



PORTAGE COUNTY

PORTAGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LEC TRAINING ROOM
1500 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

MEETING MINUTES

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

10:00 AM

REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial 1-608-338-1399, after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 341 970 554, then press #

To attend this meeting by video: email snowk@co.portage.wi.us no later than June 6th, 2022 to request an invite be sent to you.

Due to COVID-19 and the potential risk to members of the public who attend meetings in-person, any person who plans to attend the meeting remotely, but wishes to comment on an agenda item can send their comments via email to snowk@co.portage.wi.us. The deadline for sending comments by email is 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Emailed comments will be delivered to committee members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Remote comments by the public during the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to Order at 10:02AM (Snow)

Members Present: N Check, J Ostrowski, B Beaudoin, T Kemnitz, D Kontos, J Gemza, J Pavelski, D Jankowski, B Noel, H Schultz, C Loiselle, T Reed, B Weinert

Members Excused: R Stertz

Members Absent: D Brugman, C Budzinski, D Ray, A Haga, J Mueller

Others Present: K Snow, S Akkala

1. Quorum Call; Introductions as Needed

A quorum of the Traffic Safety Commission was present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2. Nominations and Voting for President and Vice President
 - President - Kate Snow called for nominations for President. A motion was made by Craig Loiselle to nominate Josh Ostrowski for TSC President. Kate Snow called three times for nominations. No other nominations were made. A motion was made by Don Jankowski, seconded by Dan Kontos, to appoint Josh Ostrowski TSC President. Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.
 - Vice President - Josh Ostrowski called for nominations for Vice President. A motion was made by Ben Beaudoin to nominate Craig Loiselle for TSC Vice President. Josh Ostrowski called three times for nominations. No other nominations were made. A motion was made by Don Jankowski, seconded by Josh Ostrowski, to appoint Craig Loiselle TSC Vice President, Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

Steve Akkala is present at the meeting and will address the committee on Item #17, the Cty J Speed Study.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. Approval of the March 1st, 2022 Minutes

Motion by Check, seconded by Loiselle, to approve the March 1st, 2022 Minutes. Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

REPORTS

4. Status of Highway Construction and Safety Project/Repair Proposals

- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Portage County Highway Department
- Municipal Projects

WISDOT (Kemnitz)

- Business 51 (Springville to Hickory) - Ongoing new urban roadway project, Completion by 10/15/22
- I 39 Bridge Deck Rehabilitations - Hwy B project was re-scoped for complete bridge deck replacement, constructing median crossovers, Completion mid-Oct
- Hy 10 (Country Club to Wildwood) - Intersection improvements and bridge rehabilitation, currently NB I 39 ramp is closed, Completion May 2023
- I 39 (Birch Dr to Waushara County line) - Resurfacing of SB lanes, roadway open to traffic with single lane in each direction, Construction Aug 1 to mid-Oct
- I 39 (Cty X to Marathon County line) - Resurfacing of NB lanes, roadway open to traffic with single lane in each direction, ramp closures allowed overnight, Construction July 5 to Aug 15
- County Y bridge over Plover River - bridge removal and new construction, Pre-construction meeting held in May, Cty Y detour along Cty J to Hy 66, July 5 to Sept 15

County Highway Dept (Check)

- Cty HH (Stevens Point to Cty PP) - Resurfacing and culvert replacement, roadway open with flaggers but may require full closure
- County wide chipsealing project - mainly on eastern side of county with maps on county website, mid to end of July
- Cty Z (Edgewood to Cty A) - Off roadway clearing continues, grading will begin in Aug and go thru Sept/early Oct

Municipal Projects - not present

5. County Highway Safety Coordinator Report

Nothing to report.

6. Crash Spot Map

- Portage County Sheriff's Office
- Stevens Point Police Department
- Plover Police Department

Review of Q1 2022 Traffic Accident Statistics by Loiselle for PTSO and Noel for PLPD. One fatal crash in county with one fatality which may be reviewed at a future meeting.

7. WI DOT Traffic Safety Engineer's Report

Nothing to report.

