

**MINUTES**  
**WOOD COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

The Wood County Traffic Safety Commission met at the Wood County Highway Department, 555 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI on **November 20th** at 10:30 a.m.

**PRESENT**

Dennis Polach  
Joel Ortman  
Sarah Roach  
Quentin Ellis  
Trace Frost  
Bill Clendenning  
Melvin Pedersen  
Rhae Stertz  
Dan Brugman  
Bill Winch  
Bobby Donahue  
Chris Zawiscan  
Shawn Becker  
Kenneth Curry

**REPRESENTING**

Wood County Board  
Wood County Highway Department  
Wood County Emergency Management  
Wood County Sheriff Dept  
Wisconsin DOT- BOTS  
Wood County Board  
Grand Rapids PD  
WI State Patrol  
Wisconsin DOT  
Wood County Board  
Donahue Super Sports  
Wisconsin State Patrol  
Wood County Sheriff Dept  
Wood County Board

Steve Krueser called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

1. Introductions were made.
2. **Minutes of the August 28, 2019 Traffic Safety Commission Meeting.**

*Motion to accept and place on file minutes from the August 28th, 2019 Traffic Safety Commission meeting made by Bill Winch. Seconded by Shawn Becker. Motion approved unanimously.*

**3. Review Four (4) fatal crashes**

Melvin Pedersen reviewed fatal crash involving motorcycle vs vehicle. Motorcycle pulled out of Donahue Super Sport parking lot on to HWY 54. Motorcycle was rear-ended and driver was killed. Driver admitted she was distracted and didn't notice the motorcycle pull out in from of her.

Sheriff Becker, WCSD, discussed double fatal accident that occurred on HWY A. Driver of Fedex did not stop at the stop sign and hit a pickup truck. Both died.

3<sup>rd</sup> crash was a single driver/ single vehicle accident on Elm Rd. Driver did not stop at the stop sign and hit a tree.

State Patrol is still investigating double fatal that occurred on STH 173. Will discuss further at next TSC meeting in February.

**4. ATV Discussion**

Quentin Ellis, WCSD, discussed ATV death. Discussion was made by the committee on crossing to get to the gas station at Portage CTY line and Town of Grand Rapids. Will add to next meeting agenda

**5. HWY 54 Speed Limit- Grand Rapids**

Commission had extensive discussion about reducing the speed to 50 MPH from the County line until the speed reduces down to 40 MPH. Melvin Pedersen and Bobby Donahue, Donahue Super Sports, talked in depth about the dangers on that stretch of the highway. It is a high traffic area with business, residents and now new developments in Biron.

Bobby Donahue, gave a history of the business and where they are currently. They have always rallied to keep that section of the road at a lower speed. They are only asking to extend the 50 MPH 1 mile due to the operation and traffic demands of their business.

More discussion ensues with several committee members. Sheriff Becker echoes and supports the points brought forth to the committee and will advocate to lower the speed. Recommendation to reach out to Biron to see if they will support as well.

*Motion to lowering the speed limit to 50MPH from CTH U to 64<sup>th</sup> St. Requested by Town of Grand Rapids and supported by Wood County Sheriff Department. Approval by Traffic Safety commission to send to WI DOT. Motion made by Shawn Becker. Seconded by Melvin Pedersen. Motion approved unanimously.*

Dan Brugman discussed the process with the TSC. DOT will need statistical data to make changes and they will look at the data.

**6. Report from the Department of Transportation Engineer**

Dan Brugman went over 2020 construction projects projections and stated all 2019 projects are done. Going forward, Tony Kemnitz will be taking over the meetings.

**7. Local Program Specialist Report and Highway Safety Plan Solicitation**

Trace Frost, WI DOT BOTS, gave state wide fatal statistics for this year at 499. Which is below where we were at this time last year. Wood County was at 10 last year, 2018, 5 year average fatal accidents for Wood County is at 7. . Went over Community map updates. Discussed some new legislative updates and emailed to the group.

**8. Other Business brought properly before the Commission:**

Bill Clendenning asked about Wood County's attendance for TSC. Trace Frost, WI DOT, stated we have one of the higher attendance for the meetings.

**9. Public Comments.**

None.

**9. Adjournment.**

*Shawn Becker made a motion to adjourn at 11:33 a.m. Seconded by Joel Ortman. Motion approved unanimously.*

**The next Traffic Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at the Wood County Highway Department**