be merging crash data with hospitals and emergency rooms in the near future. This information is open to the public and no registration is required. The websites for the various reports in CODES is listed on the handout. (Attached)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Fair Booth**

No interest was shown in having a fair booth for the TSC at this time. **Sgt. Horn made a motion to close the subject. Blystone seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

2. **Review the hill portion on STH 22 near Cuff Road for guardrails**

Ryan Mayer from DOT gave an overview of the Hwy 22 – Cuff Road & CTH B area of concern. Slopes were filled in to a 3 foot to 1 foot slope during the construction project. This means cars could still leave the roadway but would most likely not roll over. No guard rail is required with this slope.

3. **Review the STH 16/Portage exit ramp off of I39 North for yield sign**

Ryan Mayer from DOT reviewed the area and stated that the construction of that area does not warrant having a sign in that area, but monitoring of the situation will continue.

4. **Review area of Cascade Mountain Road at Fox Glen on the Baraboo River for a possible guardrail or security cable**

A letter was sent to the Town of Caledonia recommending a guardrail or security cable be placed. The Town of Caledonia approved a security cable be installed soon. Sgt. Horn will advise the committee when the cable is installed. Chuck Miller sent a letter stating that he feels additional signage for that exit is needed and this was discussed. DOT has reviewed the situation and no more could be done other than remove the exit completely.

5. **Review intersection of East Albert Street and East Cook Street/STH 33 in the City of Portage**

Chris Hardy conducted a speed study of E. Albert Street and STH 33 area and gave an overview. The speed study results were distributed. (Attached). The speeds recorded were not out of line on either road. Ryan Mayer of DOT reported that the last speed study in the area was conducted in 2013 and after reviewing the current data, the 45 speed limit is an accurate speed for that area. Chuck Miller sent a letter to the TSC stating that there is a “Narrow Bridge” sign but no “Intersection Ahead” sign. Ryan Mayer stated he would check the site distance and bring the results to the next meeting.

Sgt. Horn stated that the STH 33 East – CTH F – CTH EE area and intersections are more of a concern. He feels a longer passing lane in that area is needed. **A motion was made by Horn to have DOT look at this area. Foley seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

1. **Roadway blockages due to prolonged trains. (Brian Connor) CP Police/Railroad Crossing Blockage Issue (Jacob Jones)**

Please see the following information Sgt. Horn has composed regarding this issue from the CP Police presentation at the TSC: At the quarterly meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission, we discussed railroad safety and its relation to highway safety. COSO Dispatch has been receiving increasing numbers of complaints from concerned citizens about roadways that are blocked by trains from Canadian Pacific for extended periods of time. Wisconsin statute states that trains are not allowed to block a roadway **on purpose** for a period over 10 minutes. However, Federal law supersedes State of Wisconsin law. Federal law allows for trains to block roadways

for **legitimate circumstances** for indefinite time periods. Moving freight back and forth has been determined to be essential and more important than the public's convenience. Circumstances under Federal law that would allow for blocking of the roadway would include but not limited to train breakdowns, maintenance, refueling, rotating train crews, or other necessary but unavoidable actions.

The main issue for COSO appears to be the crossing on CTH P near STH 51. Train companies have started to run longer trains as they are more efficient. The Portage train yard is one of the largest in the state resulting in a lot of refueling and switching out of train crews. Unfortunately, when the longer trains pull onto a side track off the main line in order to complete maintenance, they are now blocking more roadways. Unless the Conductor has stopped a train for a nonessential function, we are stuck with waiting until the train clears. Keep in mind, the Canadian Pacific is just as anxious to get the train moving as a stopped train is costing them money.

In an effort to find out why a train is stopped at a roadway intersection numbers were made available for the officers or Dispatch to call. Per Officer Jacob Jones of the Canadian Pacific Railroad Police, we should wait for a train to block a roadway for 20 minutes before calling. The staff member calling should inquire the reason for the stoppage and estimated time for the train to clear the tracks. Documentation of CP Rails response will help if the legitimacy of the stoppage is called into question down the road.

Also note, Amtrak gets priority on the tracks.

Sgt. Horn stated that the Village of Poynette will be constructing a new Elementary School which will involve students having to cross railroad tracks and there are no sidewalks in the area. Jacob Jones and Sgt. Horn to discuss this issue in the future.

Andler questioned the rough crossing at Johnson Road. Hardy explained that the Highway Department is working with the train master and crossing projects over CTH CD, Johnson Road, and Wilcox Road will be completed in the near future.

FATAL CRASH REPORT

- Sgt. Horn reviewed the fatal crashes for Columbia County.
April 10, 2019: CTH CS at Wilson Road – 1 Fatal – poor road conditions with snow/slush – 2 vehicle crash (Mitsubishi & Buick Regal) – cause was driver error and road conditions - displayed photos of crash. Cody Doucette/Divine Savior EMS stated they had 2 units, Lodi EMS 1 unit, and Poynette EMS 1 unit. ME Office gave overview – fatal was the passenger – autopsy showed skull fracture/instant death.
- Second crash 4/29/2019: I-39 – under investigation – no discussion at this time
- Trace Frost gave an overview of the Fatal & Type A Injury Crashes. He stated numbers were down a bit in the state until last week. He also gave an overview of Community Maps and updates. The Governor's Conference on Traffic Safety will be held in Wisconsin Dells on 8/21-8/22/19.
- Joe Davis discussed the Click It or Ticket program that will be running from 5/20 – 6/2/19. Wisconsin Dells, Portage, and Columbia County Sheriff's Office will be participating in this in Columbia County. He explained the grants, equipment that has been disbursed out through the grants and wants to try and get other communities involved in the program in the future.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY REPORT AND TRAFFIC SAFETY INPUT

- Ryan Mayer explained that a cable guard project has been approved for the Interstate South of Portage.
- Ryan Mayer stated a round-a-bout project is scheduled for 2022/2023 for STH 113/CTH P outside of Lodi. There may be a 4-way stop may be installed to improve the safety of that area until the round-a-bout is completed.


OTHER BUSINESS

- Tom Borgkvist inquired about the shoulder project for STH 22 (Town of Marcellon). Ryan Mayer to talk to the design team regarding this project on STH 22 from STH 33 to the Marquette County Line.
- Chris Hardy stated that there were still 8 roads closed along with bridges on CTH A & JV due to the flooding. They hope to have everything back open by late June.
- Jerry Blystone inquired about STH 33 (East of STH 22) road condition and repair schedule. Hardy explained that this is a project for 2023. They will be conducting some repairs (mill & fill) to help with conditions prior to the project date. Other projects were discussed for STH 16, from Portage to Wisconsin Dells, 2022, and STH 60 from Lodi to Arlington will have mill & fill.
- Ryan Mayer stated that there maybe another round-a-bout project at STH 60 and the Interstate in the future.

A motion was made by Jim Foley to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Blystone seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 9, 2019 at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathleen M. Johnson
Secretary, Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission