

Taylor County Traffic Safety Committee

December 7, 2010

3rd Floor Jury Room, Taylor County Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Jess Sackmann called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Members Present: Jess Sackmann, Nick Synol, Jeff Olson, Diane Niggemann, Jill Scheithauer, Tom Knoop and Ken Coyer

Approve Minutes: Motion by Diane Niggemann/Tom Knoop and carried to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2010 meeting.

Taylor County Traffic Safety Coordinator Sergeant Nick Synol reported that there have been no county fatalities since the last meeting. A discussion took place on recent severe accidents; one on Spring Drive in the Town of Goodrich and one on CTH M east of Perkinstown. A request was made to look into the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the curves of CTH MM.

Northwest Region Transportation Safety Coordinator Tom Knoop reported that statewide fatalities over the Thanksgiving holiday are tied with the lowest count on record. Overall traffic fatalities are about 100 below the five year average at this time. Motorcycle fatalities are up by 20 and pedestrian fatalities are up by 18.

To date Taylor County is one fatality over its five year average.

Wisconsin's seat belt usage is behind the nation and surrounding states average.

A discussion took place on Act 220 which became effective December 2010. The act prohibits texting and messaging while driving.

Knoop also reported on the \$15,000 Clickit or Ticket promotional grant Taylor County will be receiving.

Jeff Olson reported on the previous complaints about the crossings at the STH 13 & 64 and STH 13 & Clark Street intersections. Electrical crews from Eau Claire checked the signals and corrected the problems that were found.

A discussion was held about the 2011 scheduled roundabouts for STH 13 and the proposed detours for the construction project.

Highway Commissioner Jess Sackmann reported that both the state and county levels of service for winter highway maintenance will remain the same as in past years.

Next Committee Meeting: March 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:48.

Taylor County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2010

County Board Room, Taylor County Courthouse

Vice-Chair James Seidl called the regular meeting of the Taylor County Traffic Safety Committee to order at 10:00 AM, September 7, 2010, in the County Board Room of the Taylor County Courthouse, by Vice-Chair James Seidl.

Members Present: James Seidl, Co Bd; Tom Knoop, Wis DOT Trans Safety; Nick Synol, Taylor Co Sheriff Dept; Bill Daniels, Wis State Patrol; Bruce Kinlen, WisState Patrol; Ken Coyer, Medford Police; Jeff Olson, Wis Dept of Trans; Diane Niggemann, Commission on Aging; Dorothy Falasky, Women's Rep; Jill Scheithauer, Taylor Co DA.

Agenda: Seidl requested an addition to the agenda, that included recognition of the efforts of Oprah Winfrey in promoting highway safety on her daily television program. She has been actively discouraging the use of cell phones and text messaging while driving. It was agreed to include the item.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Identifying no errors, omissions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting they were unanimously approved on a motion by Falasky.

New Business: Report by Taylor County Traffic Safety Representative: Deputy Synol reported on a fatal traffic accident, which occurred on Sunday, Sep 5, on Winter Sports Road in the Town of Grover.

NW Regional Traffic Safety Representative Tom Knoop provided handouts containing accident statistics, but apologized that he did not have the latest data since state employees were on furlough days and the data was not yet prepared. He reported on the increased number of accidents involving motorcycles recently and provided statistics on safety belt use. He also provided pictures of a new mobile training facility called The REF (Rider Education Facility), which will tour the state, appearing at various fairs and other events where crowds are gathered.

District WisDOT Representative Jeff Olson reported on a forthcoming Traffic Incident Management Conference. Olson also reported on state construction projects planned for Taylor County.

Bill Daniels, Wis State Patrol provided a brief report on the status of the newly enacted mandatory insurance law. He indicated compliance is better, but some drivers continue to drive without valid evidence that they have proper insurance. A short discussion on the topic ensued.

Dorothy Falasky reported to the Wis DOT representative that she has heard complaints about the street crossings at STH 64 and STH 13, and STH 13 and Clark Street. It appears there are malfunctions in the crossing controls.

Dianne Niggemann, Commission on Aging, reported that a Driver Safety Course for elderly drivers is to be conducted on Wed, Oct 20, 2010.

