

MANITOWOC COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

April 19, 2016

Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office

Present: Todd Hermann, John Kropp, Scott Nelson, Rick Wolfe, Michael Panosh, Scott Luchterhand, Bryan Ashenbrenner, Allan Hibbard, Jason Orth, and Holly Herzog

Excused: Joseph Collins, Marc Holsen, Lynne Kaminski, and Scott Schneider.

Also in attendance: Marc Roesler from WI DOT.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Todd Hermann.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from January 12, 2016 meeting by John Kropp, second by Rick Wolfe; motion carried.

Public Input: *Request by Matt Richmond to conduct a speed study on CORD B between the intersections of VV and V.* Matt Richmond was unable to attend the meeting so this matter was tabled until July 19, 2016. Matt Richmond was notified and invited to attend this meeting.

Request for Site Evaluations: *Request by Mike Panosh to review speed limit coming into the village of Whitelaw. Can the speed limit be lowered further east when you are traveling west on USHY 10.* Mike reported that he spoke with the Village Trustees regarding this issue. Their concern was the speed going through the village and on the east side.

It was reported that this area would be included in a resurfacing project that would also reduce the embankment and vision obstruction in 2018. Scott Nelson looked at the crash history beginning in 2011 and found that the majority of vehicles involved were eastbound. Weather contributed to most of the crashes. Todd Hermann played a squad video of the area noting speed zone sign placement. Scott Nelson explained to justify a speed reduction the State's guideline is 5 driveways within 1000 feet. He also stated that step-down zones are not the best practice and a speed study could also show an increase for the posted limit. Speed boards will be used for one week on the west side and one week on the east side. Crash history does not warrant lowering limits as most accidents appear to be weather related.

A motion to recommend no action on lowering the speed limit on USHY 10 from CORD T to the village limits by Al Hibbard, second by John Kropp; motion carried

Follow-up on Site Evaluations from Prior Meeting:

Request by Town Chairman Dale Markwardt to review the intersection located at Goodwin Rd. and CORD Q. Todd Hermann reported that he was unable to contact the property owner regarding the removal of the 4 cedar trees. Contact was attempted by mail and in person. John Kropp stated that speed advisory signs were placed and flagged after the last meeting.

The Highway Department also contacted WPS to move the utility pole at that intersection. As the pole supports a main line the option would be to go underground at a cost of \$61,000. Buying additional right-of-way would probably not be practical as the property owner is not cooperating. The least expensive option is to lower the speed limit from the city of Manitowoc to STHY 310. A resolution was prepared for the next County Board meeting by the Highway Committee to lower the speed limit.

Several members of the Traffic Safety Commission expressed concern that the speed limit could be lowered without a speed study. It was also felt that compliance would be a major issue. It was also expressed that this reduction could decrease safety as driver's will expect that they have more time than they do if vehicles are not complying with the posted limit. It was also felt that this may set precedence for future areas of concern.

Motion by Bryan Ashenbrenner to recommend not lowering the speed limit at this time, but to allow time to see if the flagged advisory signs have any impact. A speed study should also be conducted to judge compliance, second by Jason Orth; motion carried.

Request to review crash history at the intersection of Dewey St. and Harbor Town Lane. Scott Luchterhand reported that speed boards were placed in this area. The results showed that 75% of the vehicles traveled between 20 and 25 mph in this 30 mph zone, 15 to 20% traveled less than 20 mph and only 5% traveled above 35 mph. Rick Wolfe still felt that the decorative elements caused a distraction for drivers. The majority of the accidents are from westbound traffic on Dewey St. crossing on Harbor Town Lane.

DOT Update Report from WI DOT-BOTS Representative:

Michael Panosh demonstrated Community Maps. This website is available to the general public and shows fatal and personal injury accidents. Google maps have been incorporated to show location and terrain. Information is still being added to the website so it may not contain all accidents at this time. An interface is being developed with TRACS.

Scott Nelson demonstrated WisTransPortal which is available to law enforcement. This website has data beginning in 1994 and allows you to view the MV4000. It may take 2 to 3 months for crash data to be available on this website. Scott also stated that a new crash form will be implemented on January 1, 2017.

Act 308 will prohibit the use of cell phones in construction zones as of October 1, 2016. Operators must be physically using the phone with their hands.

Recent Fatalities: None

Next Meeting: July 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Kropp at 11:11 a.m., second Jason Orth; motion carried.

Submitted by: Holly Herzog, Secretary