



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
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.....

COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Columbia County Law Enforcement Center
Law Enforcement Training Room
November 13, 2020 @ 9:30 AM

Commission Members Present: James Foley, Ken Hutler, Chuck Miller, Chris Hardy, Richard Hoege, Todd Horn, Susan Fisher (Joe Ruf/Corp Counsel designee), Mike Brouette, Josh Sween, Charlene Schmid (DOT via conference call), Trace Frost (DOT via conference call)

Commission Members Absent with Notice: Jerry Blystone, Roger Brandner, Penny Kiefer, Kathy Johnson

Commission Members Absent: Mike Vasquez, JoAnn Wingers, Avis Link, Wayne Smith

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 Hutler. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Traffic Study and Discuss CTH JV from USH 51 to CTH B for a requested speed reduction to 45mph. (update from Chris Hardy on the September Highway Committee presentation) Chris Hardy advised that the new locations have been posted and will be in the ordinance update for January.

2. Update on options for passing lanes on STH 33 eastbound at CTH F/CTH EE and beyond: Discussion with Charlene Schmid DOT in regard to concerns and best possible options for the area due to eastbound rear end crashes. ***Motion by Miller to make recommendation to the state in favor of a turn lane to make the area safer. Seconded by Hutler. Motion carried.***

Charlene will discuss further findings from DOT reference this at the February meeting.

3. Review intersection of CTH CS and CTH V for potential safety measure options. (Update from Chris Hardy on September Highway Committee presentation and improvements made) Chris Hardy advised that the 35 mph signs have been moved back closer to Smith Road and the stop signs have been placed. The no parking signs will be placed on Whalen's Grade the second week of December. The chevrons and curve signage along with pulling signs from intersection area will be done around that time as well.
4. Install permanent gates on Levee Road Portage at I39 and county line: Chris Hardy spoke reference the recommendation of installing permanent gates on Levee Road at the county line near I39. These would be pipe gates with a lock that goes through with guardrail on each side. Large boulders will be placed so that people cannot drive around them. The purpose of this project is for public safety during flooding incidents as well as the safety of the levee. Chris Hardy advised of the ongoing issue with people moving the barricades and even cutting the locks to move them to go around. Highway and the DNR would have access to locks. Chris Hardy will get the project finalized and advise of cost at the February meeting.
5. Consider rumble strip installation for CTH SS at CTH P intersection. (Update from Hardy) Chris Hardy advised he spoke with the neighbors (Jim and Alice Weishard) in area and they are in favor of the rumble strips. They would be placed northbound and southbound on CTH SS. This would be a relatively inexpensive fix with a cost estimate of approximately \$1,500. ***A motion was made by Hutler to make a recommendation to the Highway Committee to go forward with the rumble strips on CTH SS. Seconded by Miller. Motion Carried.***
6. Draft Ordinance: Title 12-8 Highway Access for Special Events: (Update from Hardy of Highway Committee meeting) Chris Hardy advised that an early version was reviewed by TSC, and was forwarded to and has passed the Highway Committee. It has been reviewed by the Ad-Hoc Ordinance Committee and will be forwarded on in the process of the Ad-Hoc Ordinance reviews. Path for approvals is the Executive Committee and the County Board.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review speed limit at Dekorra Park on CTH V. (Margie Meinzer email 8/17/20) Concerns discussed reference a blind driveway as you travel down the hill westbound CTH V near the boat landing. Drivers cannot see pedestrians crossing the road at the boat landing until cresting the hill causing a dangerous situation. The current speed limit is 35 miles per hour. There are 25 mph slow down warning signs and a sign westbound warning of pedestrian crossing. ***A motion was made by Horn to have Highway assess the area to include looking at current signage, trees that could be trimmed to improve visibility, flags on pedestrian crossing signs, and possibility of crosswalk at this location and report back to the committee. Seconded by Miller. Motion Carried.***
2. Review area of Chrislaw Road off HWY 113 for a possible speed reduction. (8/16/20 Anne Lembcke email) Chrislaw Road is approximately 1 1/2 mile stretch of road between HWY 113 and CTH J that is designated as a State of Wisconsin Rustic Road. This road is very narrow at approximately 18 feet wide and there are numerous sharp turns and hills. The complainant was concerned due to the increase in foot traffic to the area. The road does not appear to have a posted speed limit and is being travelled at 55 miles per hour. Charlene Schmid of DOT advised that per statute 346.57 (4)(k) and 83.42(3) any road designated as a Rustic Road should be posted at 45 miles per hour. ***A motion was made by Horn to draft letter to the township reference designated Rustic Road to be posted at 45 miles per hour per state statute. Seconded by Miller. Motion passed.***

3. Review speed limit on HWY 16 from Boeck Road to Klappstein Road (John Simonson) Requestor advised that there are 107 homes and 19 businesses who access that stretch of road on Hwy 16 and that the speed limit should be lowered to 45 mph. The Oakwood Estates Trailer Park and the Portage Industrial Park are located here. ***A motion was made by Hoege to get updated video of the area and table the discussion until the next meeting. Seconded by Horn. Motion passed.***
4. Speed Limit Schwantz Road between CTH P and East Bush Road. The roadway is signed 25 mph on Schwantz. At Abel Road it becomes 35mph. There are no speed limit or end speed zone signs. Concerns due to the curve with a hill involved. Chris Hardy discussed speed study done at this location. Discussion followed. ***Motion by Miller to extend the speed limit south of the curve and place end speed zone signs. Seconded by Horn. Motion passed.***

FATAL CRASH REPORT

Todd Horn presented information for the Fatal Crash Report. We have had several crashes which included an August 28, 2020 crash on Tipperary Road near Whalen's Grade. The driver of a full-size van lost control of vehicle while eastbound on Tipperary Road. The driver struck an embankment and overcorrected and crossed onto the opposite side of the roadway and struck a pedestrian that was walking along the roadway against traffic. The pedestrian died as a result. Excessive speed and overcorrection were causes for this crash.

On October 18, 2020, a one vehicle crash occurred on Patchin Road near Cummings Road. The driver/lone occupant of the vehicle was travelling westbound and entered the south ditch striking a large tree. The driver was pinned and was not wearing a seatbelt and died from the injuries sustained in the crash.

Trace Frost gave an overview on the fatal report. There have been 523 people killed in traffic crashes on Wisconsin roads so far this year. Last year at this time we had 491. Columbia county has had 14 traffic fatalities, compared to 9 at this time last year. Motorcycle fatalities have increased this year with 99 drivers and 12 passengers killed thus far. Last year at this time there were 78 deaths of drivers and 6 of passengers,

A motion was made by Hardy to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM.

Next Meeting Date: February 12, 2021, 9:30 a.m. at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marie Darling Ellis

On behalf of Secretary Kathleen Johnson, Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission

