

**WOOD COUNTY
TRAFFIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Time: 10:30 AM

Place: Wood County Highway Department

Present – Bill Clendenning Wood County Supervisor; Dennis Polach Wood County Supervisor; Roland Hawk Wood County Highway Commissioner; Dan Kontos WisDOT BOTS; Anna Schenk WisDOT; Joel Ortman Wood County Highway Department; Patrick Zeps Marshfield Police Department; Scott Dewitt Wisconsin Rapids Police Department; Melvin Pedersen Grand Rapids Police Department; Tony Kemnitz WisDOT; Charlie Hoogesteger Wood County Sheriff's Department; Alexa Acker Wood County Emergency Management

Agenda

1. Call to order

Roland Hawk called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

2. Predictive Analytics Project

a. Review WisDOT Data

Anna Schenk presented slides from 2016-2020 about crash data for the three main areas of Wood County including Wisconsin Rapids, Grand Rapids and Marshfield. See attached slides for data.

b. Select project & identify resources

The number one cause of crashes seemed to be failure to yield. The point was brought up to maybe broaden the focus to include inattentive driving and failure to control vehicle. A question was asked on what the money is supposed to be used for. Dan Kontos stated it is mostly used for equipment charges and will likely need to try and have free media and advertising if possible. Mel Pedersen brought up the possibility of using billboards as advertisement and if there would be funding for that. Another idea of using cameras such as dash cams and static cameras at intersections. Dan reiterated that the point of the project is to show that adding public education such as the distribution of flyers and media is effective in making a difference, not only increased enforcement. The topic of blinking stop signs came up in discussion. Tony Kemnitz stated that in order to have blinking stop signs on a state highway there would need to be three failure to

stops (not yield) in one year or else it won't be approved to have blinking lights. It was agreed that blinking stop signs seem to be effective. Dennis Polach brought up the idea of having larger stop signs instead of blinking stop signs. Ideas of other options for changing signage besides blinking stop signs included reflective strips, orange flags, rumble pads, stop signs on both left and right side of road, larger stop signs. An idea was proposed of having blinking lights on the "stop ahead" signs as they wouldn't interfere with state laws. It would be about \$1,800 per sign that includes solar panels and a battery with a 4-5 year lifespan.

c. Develop project request for TSC approval

Determined our goal would be for the reduction in crashes with the focus on failure to yield, inattentive driving and failure to maintain control for a span of 2 years. Want to have a pamphlet that includes what the laws are for failure to yield as most people don't know. Will focus on main corridors in the Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Grand Rapids and one rural area. Marshfield will focus on Business 13 from the city limits to the county line and Central Avenue. Wisconsin Rapids will focus on Hwy 13 from the expressway to south of the city limits. Grand Rapids will focus on Hwy 54 from the portage county line through Wisconsin Rapids into the intersection of Hwy 54 and Hwy 66, this way Grand Rapids, Wisconsin Rapids, Biron and County police departments can be included. The rural area will focus on Hwy 10 from Hwy 186 to Hwy K.

3. Select time & date for next meeting

Document needs to be put together and formally approved by the Traffic Safety Commission at the next meeting on September 8, 2021. Will then identify resources after approval.

4. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m. by Roland Hawk.

Minutes taken by Alexa Acker – Wood County Emergency Management