



COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Columbia County Law Enforcement Center
Law Enforcement Training Room
August 14, 2020 @ 9:30 AM

MOVING FORWARD WITH SAFETY

MEMBERS

Jerry Blystone
Roger Brandner
Michael Brouette
James Foley
Trace Frost
Chris Hardy
Richard Hoege
Todd Horn
Kenneth Hutler
Kathy Johnson
Penny Kiefer
Avis Link
Chuck Miller
Barry Pufahl
Joseph Ruf
Charlene Schmid
Wayne Smith
Josh Sween
Mike Vasquez
JoAnn Wingers

MISSION

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

Commission Members Present: James Foley, Kathy Johnson, Ken Hutler, Chuck Miller, Chris Hardy, Richard Hoege, Todd Horn, Susan Fisher (Joe Ruf/Corp Counsel designee), Avis Link, Josh Sween, Wayne Smith, Ryan Meyer (DOT via conference call), Charlene Schmid (DOT via conference call), Trace Frost

Commission Members Absent with Notice: Roger Brandner, Penny Kiefer, Barry Pufahl

Commission Members Absent: Jerry Blystone (did not receive meeting notice-not sure on reason), Mike Brouette, Mike Vasquez, JoAnn Wingers

Guests: Steve Minga (Town of Dekorra), Paul & Pat Swalve (Friends of Riggins Family), Patti Lardie (Town of Dekorra), Joe & Tami Wajnert (T. of Dekorra-Friends of Riggins Family), Deb Riggins (Wife of Steve Riggins), Jud Riggins (Son of Steve Riggins), Jean Minga (Tipperary Road Resident-Friend of Riggins Family), Gale Bahl (Friend of Riggins Family), Cathy Farin-Rusk (Friend of Riggins Family), Robert Templin (T. of Dekorra Resident), Laurie Lane (Tipperary Road/Town of Dekorra Resident), Ellen Knuteson-Keller (Friend of Riggins Family), Andrea Murray (Friend of Riggins Family), Doug Hall (Hwy JV), Michael Esser (Grade/CS & V Intersection), Camille Richards (Friend of Riggins Family), Kyle Knuteson (T. of Dekorra Chair)

The meeting of the Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Cpt. Todd Horn. Introductions were made by all present. An attendance sheet was distributed.

Motion by Foley to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Hoege. Motion carried.

Motion by Hutler to approve the February 14, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Foley. Motion carried.

Membership Update: Trace Frost replaces Joe Davis for BOTS, Charlene Schmid replaces Ryan Meyer for DOT, Josh Sween replaces Margaret Rudolph for Portage School District, and Wayne Smith replaces Scott Klicko for Lodi Police Department.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Traffic Study and Discuss CTH JV from USH 51 to CTH B for a requested speed reduction to 45mph. (08/26/19 email to Capt. Horn from Mark Staven): Chris Hardy presented the results of a traffic study and a map overview of the area and gave statistics. See Attachment. Speed was discussed at the previous meeting. There was discussion regarding to placing sign to a different location. Chris explained criteria for roads and signage. Chris's recommendation was to move the 45 mph sign approximately 600 feet to east which is near the two homes on CTH JV. This would be approximately 100 feet east of the last resident. *A motion was made by Rich Hoege under the recommendation of Chris Hardy. The motion was seconded by Todd Horn. Motion carried. This recommendation will be presented to the September 2020 Highway Committee by Chris Hardy and the TSC (Traffic Safety Commission) meeting minutes.*
2. Follow-up on CTH V/J/Richards Road for a traffic study and safety concerns at the intersection: Chris Hardy gave an overview of the crash history, stated that there was an upgrade of a right turn lane added to the intersection in 2015. Design engineers, from Ayers Associates, state that the improvements are doing what they are supposed to as there is no uptick in crashes. No further action.
3. Update on options for passing lanes on STH 33 eastbound at CTH F/CTH EE and beyond: Todd Horn discussed issue with area and would like to see two lanes, one for a passing lane in the area. Community Maps was displayed showing the area of concern. Charlene Schmid from the DOT stated that there is a resurfacing project scheduled for 2025 and it is to late to change the scope of work for this project. The project could be advanced to 2022 depending on funding. Horn suggested that this project should be looked at if it is not happening until 2025. Charlene explained what is entailed in making a passing lane and in reviewing the issue and options, there is a historical site (Surgeon's Quarters) that also plays a big factor in what they can do as well. There was discussion whether an option could be to move CTH F up to CTH EE. She stated they would take a look at this option that that it could possibly be a state paid project. Charlene will continue to review this project. *A motion was made by Foley to table the topic until the TSC November 2020 meeting. Horn seconded the motion. Motion carried.*
4. Review intersection of CTH CS and CTH V for potential safety measure options (stop sign, rumble strips, cut brush back, paint white stop lines). (Knuteson Memo/Teitgen Support Letter): Chris Hardy displayed a map and speed study data of the area and gave a summary. Speeds not an issue. Horn suggested an option of placing a stop sign on CTH V coming up to CTH CS. Horn also stated that the current parking lot on the grade is insufficient for parking trucks and boat trailers in the area. Letters of recommendations were sent to the TSC from local residents. Several residents of the area, friends of the Riggins Family, (Steve Riggins killed at this intersection on January ##, 2020), as well as Mrs. Riggins and son were present to read a letter, express their concerns, and give ideas and recommendations. Some recommendations were 45 mph should be 35 mph, adding third stop sign on CTH V, no parking near CTH CS/V near stop sign. Chris Hardy explained the financial restraints and stated there is no funding out ten years other than for sealing. He stated that signage is not difficult, but that there are many things to have to look at the whole situation/area. Chris's recommendation would be to place double stop signs on CTH CS & CTH V and place reflective tape on the posts. A group of township folks were willing to pay for flashing stop signs. Chris explained how placing those sets a precedence throughout the county and involves more than

