

**WAUSHARA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 21, 2011**

The Waushara County Traffic Safety Commission meeting was called to order on October 21, 2011, at 9:30 A.M., by Sheriff David Peterson of the Waushara County Sheriff's Office.

Attendance is as follows:

Jeff Nett, Waushara County Sheriff's Office  
Tom Dahlke, Waushara County Highway Department  
Joe Piechowski, Waushara County Board Supervisor, Fire Officers Association  
Thomas Knoop, DOT/WSP/BOTS  
Darlene Masticola, Waushara County Sheriff's Office  
Sheriff David Peterson, Waushara County Sheriff's Office  
Ruth Zouski, Waushara County Corporation Counsel  
Tim Hanley, WISDOT NCR Traffic  
Katie Czeszynski, citizen  
Clyde Simonson, Wautoma Area School District  
Rhae Stertz, Wisconsin State Patrol

Motion was made by Jeff Nett and seconded by Tom Knoop to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Tom Dahlke and seconded by Jeff Nett to approve the minutes of the July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Waushara County Traffic Safety Commission meeting. Motion carried.

**Public Comments** – Katie Czeszynski voiced her concerns about the speed of vehicles traveling north or south bound on STH 22 near the dental/doctor clinics. Katie questioned if there could be some type of hidden driveway sign put up in the area as she did not feel it was safe for vehicles entering and exiting the driveways. Tom Dahlke indicated it was an open area and would not meet requirements for that type of sign. Sheriff Peterson advised approximately 3-4 years ago the State did a speed study in this area and the 45 Mph speed zone was extended out further. Sheriff Peterson also stated that the road is slightly higher than the driveways which are a visibility issue. Tom Dahlke stated this issue would not be solved with a speed limit change; it is more of an enforcement issue. Accident history was questioned; with Lt. Nett indicating there have been a few crashes with vehicles going northbound turning into the clinic, and quite a few car/deer crashes. Sheriff Peterson advised he and Lt. Nett would put out the speed trailer, and will schedule additional enforcement in the area as well. Tim Hanley advised the situation can be monitored, however, people pulling out of the clinic need to be aware of traffic also.

**Reports** - None

**Old Business**

A) Pedestrian Island Construction Update – City of Wautoma: Tim Hanley advised the project has already started; Chris Robbins is the project engineer, (920) 979-2357. In reference to the issue with vehicles passing school buses by the Village of Learning, Tim feels this will be taken care of with the new median, as eastbound traffic will no longer have to stop. Tom Dahlke voiced his concerns about various work zone safety issues which Tim stated he would discuss with the project director.

B) School Bus Display/The REF, at the Waushara County Fair: Sheriff Peterson advised the school bus passing information display was set up again at the Waushara County Fair. The display provides information on laws for stopping for school busses. Also on display at the fair was The REF, however, Sheriff Peterson indicated he has not received any feedback on the number of people who toured The REF. Tom Knoop advised he will contact the appropriate individual to see about getting an after action report. Tom also indicated Green Lake County had The REF at one of their traffic safety meetings with good response. Tom Knoop stated overall The REF has generated a lot of interest and good feedback, and feels this type of project will be done in other states, Wisconsin was a pilot project. Tom Dahlke felt the location The REF was parked in at the fairgrounds was not a good location, and suggested that be changed in the future. Sheriff Peterson stated he plans on asking for The REF again for the fair and will look at a different location for the trailer.

C) Improvement at Intersection of STH 21/73: Tim Hanley advised the concerns brought up by the Commission were forwarded on to the appropriate people in his office; however, he has not heard back from them and will follow up.

### **New Business**

A) ATV's on Roadways in the County: Sheriff Peterson advised the County has been approached by a an ATV Club in reference to using approximately ½ mile of county roadway on the west end of the County. A presentation was done at County Board, and Corporation Counsel will be drafting an ordinance to be presented to both Public Works and Public Safety Committees for input prior to submission to County Board for consideration. Sheriff Peterson advised he has been attending township meetings to voice his concerns in reference to ATV's on roadways, and questioned if this Commission had any input. Tom Knoop questioned why ATV riders couldn't ride on the road right of way and had concern with the hours allowed as some are in darkness. Tom Knoop also did state the counties he deals with really haven't had too many issues with this. Sheriff Peterson questioned if there were any statistics available. Tom Knoop didn't think there would be a lot of stats available, however suggested contacting the DNR. Jeff Nett felt it was a bad mix, having ATV's and vehicles on the same roadway, not to mention the Amish vehicles that use this roadway as well. Tim Hanley questioned the traffic volume in the areas and was advised it was light. Tim also stated emergency response to ATV accidents may be an issue to consider. Tom Dahlke stated as the Highway Commissioner, he did not have a lot of concerns. Another concern raised was that the ATV'S would probably use the snowmobile trails as well, which could become an issue. Sheriff Peterson questioned if the ordinance could include a traffic volume restriction (ADT), however commission members didn't feel qualified to know what the ADT would be. The commission requested Sheriff Peterson review with committees and County Board concerns in reference to time of operation, traffic volume, age of the ATV rider, possible use of snowmobile trails and emergency response capabilities. Sheriff Peterson advised he and Lt. Nett would put out the speed trailer to check traffic volume, and requested any other concerns/thoughts be e-mailed to him. After much discussion, motion was made by Tom Dahlke and seconded by Tom Knoop that this Committee should monitor the issue and to have on future agendas for possible recommendations to County Board. Motion carried.

## Round Table

**Jeff Nett:** Reviewed the activity of the seat belt/OWI grant received, advising the same grant has been applied for for 2012. Lt. Nett also stated that the speed trailer was purchased using grant funds from 2011. Jeff indicated stats collected from the speed trailer are shared with local municipalities and highway when appropriate.

**Sheriff Peterson:** Discussed the 2 fatalities since the last meeting, stating that brings the number up to 6 so far this year.

**Tim Hanley:** Talked about frac sand haulers and damage done to roadways, indicating it is an awareness issue for county boards.

**Rhae Stertz:** Discussed the 20 mile road improvement project on the interstate, and the need to have response vehicles given road closure/work information for alternate routes. Tim Hanley stated that law enforcement should be advised of any lane closures, detours or changes for response vehicles, and if that information is not being communicated he would like to know.

**Tom Knoop:** Reviewed several handouts which included the following:

- Information in reference to older drivers.
- Bills of Interest to the Wisconsin Traffic Safety Community as of October 3, 2011.
- Weekly Fatality Report as of 10/16/2011.
- Fatality information by County as of 10/16/2011.
- Wisconsin State Patrol Laws of the Month:
  - October 2011 – Motorists will need to share the road with farm equipment & other slow moving vehicles during harvest season
  - November 2011 – How to meet the challenges of winter driving in Wisconsin
  - December 2011 – December is National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month

Meeting dates for 2012 were set as follows: January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Meetings will be held at the Waushara County Sheriff's Office on those dates starting at 9:30 A.M.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Masticola  
Administrative Assistant - Waushara County Sheriff's Office