



**COLUMBIA COUNTY  
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**  
Columbia County Law Enforcement Center  
John Roche Community Room  
August 10, 2018 @ 9:30 AM

**MOVING  
FORWARD  
WITH  
SAFETY**

**MEMBERS**

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

**MISSION**

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

**Members:** Sgt. Todd Horn, Robert Andler, Chris Hardy, James Foley, Ken Hutler, Trace Frost, Joseph Ruf, Chuck Miller, Avis Link, Joe Davis, Ryan Mayer

**Guests:** Tom Borgkvist (Town of Ft. Winnebago County Supervisor), Amy Sandow (Columbus Emergency Management), Kaye Pare (Go Riteway Bus Service), Brian Ecklor (Kobussen Buses), Timothy Klade (Kobussen Buses), Gerald Nitzh (Lamer's Bus Lines), Paul Mennen (Lamer's Bus Lines), Sue Trimmer (Madison College), Alex Vandenberg (Zion Lutheran School), Fred Steinhorst (Wisconsin Dells Schools), Margaret Rudolph (Portage Schools), and Raymond Bontrager (Amish Schools).

**The meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission was called to order: 9:30 a.m. by Sgt. Todd Horn. An attendance sheet was distributed.**

***Motion by Andler to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.***

***Motion by Hardy to approve the 05/11/18 meeting minutes. Seconded by Foley. Motion carried.***

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1.** Newly placed CTH C and STH 60 rumble strip noise complaint (Bob and Karen Kronberg). ***Motion by Foley to table this discussion, seconded by Horn. Motion carried.***

**2.** TSC Budget – At the last meeting a motion was passed to move forward with creating a budget and accepting donations to be used for upcoming traffic safety matters and funds to help support already established traffic safety programs in the county. Sgt. Todd Horn spoke with the accounting department in regards to establishing a donations-type budget for use in future traffic safety programs. Accounting advised that the contacts for this account would be Mark Zimmerman and Robyn Preston. Accounting advised that they would need a name for the account. ***Motion by Foley to name the account Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission. Seconded by Hardy. Motion carried.***

3. **Federal Highway – Plan Development** Chris Hardy, Highway Commissioner advised he has been working with Federal Highway to develop a road safety plan to identify problem locations/issues and how to implement solutions. More information to come at November and January meetings.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Safe Driving Project – Portage High School** A short video was created by the Portage High School FBLA and HOSA students in regards to safe driving behavior in the parking lots of Portage High School. The video was played, discussion followed. Mention was made about the Distracted Driving PSA made by Indian Community School in Milwaukee in collaboration with the DOT.
2. **City of Columbus – Improving intersections at Park and Avalon – Park and Tower** with possible crossing guards, better painted lines, flashing lights, etc. Students within a two mile radius of the school must find own way to school unless cognitive issue or area poses safety hazard. The district reportedly has been over-bussing students within the area. Discussion followed regarding options for improving safety of students at both of the above locations. Sgt. Todd Horn provided squad video of the problem areas. The following issues were noted and discussed:
  - High traffic volume on Park St. (Hwy 73) including heavy truck traffic and railroad crossing
  - Avalon Road connects Hwy 73 and Hwy 89, therefor has a high traffic volume, no sidewalks.
  - Tower Drive has high traffic volume due to being shortcut to the Hwy 16/Hwy 151/Hwy 60 area.
  - Farnham Street has sidewalk on one side of street but not the other, and there is a small area where the sidewalks do not touch.
  - The need for installing ADA compliant crosswalk at Avalon Rd. and Summit Street.
  - Possibilities of an additional crossing guard at Park and Tower along with painted crosswalk, signage, and use of LED lighting for crosswalk.

***Motion by Horn to advise city of Columbus of improvement possibilities including crosswalk, increased signage and additional crossing guard, seconded by Foley. Motion carried.*** Sgt. Horn to draft letter to city of Columbus to look into the issues/matter. Lt. Weiner of Columbus Police Department and Paul Mennen of Lamers Bus Lines will review all suggestions.

3. **Intersection of CM and CX for potential signing options, particularly travelling westbound on CM to turn southbound on CTH CX.** Concerns addressed about the issue with westbound vehicles on CTH CM pulling out from the stop sign to head south on CTH CX. With the hill at that location and speed of traffic there are visibility concerns. Discussion followed. Chris Hardy suggested a traffic study be conducted in the area between this time and the next meeting, current signage be evaluated, and accident history be looked into further. ***A motion was made by Horn to conduct the traffic study, evaluate current signage, and look further into the accidents. Seconded by Foley. Motion carried.***

## **FATAL CRASH REPORT**

Sgt. Todd Horn presented information on one fatal accident that occurred on June 22, 2018 at approximately 12:00 p.m. on CTH CM and Dixon Road near Neenah Creek.

