

LA CROSSE COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012
 La Crosse County Administration Building Room B390
 1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Berg, Brad Byom, Jackie Eastwood, Matt Gallager,
 Tim Hammes, Ilona Hansen, Thomas Knoop, Robert Koenen,
 Bill Lubinski, Roland Solberg, Evan Stone

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER:

Sgt. Bill Lubinski, Committee Coordinator, called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Matt Gallager, seconded by Tim Hammes, to approve the August 8, 2012 Highway Safety Commission minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

LA CROSSE COUNTY CRASH DATA FOR 3rd QUARTER OF 2012

2012	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	Yearly Total
Sheriff Department					
Hit & run	15	9	7		31
Car/deer	69	75	44		188
Injury	26	30	37		93
Property damage	65	73	48		186
Fatalities	0	2	0		2
Sub-total	175	189	136		500
Comparison of Prior Year Totals	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	Total
2003	214	190	186	317	907
2004	199	195	162	295	851
2005	224	234	147	313	918
2006	215	192	150	251	808
2007	245	168	182	280	875
2008	228	150	158	284	820
2009	178	137	144	246	705
2010	177	128	126	260	691
2011	180	168	144	211	703
2012	175	189	136		

The average of 3rd quarter accidents from 2003 to 2012 in La Crosse County is 143.5. This is below average for the 3rd quarter. Of the crashes, 10 involved the use of alcohol (4 of the 10

were injury accidents, 6 were property damage and there were no fatality crashes). In the 3rd quarter there were 92 reportable crashes with 227 occupants, 190 reported using seatbelts for an 83% compliance rate. Seven crashes were hit and run and two of those were injury crashes.

WISDOT UPDATES & HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN SOLICITATION

Thomas Knoop reported the state not having a good year; the good news being that over the last week they went from being up about 70 over last year to being up just under 60. Currently they are up 56 fatalities last year and up 36 crashes. Thus, more fatalities per crash; up slightly. They are still well above the five year average also, at 524 versus 543.

In regard to motorcycles, as was predicted with the good weather, the state finished out with a miserable season for motorcycle fatalities; as of this morning the number was at 30. Passengers up by 36, pedestrians down by 12.

In terms of fatalities by month; June was up by 6, July was up by 16, August was down 58, September was up 32 (a fairly significant portion of those were motorcycles), October was even with last year and November is on track to be relatively safe.

La Crosse County is having a good year compared to last year in terms of fatalities; at 7 for the year versus 17 for all of last year. Eight is the five year average.

In reference to tracking of statewide adult arrests for OWI by county between 1994-2010, the progression varies over the years with regard to La Crosse County (i.e. 830 arrests back in 1994, 685 in 2010, and as high as 1,015 back in 2004). The state typically follows the same pattern with the exception of being up slightly at the end of the 15 year period.

In reference to tracking of statewide juvenile arrests for OWI by county between 1995-2010 (under 18 years of age), La Crosse County had 12 arrests back in 1995 and 6 in 2010.

In reference to 2011 crashes by county and highway class with inattentive driving listed as driver possible circumstance by crash severity, total killed and total injured; La Crosse County had four fatal crashes resulting in four fatalities and 198 injury crashes resulting in 263 injuries.

In reference to 2011 alcohol related crashes by county; La Crosse County had two fatal crashes with four fatalities and 50 injury crashes with 61 injuries.

Laws of the Month include:

- November 2012: How to meet the challenges of winter driving in Wisconsin.
- December 2012: December is National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month; Drugged drivers in Wisconsin face severe punishments.

Wisconsin Act 164:

This act went into effect November 1st, 2012. No one in this state who holds a probationary or instructional permit may drive any motor vehicle while using a cell phone except for reporting an emergency. Fines are not less than \$20 nor more than \$40 for the first offense and not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 for the 2nd or subsequent conviction within a year.

GUNDERSEN LUTHERAN SIGNAGE UPDATE

Rob Koenen reported on the setting up of a camera at the 7-mile marker, facing into the cross-over. The camera caught a fatality on film. It appeared that the driver of unit 1 actually stopped in the traffic lane, backing up on the Interstate to use the cross-over. The car was then rear ended by another vehicle. It is unknown if the driver of unit 1 was attempting to get to Gundersen Lutheran. In addition, regarding the number of cross-over traffic stops that were made; ten traffic stops have been initiated since they started keeping track of the cross-over's. Four of those; the individuals admitted that they were going to the clinic.

Brad Byom reported that Gundersen Lutheran is pursuing the relocation of their signs.

Tim Berg expressed that if there ever came a day when signs were approved, he would like to see the State Patrol, a representative from Onalaska PD and a representative from the County to all get together with the WisDOT and put some thought into this to figure out what type of sign should be placed where.