just purchasing and placing the signs. There is also an issue with the amount of signage in the area of that intersection that could be distracting. A tree blocks the view on the corner of CTH CS/V. It is not in the right-of-way. It was discussed whether someone could go and talk to the homeowner, explain the issue, and see if they would trim it up from the bottom for more visibility. *A motion was made by Wayne Smith to make the CTH CS/V intersection a three way stop which includes adding a stop sign on CTH V Southbound, placing a second stop sign on both CTH CS westbound and CTH V eastbound, no parking signs on CTH CS/V for 500 feet, and decrease the 45 mph speed zone to 35 mph on CTH CS from Smith Road to the entire grade, CTH V. The motion was seconded by Josh Sween. Motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

1. Install permanent gates on Levee Road Portage at I39 and county line: Chris Hardy gave recommendations to installing permanent gates on Levee Road from I39 to the county line. He suggested they place large rocks in the area of the county line so they cannot drive around the gates, and the gates could be secured to the back of the guardrail near the I39 bridge. The DNR suggested the project and is willing to pay for the project. *The project was tabled until the November 2020 TSC meeting. A motion was made by Rich Hoege and seconded by Ken Hutler. Motion carried.*
2. Speed limit reduction request on CTH V, Lodi Town Hall segment. (Citizen Randy Patrick email request 07/09/20): A map of the area of CTH V, Lodi Town Hall, was displayed and Chris Hardy and committee discussed the concern. There is no concern on crashes. *A motion made by Todd Horn to have the Columbia County Sheriff's Office provide some speed enforcement/extra patrol and that no speed study was needed at this time. Chuck Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.*
3. Review area of CTH I for possible placement of stop signs at CTH I and Curtis Street and CTH I and Ellickson Street. (Citizen Gregory Schill request: A map of the area was displayed and the concern was discussed. The Village of Arlington contracts with the Poynette Police Department for law enforcement. *A motion was made by Rich Hoege to contact the Poynette Police Department for extra patrol of the area. Wayne Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.*
4. Consider rumble strip installation for CTH SS at CTH P intersection: A map of the areas was displayed with discussion of the area. Chris Hardy suggested installing rumble strips. *A motion was made by Rich Hoege to install rumble strips and contact the resident near the intersection. Wayne Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.*
5. Draft Ordinance: Title 12-8 Highway Access for Special Events: Todd Horn gave some background on special events, wanting to create an ordinance to hold an event, and discussed that they have reviewed an ordinance from Iowa County. Todd Horn stated that Columbia County would like to have control over some of these events/issues. Chris Hardy shared a draft copy of the amended Title 12 ordinance for this. The Title 12-8 Ordinance was reviewed. *A motion was made by Chris Hardy if the TSC was okay with the initial layout of the ordinance, send to the Highway Committee and the Public Safety Committee/Columbia County Sheriff's Office to be defined, then take to the County Board and bring back to the TSC. Todd Horn seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

FATAL CRASH REPORT

Trace Frost gave an overview on the fatal report and Columbia County is slightly above last years numbers. He also discussed Community Maps and that you can now define by Police Departments.

A new feature under "Advance" is that you can drill down on areas to get to crash sites.

Todd Horn presented information for the Fatal Crash Report. We have had several crashes which included a June 12, 2020 interstate crash involving four fatalities, more info below. He gave brief information for crashes on March 13, 2020 at STH 60/Schoepp Road, June 11, 2020 at STH 51/Phillips Road, June 14, 2020 at CTH AA, June 18, 2020 at CTH SS/P, July 12, 2020, CTH B, July 13, 2020 at STH 151/STH 73, 7/13/2020 at STH 33, July 17, 2020 at Genrich Road, and June 12, 2020 on the interstate at the 120 mm which included three separate crashes resulting in four fatalities. It was discussed that this crash caused many traffic issues and secondary issues. Rich Hoege discussed the issue with the backup on STH 51 and the fact that all three lanes of interstate traffic come into Portage. There needs to be a plan to move traffic more efficiently to STH 16/I39. Ryan Meyer asked if Portage could adjust the traffic lights. Todd Horn suggested that if they could split the traffic and have some go a couple different ways to disperse the traffic better. Rich Hoege suggested having traffic go on STH 60 to STH 12 in Sauk/Prairie du Sac would help.

OTHER BUSINESS

These items were conveyed and to be added to the November 2020 TSC agenda.

- Wayne Smith discussed an issue at STH 60 & STH 113 intersection. It is a four way stop and the parking spots on STH 60 are being used as a turning lane when no cars are present and is causing issues. He is looking for suggestions. Chris Hardy stated that anything outside of the lane would be at the city's expense. Charlene Schmid from the DOT stated that she would meet up with Wayne and review the situation. Chris Hardy will help with the coordination of this.
- Schwantz Road – Town of Wyocena – traffic and speeds are a concern. Area resident Doug Cole suggested extending the 35 mph speed zone and install chevrons.
- Town of Lewiston – John Simonson would like to see a speed reduction on STH 16 west out to Industrial Road.
- Rich Hoege suggested chevron signs be placed on the I39 exit to east bound STH 16.
- Charlene Schmid to review these next meeting items before the November meeting.

Chris Hardy discussed the CTH CS intersection in the Village of Poynette near the new school. It will be a three way stop with crosswalks.

A motion was made by Hardy to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:21 AM.

Next Meeting Date: November 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m. at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kathleen M. Johnson

Secretary, Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission