

**WOOD COUNTY
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING**

Date: December 13th, 2023

Time: 10:30 AM

Place: Conference Room
Wood County Highway Dept
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

WebEx Info:

<https://woodcountywi.webex.com/woodcountywi/j.php?MTID=mc91545975a85c50ee04e5548756886e5>

Agenda

Present – Roland Hawk Wood County Hwy, Todd Horn DOT BOTS, Cara Abts WisDOT, Joseph Zurfluh Wood County Board Supervisor, Bill Clendenning Wood County Board, Dennis Polach Wood County Board, Emily Covarrubias Wood County Emergency Management, Charlie Hoogesteger Wood County Sheriff's Department, Lance Pliml – Wood County Board, Rhae Stertz - WI State Patrol, Brandon Whipple – Wood Co Highway, Mel Pedersen – Grand Rapids Police Department

1. Meeting called to order by Roland Hawk at 10:30 AM.
2. Minutes of the September 2023 Traffic Safety Commission Meeting.

Motion by Roland Hawk to accept the minutes, second by Joseph Zurfluh. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Charles Hoogesteger reports on two traffic fatalities throughout the last quarter
 - a. September 22nd. Intersection of Y and Shady in Marshfield. High school aged female traveling west bound on Y, north bound vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign on Shady. State patrol preformed recon. This crash is under review with the District Attorney's office. All traffic control devices were in place.
 - b. October 9th – Town of Wood. STH 73/County X. South bound vehicle on Polish road failed to stop at the stop sign causing collision, vehicle drove underneath trailer of a semi, both occupants of vehicle that failed to stop experienced fatalities. Driver of vehicle was 15, unlicensed. All traffic control devices were in place.
4. Updates on Wood County Highway Projects
 - a. Highway Department initiated a project a year ago to review intersections throughout the county that had high crash rates. Data from the last 10 years has

been compiled, reviewed and 16 intersections have been identified with having safety issues. Flashing “stop ahead” signs are now at each of those intersections.

- a. Intersections of X/54 and X/73 in Pittsville have received very positive feedback for these permanent lighting sign fixtures and several requests have been made to add additional lighting at A/73 in Pittsville - which is a possibility for the future.
 - b. Highway F – HH/WIS 10 has been resurfaced and center line rumble strips have been installed where there have been a number of crashes.
 - c. Highway W – East of Home Depot to Highway U – has been resurfaced and a roundabout (48th Street) has been installed.
 - d. Resurfaced Highway U, North of STH 54(Biron Drive by Anchor Bay).
 - e. 2024 Projects
 - a. Resurfacing of Highway Trunk Z to WIS 73/WIS 13
 - b. Improvements are to be done to intersection of Rangeline Rd southwest of the airport
 - c. BB has near Nasonville Dairy will be realigned to the west.
5. Cara Abts is present for WISDOT today to report for Tony Kemnitz.
- a. Upcoming 2024 Project Forecast
 - a. WIS 80 (Juneau Co Line to WIS 173 N) 5 mile pavement replacement – Town of Remington. Work to be done under detour.
 - b. WIS 54 (County G to Seneca Road) 5-mile pavement resurfacing – Port Edwards. Work to be done under detour.
 - c. WIS 73 (WIS 173 to WIS 54) 2-mile pavement resurfacing – Port Edwards to Nekoosa
 - b. Safety and Operational Reviews
 - a. Wis 173 School Zone Signing – School zone speed limit change requests updates be made to the school crossing at WIS 173 and Section Street. This relocates the school zone further east outside of the parking area along the north side of WIS 173. Request has been granted.
 - b. WIS 186 Speed Zone Review – Requests for WisDOT to evaluate the current speed limit postings along WIS186 through Village of Vesper due to ATV/UTV usage. This will be added to the work list for Spring of 2024. Speed data will be collected on dry roadways during non-peak travel periods to allow WisDOT to obtain the roadways free flow travel speeds. Request is asking for the following
 1. Lower the 55-mph speed limit to 35 mph from Church Street to the Village limits on the west side of town.
 2. Lower the 40-mph speed limit to 35 mph from 3rd Street to south village limits.
 - c. WIS 13 Emergency Alternate Route Development

- a. Upcoming meeting on December 19th with Wood County Highway Department to suggest pre-arranged emergency alternate routes by Wood County for any significant incidents that would close WIS 13 south of Wisconsin Rapids. The goal of this meeting will be to identify alternate routes and traffic control needs to sign the detours.
- d. 2018 – 2022 Top Crash spot screening process – Evaluations of crashes at the following locations to determine safety upgrades to mitigate crash trends if appropriate.
 - a. WIS 54 at WIS 73 and Port Road – Port Edwards
 - b. WIS 54 at County W/Riverview Expressway – Wis. Rapids
 - c. WIS 54 at Washington Street/Baker Drive- Wis. Rapids
 - d. WIS 54 at 32nd Street (north) – Wis. Rapids
 - e. WIS 13 at Heritage Drive – Marshfield
 - f. USH 10 at County K – Auburndale

6. Local Program Specialist report –

Todd Horn is our new representative for the Bureau of Transportation Safety. See attached PowerPoint. Todd reviewed third quarter crashes, reports and noted certain crash statistics are still continuing to trend downward and reviewed community maps data for Wood County. Also highlighted was the new app, Safe Roads Challenge, that is partnership with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin that promotes safe driving and improving Trip scores and how to benefit through this program by being a safe driver. Todd also reviewed the importance of crash narratives on reports from law enforcement.

7. WisDOT Predictive Analytics Project

- a. Implemented flashing message boards earlier this year prior to the ski show. Citizens awareness were raised and a lot of people questioned the hazards in area.
- b. 2024 Projects to be reviewed–
 - a. WIS 10 to be targeted
 - b. Hwy K to WIS 186
- c. Charles Hoogesteger reports that the granted overtime for the predictive analytics project has been expended. Signage and monitoring the areas are to be continued. Upcoming speed grant should be coming in the Spring of 2024 that will allow extra patrol to run through the Summer.
- d. Mapping of citations pertaining to ATV/UTV violations are planning on being collected by Paul Bernard in Planning and Zoning.

8. Other business

- a. Cross Country Meet had re-routing that were done with traffic flows and it went much smoother this year. Item to address next year is cars dropping off groups or individuals by the main entryway that congests traffic along Griffith Avenue entrance to the Ridges
 - b. Lance Pliml, County Board Supervisor, brings up concerns and hopes that data being collected and analyzed isn't wholly influenced by reckless, underage, unlicensed drivers.
9. Public Comments - No public comments
- 10. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Roland Hawk, second by Joseph Zurfluh at 11:22 a.m.**

Minutes taken by: Emily Covarrubias – Wood County Emergency Management

These minutes are preliminary until reviewed and voted on at the next Traffic Safety Meeting.