

# WAUKESHA COUNTY

## TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

### FEBRUARY 13, 2008

In Attendance:

Paul Barthel; Vice-Chairman; Highway Commissioner Representative  
Medical Examiner Lynda Biedrzycki; Medical Representative  
Trooper David Hanson; Wisconsin State Patrol  
Specialist Steven Kraus; City of Waukesha Police Department Representative  
Lieutenant Larry LaFavor; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator  
Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz; DOT Bureau of Transportation Safety  
Mr. Dick Pfeiffer; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Larry LaFavor at 2:05 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Medical Examiner Lynda Biedrzycki made a motion to approve the minutes, and Specialist Steven Kraus, from the City of Waukesha Police Department, seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved.

#### TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT

##### Weekly Fatality Report – Monday, February 4, 2008

Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz stated the fatalities are still below average. There has been a rise in multiple fatalities per accident.

##### Wisconsin Department Of Transportation - Drivers and Vehicles

This included statistics of fatalities by county as of February 4, 2008. Waukesha County has 1 fatality as of February 4, 2008, however, there have been more this past week.

##### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

The Traffic Safety Facts show the overall results of seat belt use in 2007. Seat belt use in 2007 stood at 82 percent, a slight gain from 81 percent use in 2006.

Traffic Safety Facts crash statistics showed the comparison of motorcycle rider fatalities in traffic crashes, 2005 – 2006. Motorcycle fatalities are continually increasing. There are continually more motorcycle riders, more miles traveled, and more distractions on the road for motorcyclists. Wisconsin tied for 14<sup>th</sup> place in the United States for motorcycle rider fatalities in traffic crashes by state. The majority of motorcycle crashes involved white male drivers. The statistics showed 45 percent of fatally injured motorcyclists did not wear helmets.

##### Motor Vehicle-Deer Crashes in 2006

The number of persons injured or killed in deer crashes has increased since the late 1970's. Deer crashes peak in October – November with a secondary peak in May – June. Another indicator of motor vehicle/deer crashes is the number of deer carcasses removed from Wisconsin's roadway system.

TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT CONTINUED2007 – 2008 Traffic Safety Legislation Update (01-02-08)

Several bills signed into law include:

2007 Wisconsin Act 29 (formerly AB-526): Extends sunset on 2005 Act 209 through July 1, 2010. Limits snowmobiles to 55 mph during hours of darkness.

2007 Wisconsin Act 33 (formerly SB-186): Eliminates municipal licensing of neighborhood electric vehicles and instead requires these vehicles to be registered with the DOT.

Several bills awaiting committee action include:

AB-59: Allowing operation of ATV's on highways for the purpose of certain types of access and granting rule-making authority.

AB-145: Increases the OWI surcharge amount from \$355 to \$455. The arresting law enforcement agency shall use the \$100 received to purchase and maintain law enforcement equipment that will assist in the prevention of alcohol-related and other drug-related violations.

AB-182: DOT is required to purge, after ten years, a person's record of any conviction, suspension, or revocations that are related to operating a vehicle while intoxicated, unless the offense was committed by a person with a commercial driver's license or who was operating a commercial motor vehicle at the time of the offense.

AB-528: Use of red light running cameras. Imposing liability on the owners of vehicles involved in traffic control signal violations, and providing a penalty.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

- Wisconsin Department Of Transportation  
Mr. Dick Pfeiffer, of the Wisconsin Department Of Transportation Highway Engineering, stated he received a citizen request to lower the speed limit on Saylesville Road. The request was to lower the speed limit from 55 to 45, and from 45 to 35 in front of school.
- Medical  
Handouts were given by Medical Examiner Lynda Biedrzycki showing various graphs of Waukesha County vehicular fatalities, which consisted of: Total fatalities by year, Fatalities each year by age group, 2000 to 2007 vehicular fatalities by decade of life, and 2007 highlights, along with a report of Waukesha County 2006 – 2007 Fatal Vehicular Accidents. For the year of 2007, 72 percent of the cases involved cars, sport utility vehicles, and pick-ups. Of those, 70 percent of all victims were drivers (69 percent of drivers were unrestrained), and 30 percent of all victims were passengers (57 percent of passengers were unrestrained). Also for the year of 2007, 28 percent involved motorcycles/motorbikes. Vice-Chairman Paul Barthel stated he will bring a mapping of the fatalities for the past year to the next meeting.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

- Specialist Steven Kraus stated there was one fatality from the City of Waukesha Police Department, as follows:

- Date of Accident: 12-15-07

- Location: Golf Road, 0.2 miles west of Grandview

- A 2003 four-door Infinite G35 was hit by a westbound 1993 Toyota. No alcohol or speed was involved. The fatality was a female passenger in the front seat who was 51 years-of-age, who was wearing her seat belt, and her air bag was deployed.

- One fatality from the City of Muskego, as follows:

- Date of Accident: 01-17-08

- Location: Janesville Road and Martin Drive

- A male driver did not heed the stop sign on Martin Drive, collided with another vehicle, and was hit on the passenger side. His passenger and wife, who was 73-year-old, was extricated from the car, and taken to Froedtert Hospital where she later died at the hospital.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Waukesha Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Specialist Steven Kraus, of the City of Waukesha Police Department, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Dick Pfeiffer, from the Wisconsin Department Of Transportation. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich  
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

**(MINUTES APPROVED ON 05-14-08)**