Bill Lubinski suggested the possibility of inviting an assembly person to the next meeting, as well as a representative from Gundersen Lutheran to discuss this issue. Ronald Solberg suggested inviting Jennifer Schilling. The fact that safety is a main concern should be stressed during the meeting. Tim Berg suggested that Mayo should also be contacted, due to the fact that they also have a clinic out in that area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/DISCUSSION

Bill Lubinski reported that on October 24th, 2012 a committee met in Madison on the MV4000 crash report revision. The committee came up with new attributes (sections) for the MV4000 crash report that the officers on the street complete for all crashes over \$1000 in damage. There are 90 new attributes and many of them are required by the Federal Government. The new form is slated to come out in January 2014. As of now, everything that was created with this new form was sent to Madison and they will decide who will be the caretaker of the project (who will develop it, etc.).

Rob Koenen brought up the issue of deer carcasses along the roadsides and the fact that they are not getting picked up in a timely manner. There was a motion by Tom Knoop, seconded by Ilona Hansen, for a letter to be sent to the DNR advising them of the subpar performance of the current contractor in charge of picking up deer carcasses. Brad Byom will get the contact information to Bill Lubinski and Bill will draft a letter and have it sent out before the next meeting. A copy of the letter will also be sent out to the committee via email.

Matt Gallagher reported on the Safe Kids USA program. The state brought in a coordinator to select a location for grant money and Southern Bluffs Elementary School was selected; applied for and awarded a \$25,000 grant to make improvements with regard to safety for kids. The grant money is to be spent by the end of next year. A small task force was put together including staff from various departments, looking at the site and made recommendations to try to improve circulating traffic on their property as well as many public traffic conditions as possible (i.e. cross walks, speeding vehicles, etc.). This is a case where the school is in the city but the highway (35) that it is on is the jurisdiction of county/state, so any changes that happen to the streets would have to go through the state. One of the main concerns is the speeding on Highway 35. Bill Lubinski commented on the known traffic problem there with parents dropping their kids off in the morning and driving back out at the same time the busses are coming in, thus creating a backup out on Highway 35.

Tim Berg reported on the First Free church on Mason Street (Mason Street/Highway 35). They are having trouble after their Sunday services getting out onto the highway. It is Tim's understanding that there is going to be a roundabout there. Brad Byom reported that the project is out at least two years. Tim Berg reports that the church contacted the Onalaska Police Department on November 13th requesting police officers to direct traffic after their service. As this area is within the County's jurisdiction, they will be contacting the Sheriff's Department regarding the situation.

Tim Berg reported that they took delivery of their 7x14 equipment trailer from the state and they are in the process of getting it outfitted. The state was very kind to buy the trailer and Onalaska PD now will be looking into finding the funds to get it outfitted. The plan is to have it stocked with barricades, cones, sandbags, warning signs, etc. so that when there is a fatality the trailer can be pulled out and setup right away. The trailer will also be available for the Sheriff's Department to use.

Tim Berg reported that they trained their tow providers yesterday at their annual November training session and the plan is to look into the idea of a delayed recovery of towing vehicles when the roads are slippery and/or hazardous, especially up on Highway 33 and waiting until the roads are safer for travel. Tim feels this is the right thing to do because it decreases the chance of officers or tow personnel getting hit while on scene. A plan being thought out is to make a tag to put on the vehicle naming the towing company to tow the vehicle. Dispatch will then contact the towing company informing them of the vehicle that needs towing later on, when road conditions have improved.

Brad Byom reported on safety project updates. There is an intersection improvement project going on at Highway 53 and Old Highway 93 (the intersection at the end of the 4-lane section); which is getting constructed next summer. In addition, there is a delay to the project at the northbound off ramp on Highway 53 and Sand Lake Road. The project could get done next year, but may not be completed until the following year. The next safety project is on County Road OA from County Road FO to Drectrah Road between West Salem and La Crosse. This project is to begin sometime after March of next year and consists of one short section where there is a sharp curve that will be realigned and the remainder is a county project to resurface the road.

DATES FOR 2013 MEETINGS

February 13th, May 8th, August 14th and November 13th @ 1:30 PM.

AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2012 MEETING

Items to be included on the February 13, 2012 agenda are La Crosse County crash data 4th quarter, WisDOT Updates and Highway Safety Plan Solicitation, Interstate signage concerns, announcements/discussion and set agenda for the May 8, 2013 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Thomas Knoop, seconded by Tim Berg, to adjourn the meeting at 2:51 P.M. Motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Approved 2/13/13, Lisa Bruring, Recorder
Amended 2/13/13, Lisa Bruring, Recorder