

MARQUETTE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 2, 2024

Marquette County Sheriff's Office
Public Safety Room – Montello, WI

Members present: Mike Kowalski, Aaron Williams, Joe Konrath, Trace Frost, Tony Kemnitz, Dave Benson, Mike Raddatz, Karen Wampler, Rob Lulling, Tom Wastart, Glen Bubolz, Matt Strickland, John Bitsky, Brian Trebiatowski, Jason Stauffacher, Ron Barger, and Stephanie Warren.

The Traffic Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Kowalski at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

Moved by Brian Trebiatowski and seconded by Mike Raddatz to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mike Raddatz and seconded by Dave Benson to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2024, meeting. **Motion carried.**

Citizen Concerns

None.

Old Business

Letter drafted in support of no crosswalk being installed at the intersection of Church Street and Park Street in the City of Montello scheduled for 2027.

New Business

Tony Kemnitz gave an overview of the STH 23 at Mekan River Outfitters Transportation Safety Inquiry after two crashes occurred at the same location in June and July. During the years of 2004-2024 there have been 11 crashes at that location. Most occurred between the hours of 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the summer and winter months. This averages to be one crash every two years. Main factors were inattentiveness, speed, following too close, and failure to control. Between August 1 and 5th, cameras were installed to monitor traffic. 2,500 to 3,000 vehicles per day travelled STH 23 with 200 vehicles going in and out of Mekan River Outfitters driveway. Extra patrol was performed in this area as well. After review, it was determined there is no safety concerns on this stretch of roadway and that driver error is the cause of these crashes.

Tony also reviewed the speed studies conducted on STH 82 from Abbott Street to CTH J to lower the speed to 45 mph. Speed studies were conducted in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2021, and 2024 with the same results showing no excessive speeds and it will remain at 55 mph. He did suggest signage alerting of school bus pickup zones.

2024 Construction Project on STH 23 from 8th to Morningside was completed on August 22nd. Milling and new pavement was done on this 7- mile stretch along with modifications to the curves near Bond's Auto.

2025 Construction Project will be a bridge replacement on Dover Ave in the Town of Crystal Lake over the Mekan River. Dover will be closed during the duration of this project which is scheduled to start in June and be completed in August.

The businesses of Bond's Auto Body and Maple Grove Auto have expressed concern for the passing zone in front of their businesses on STH 23. Customers going in and out of their parking lots are at risk. Tony will check on this passing zone.

There have been no concerns of the ATV/UTV routes this summer. Law enforcement is being done for safety violations and speed.

Mike Kowalski advised town officials of tree trimming and brushing maintenance on town roads to avoid obstructions of signs. Law enforcement will make a list of trouble areas to give to towns to address these areas. The highway department maintains county roads and conducts trimming in the spring and fall. Mike Raddatz advised at CTH C and STH 23 that the foliage blocks the view to the west.

Mike Kowalski gave an update on the traffic safety grant which was recently concluded. During May through August, 722 traffic stops were conducted with 349 citations and 608 warnings being issued. 92 4-hour shifts were performed by the sheriff's office and Westfield Police Department. Target areas were STH 23 from Montello to the Green Lake County line, Montello to I39, STH 23 to the Adams County line near Briggsville, and I39. September numbers will be provided at the next meeting.

Crash Review

There has been a total of 264 crashes with 88 injuries and 0 fatalities through the 3rd quarter of 2024 for Marquette County. 18 of the crashes and 27 injuries were listed as severe.

Transportation Safety Report and Highway Safety Input

Trace Frost advised of 564 fatalities in the State of Wisconsin for 2023, compared to a total of 594 in 2022. As of September 30, 2024, there have been 420 fatalities compared to 423 at this time last year.

Traffic Incident Management Training is available for free with EV vehicle fires being a new topic.

1997 – Act 258 law states, if possible, to clear vehicles off the roadway if able to be driven off.

Highway Construction Update

CTH D/Causeway – Culverts have been installed and the first layer of paving will be done soon. Anticipating opening the causeway in early November with the final paving being done next spring.

Other Business

None.

Moved by Tony Kemnitz and seconded by Dave Benson to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m. The next meeting was set for January 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Warren