

**MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023 – 10:00 AM**  
**OCONTO COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**LEC CONFERENCE ROOM – NORTH/SOUTH**  
**301 WASHINGTON ST. OCONTO, WI 54153**  
[www.co.oconto.wi.us](http://www.co.oconto.wi.us)  
*(Draft minutes, not approved by Committee)*

PRESENT: Todd Skarban, Sheriff; Don Kontos, WIDOT; Jenny Austin, WI State Patrol; Troy Sherman, Investigator; Jon Spice, Emergency Management; Brandon Hytinen, Highway Commissioner; Rita Krause, Administrative Assistant; Debbie Konitzer, Public Health;

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Todd Skarban called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**2.1. Change of Sequence** – None.

**2.2. Removal of Items** – None.

Motion by Hytinen/Konitzer to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was voted on and carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The July 26, 2023 notes were reviewed. No formal approval needed for previous meeting notes.

**4. Public Appearances / Communications**

- None.

**5. Reports**

**5.1. Status of Area Highway Construction and Repair Proposals**

Sheriff Skarban reported on behalf of Rodney Hamilton who was unable to be present:

- All WisDOT projects in Oconto County are complete for the 2023 construction season. No projects showing in Oconto County for 2024.
- Online updates can be found at: <https://projects.511wi.gov/weeklyupdates-ne/>

**5.2. WDOT BOTS Report and Updates**

- Dan Kantos, WIDOT, provided a slide show of the quarterly WIDOT information. The presentation was handed out for review. Two fatal crashes occurred in Oconto County for quarter three 2023. Types of crashes were reviewed. A handout was provided with crash data. Discussion followed. Informational only. More information can be found at <http://zeroinwisconsin.gov>.

**5.3. Traffic Safety Legislation Report**

- Signed into law 2023 Act 9 (AB-56/SB-90): Reckless Driving Penalties
- Signed into law 2023 Act 28 (AB-74/SB-66): Farm License Endorsement
- Signed into law 2023 Act 29 (AB-68/SB-101): Reckless Homicide
- Reviewed proposed legislation items.

**5.4. Traffic Safety Coordinator Report**

- Jon Spice discussed the roadwork crews from private companies and safety concerns with flaggers and lack of compliance with permit rules. Discussion followed. Informational only.

**5.5. Commission Member Reports**

- Debbie Konitzer stated Health & Human Services Department is continuing with child passenger safety and checking seats. She stated she will work to get cards for deputies and state patrol for this campaign. She shared that the Safe Kids Coalition will be revamped in early 2024. Grant money was received to put ATV/UTV DOT signs for helmets and lights which were provided to clubs to put up at the trails. Konitzer announced her retirement and stated this would be her last meeting. The Commission congratulated her and wished her well in her retirement.
- Brandon Hytinen stated the Highway Department is prepping for winter and getting trucks ready. He asked for law enforcement's assistance with drivers that are too fast for conditions when roads are bad. Sheriff stated he will remind his patrol team. Hytinen also provided a reminder about green lights on public safety vehicles and to please move over and slow down.

**6. Locations of Traffic Hazard and Recommended Improvements to Enhance Safety**

- Speed board ordered to place in high speed areas.

## **7. Traffic Crashes – Community Maps Review**

### **7.1. Spot Map Report**

Kontos provided an update. Community Maps User Group meeting is on hold until all updates are completed from the feedback received at the governor's conference.

Discussion followed. Informational only.

### **7.2. Fatality Crash Review**

Troy Sherman reviewed three fatal crashes. Discussion followed. Informational only.

## **8. Traffic Safety Training**

- None.

## **9. Announcements/General Information (No action to be taken)**

- The Sheriff's Office is developing an app that will be launched in early 2024.
- An armored vehicle has been approved for the Sheriff's Office, which is currently being built and expected for delivery in fall 2024.

## **10. Set Next Meeting Date**

The next regular meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for January 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the LEC Conference Room.

## **11. Adjournment**

Chair Skarban declared the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Rita Krause, Recorder

Date Posted: 11/01/2023