8. Bureau of Transportation Safety Report

(Kontos)

- YTD 663 Crashes, 2 Fatalities, 136 Personal Injuries
- Review of top crash flags
- Impaired Driving is 5%, down from last year's 8.9% for Portage County
- Review of traffic-related bills signed into law including Driver Safety Plans, ATV/UTV Speed Limits and Green Vehicle Lamps

- July 27th is Speed Awareness Day
- Fatality Analysis Reporting System update
- Community Maps update to include ATV/UTV Crashes is coming soon. County Profiles are updated for 2022.

DISCUSSION

9. Traffic Safety Legislation

Nothing to report.

10. Emergency Medical Services Operations

Two new ambulances in the county system. (Gemza)

11. Traffic Incident Management Operations

Mulrooney has left the PTSO. Ostrowski will have updates on TIM's representative for committee. (Ostrowski)
Training notice on upcoming TIM Instructor course. (Kontos)

12. Upcoming Traffic Safety Training Opportunities

Nothing to report.

13. Public Education Programs and Opportunities

Nothing to report.

14. Traffic Safety Grant Updates

Nothing to report.

15. Locations of Traffic Hazards and Recommended Improvements

(Check)

- Cty MM East of Cty A - Increased attendance at charter school and increased traffic. Re-evaluating the school zone by traffic impact analysis and design.
- Cty Q North Cty KK in Amherst Junction - Speed zone study.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

16. Portage County Speed Study Policy (Check)

- Highway Dept receives a number of speed requests and no official policy on the county level on how to handle the requests.
- Review of draft of the policy and flow chart including how the request is initiated and review for who is responsible for paying for study. Speed zone reductions need to be approved through county ordinance.
- Involving the Traffic Safety Commission may slow down the process.
- If TSC is removed from the process, Highway Dept can still report the request and findings to the Commission.
- A motion was made by Josh Ostrowski, seconded by Don Jankowski, to remove the Traffic Safety Commission from the formal process to initiate a speed study. Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. Nathan Check will send Commission a copy of the adopted policy.

17. CTH J Speed Study and Address by Steve Akkala (Check/Kemnitz)

- Address by Steve Akkala regarding increased traffic and vehicle speeds on Cty J from Cty B to Old Highway 18. Steve Akkala presented research on driveway density, speed limit statutes, roadway geography, intersections.
- Steve Akkala asked Commission to lower speed limit on Cty J from Old Highway 18 to Cty HH to 45mph, install signs prohibiting use of Jake brakes, install school bus stop ahead signs.
- Steve Akkala presented petition signed by 27 members of the neighborhood.

- Nathan Check reviewed findings of two recent speed studies for that section of Cty J including crash history suggesting speed is not a contributing factor to accidents in the area and the speed data review for 85th percentile and 50th percentile speeds.
- Tony Kemnitz explains the correlation between semi-urban district and 85th percentile speed. Too great a speed differential can increase crashes.
- Josh Ostrowski stated extra patrols have been done in the area and show that excessive speeding is not a problem.
- Nathan Check also stated that Jake brake signs are not enforceable without local ordinance, requests need to come from the town and are hard to enforce. Requests for school bus signs need to come from the school district/transport company and are then studied for sight distance.
- Josh Ostrowski states based on findings, the Commission cannot take further action on this request and the request must go back to the Highway Department through official channels.
- Motion made by Josh Ostrowski for the request to continue through the formal process that will be adopted by the Highway Department. No second was made so motion died.

18. Portage County Analytics Project Update (Ostrowski)

- Josh Ostrowski gave update on Hy 10 and Cty B Analytics Project. Both requests for equipment for four messaging boards and extra enforcement hours have been approved. Proceeding through grant process.

19. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Regarding Special Meeting Attendance (Portage County Ordinance 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)

- Request for special meeting attendance
- Approval of attendance of special meetings
- Special meeting attendance reports

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

NEXT MEETING DATE September 6th, 2022 at 10:00 AM, LEC Training Room

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Reed, seconded by Kemnitz, to adjourn meeting. Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. Meeting adjourned at 11:18AM.

Notice: Any person who has special needs and plans on attending this meeting in-person or remotely should contact the Facilities Office at 715-346-1598 as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Notice: A quorum of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, or any committee thereof, may be present at this meeting.