## **TRANSPORTATION SAFETY REPORT AND TRAFFIC SAFETY INPUT**

- It was reported that there have been 339 fatalities on Wisconsin highways since January 1, 2018. Columbia County has had six fatalities year-to-date.
- There is a new phone app for seatbelt surveys, 89% seatbelt usage reported last year.
- Governor's Conference on Highway Safety in Lake Geneva on 8/22/18 and 8/23/18. The Drone Network will be there talking about use of drones at crash scenes, for traffic enforcement, and search and rescue. There will be a presentation on the life cycle of crashes which includes coroners, law enforcement and EMS. There will be a law enforcement luncheon Thursday at noon. There will be a drawing for equipment which includes radar, PBT and speed board trailer.
- The county profile is done and is a public document found under the TSC Resource page.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- DOT is scoping a project on Hwy 113 at CTH V for cutting the hill. They are also looking at placing guardrails on the S-curves south of that location.
- John Heil, town of Scott advised of numerous complaints received of passenger vehicles exceeding speed limit of 45 mph on Ross Road. Sgt. Todd Horn will put out information to the deputies in regards to traffic enforcement at that location.
- FFY 2019 Columbia County has been targeted for OWI and seatbelt grants again to help provide funding for necessary resources.
- Columbia County, Wisconsin Dells PD, and Portage PD will be participating in Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign from 8/17/18 to 9/3/18.

## **WELCOME GUESTS – SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND BUS COMPANIES**

Sgt. Todd Horn began by thanking everyone for being present today. Committee and guest introductions were made. Round table discussion was opened up for any questions, concerns, or problems the schools and bus companies were facing involving traffic safety. The following issues were discussed:

- Kobussen Bus Company representatives spoke about continued issues in Harmony Grove at the intersection of CTH V, CTH J, and Richards Road even though intersection is well marked and includes flashing red stop sign and rumble strips.
- The bus companies stated that they liked the online bus passing complaint form on the Sheriff's website, but would like more follow up from COSO deputies once complaint is filed and would like to know the outcome. The bus companies also stated that most of the time there is video footage of the incident that can be downloaded if needed for a case. Sgt. Horn will email the deputies in regards to this. It was also requested a field be created on the bus passing form to include the email address of the complainant filling out the form as well as adding a yes/no checkbox for if there is video the violation. This information will be relayed to Sgt. Schutz who is able to add it to the website.
- General discussion about safety belts on busses. There is reportedly nothing from the state or federal level at this time requiring belt for school bus passengers. Discussion followed. The state recommendation and local protocols advise drivers to keep children out of the back seats unless they are at full capacity.
- Discussion about school bus monitors being used. One school district has a monitor for every bus route.
- GPS tracking in use by the bus companies at this time.

- A bus company brought up use of the School Bus Stop Ahead Signs and a review of where they are placed so that if they are no longer needed at a location they can be moved to another location within the township that could benefit. This would eliminate additional cost of signs to the township.
- Safety Grants were discussed. Round 1 has been awarded and schools are now on to Round 2 of the grants. Sgt. Todd Horn has been trained in doing school safety assessments and is willing to go around to the school districts to perform them if requested.
- Sgt. Horn, Deputy Jenatchek, and Lt. Hoege are doing Active Shooter presentations regionally and are looking for locations around the county to host. Presentations have been done in Portage and Lodi. They are looking for hosts in the Wisconsin Dells, Cambria, and Columbus areas.
- Active Shooter Situations on the bus were discussed. Lamers Bus Service was aware of a training video and will forward the information to Sgt. Horn for review.
- Amish schools are not having any reported issues with students walking to school. The Amish schools distribute a handbook/workbook to all students that educates them about traffic safety.
- Schools appreciated the 4:00 a.m. weather report given by Columbia County Highway reference the bus routes/plowing. Highway will be doing this again this year. Bill Harper will call to coordinate contacts again in mid-October.
- Discussion about the Town of Hampden Hwy 60 School Bus Stop Ahead signage
- Issues with vehicles parking on Woodcrest on both sides of street making it difficult for buses to get out of parking lot. Also, issues with parking on East Slifer Street and discussion reference the possibility of painting a portion of the curb yellow for no parking eastbound on East Slifer at the intersection of New Pinery. Issues regarding parking in the city of Portage should be referred to Lt. Rich Hoege of Portage Police Department.
- Contact information sheets were given out to all the bus companies present requesting updated information for emergency contacts, number of buses and drivers, and the school districts they bus for. Emergency Management to follow up in regards to this information and provide to the COSO Dispatch Center the information when received as well.

***Motion by Andler to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 a.m. Seconded by Hardy. Motion Carried.***

**Next Meeting Date:** Friday, November 9, 2018 at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marie Darling Ellis  
Columbia County Emergency Management