Vice-Chair Seidl suggested to the members that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to Oprah Winfrey for her continued efforts and emphasis on driver safety through limited use of cell phones and text messaging while driving. Seidl reported that Winfrey asks all the individuals appearing on her television show to sign a pledge declaring their autos to be a No Phone Zone. It was unanimously agreed by the members present that such recognition would be in order. Seidl indicated that he would insure that the plan was implemented. (Copy attached)

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.
Sep 7, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES G. SEIDL
Vice-Chair/ Acting Secretary

Encl
Ltr to Oprah Winfrey

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

September 9, 2010

Oprah Winfrey
Harpo Studios, Inc.
1058 West Washington Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60607

Dear Oprah,

On behalf of the Taylor County, Wisconsin Traffic Committee I wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your efforts in promoting driver safety. It is extremely gratifying to know that someone as influential as you shares the same concerns over the misuse of cell phoning and texting while operating a motor vehicle.

I'm confident that your message is received by many more people and taken much more seriously than all the publicity we can generate on the subject at the local level. You are to be commended for your relentless endeavors in the interest of vehicular safety.

It was the unanimous consensus of this Committee that you should be recognized for your contribution to saving lives on our nation's highways.

We wish you continued success in your campaign. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

JAMES G. SEIDL, Vice-Chair
Taylor County Traffic Safety Commission

Taylor County Traffic Safety Committee

June 1, 2010

3rd Floor Courtroom, Taylor County Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order: Vice Chairman Jim Seidl called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Jess Sackmann, Jim Seidl, Nick Synol, Jeff Olson, Bruce Kinlen, Jill Scheithauer, Dorothy Falasky, Tom Knoop and Ken Coyer

Approve Minutes: The minutes of the March 2, 2010 meeting were approved.

Taylor County Traffic Safety Coordinator Sergeant Nick Synol reported on three traffic fatalities that occurred since the last meeting:

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| • April 22 on STH 13 & Crane | High speed and alcohol factors |
| • May 3 on STH 64 & Castle Road | Failure to yield at stop sign |
| • Mar 13 Town of Pershing | Motorcycle hit small animal |

WISDOT Representative Thomas Knoop reported statewide traffic fatalities to date are 50 – 60 below average numbers.

- Distributed information regarding accident and fatality statistics for 2009
- Newly enacted laws for 2009 – 2010
- Ignition interlocks for alcohol related violations
- New insurance requirements as of June 1, 2010

Ignition interlock devices were discussed. Police Chief Ken Coyer reported on enforcement issues related to these devices and other new traffic laws.

Jeff Olson addressed the STH 13 speed limits south of CTH O.

Discussion took place on the u-turn law.

Next Committee Meeting: September 7, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:10.

Taylor County Traffic Safety Committee

March 2, 2010

3rd Floor Courtroom, Taylor County Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order: Vice Chairman Jim Seidl called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Members Present: Jess Sackmann, Jim Seidl, Nick Synol, Jeff Olson, Bruce Kinlen, Diane Niggemann, Jill Scheithauer, Dennis Johnson and Ken Coyer

Approve Minutes: The minutes of the December 1, 2009 meeting were approved.

Taylor County Traffic Safety Coordinator Sergeant Nick Synol reported that there have been no fatalities since the last meeting. He reported that there have been many weather related accidents, including numerous rollovers, which occurred during the holiday snow and rain storms.

Northwest Region Transportation Safety Coordinator Dennis Johnson reported that he has replaced Patti Nelles. Johnson reported that 51 traffic fatalities have occurred in 2010 compared to 66 last year at this time. The five year average for this time of year is 87. Johnson also reported on the Wisconsin mandatory vehicle insurance law. This law will go into effect in June 2010. The law authorizes a fine of up to \$500 for not having vehicle insurance, but only a \$10 fine for not carrying proof of insurance. Trooper Kinlen expressed concern about the enforcement of the law.

Johnson reported that Act 97 which took effect January 1, 2010 allows u-turns at controlled intersections and also allows passing on the right. A discussion took place on the safety of this act and whether No U-Turn signs should be posted at the Highway 13 intersections with Highway 64, Clark Street and Perkins Street.

Assembly Bill 496 which addresses texting while driving was discussed. Also the federal ban on texting for all commercial truck drivers was discussed.

A discussion took place on the OWI law changes that are effective July 1, 2010.

Jeff Olson reported on the 2011-2014 Highway Safety Improvement Program(HSIP). He also reported on the repaving of STH 102, which is a DOT project that is expected to take seven to eight weeks to complete.

Next Committee Meeting: June 1, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:42.