

# MEETING OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

HELD ON 02/17/26 AT 12:30 P.M. AT THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, 730 WEST KEMP STREET, RHINELANDER, WI

**MEMBERS PRESENT: KIRBY/CHAIRMAN, HEGEMAN/COORDINATOR, COOPER/SECRETARY, RASMUSSEN/WISDOT BOTS, RICH/ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY, BAIER, SEPCIC, HOLQUIST, BLACKWELL/WISDOT, GRABOW-HOHENSEE/WISCONSIN STATE PATROL, KECKELSEN/ONEIDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT, ENGLAND/NICOLET ROAD SAFETY, ELLENBECKER/RHINELANDER HIGH SCHOOL DRIVER'S EDUCATION, McELDOWNEY/LEGAL, ERNST, SMITH/CITY OF RHINELANDER, JENSEN/COUNTY BOARD**

## The following matters were taken up to wit:

1. Kirby called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. It was noted the meeting was properly posted and the media notified. Introductions were done.
2. **Motion:** England/Baier to approve the agenda. All ayes.
3. **Motion:** England/Kirby to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All ayes.
4. Discussed budgetary items. Cooper gave an overview of what things we have purchased in the past to help area residents and children stay safe. Annual budget is \$1,900.00. Ellenbecker mentioned that, anything free given to the students, they would like and wear; like bright shirts. Discussion continued as to size, writing on shirts, who would receive them....and cost. A suggestion was made to contact Metro Screen printing and see what they could do for us. Cooper will follow up.
5. Oneida County/State Crash History and Data. Wisconsin ended 2025 with 545 fatalities, compared to 576 in 2024 and 566 in 2023. Oneida County had 839 total crashes with 6 fatalities in 2025. Distracted driving crashes down 18% in 2025 compared to the three year average. Pedestrian, motorcycle, and bicycle crashes down, compared to three year average. As of 2/15/26 Wisconsin fatalities are at 43, compared to 67 this same time last year. Discussed the Restricted Crossing U-Turn intersections. Discussed new statewide program – Place of Last Drink. Safety measures to prevent wrong way driving. Governor's Conference scheduled for August 24 – 26, 2026. Discussed Legislative Updates. Updates can be found on Community Maps.
6. Community Maps Updates: You can now 'display location markers'. There are still virtual office hours every second Monday of the month from 12 – 1 p.m. if you have questions. Training videos have been added. Legislative updates are also available on Community Maps. Anyone looking for additional crash data can contact [CrashDataAnalysis@dot.wi.gov](mailto:CrashDataAnalysis@dot.wi.gov).
7. Discussed 25 MPH speed limit on Kemp Street. Baier mentioned that the speed limit was 45 MPH before the roundabout was put in, all the way to Sutliff Ave. After completion of the roundabout a 25 MPH sign was installed in the eastbound lane as far back as the substation. It was not clear who installed the signs, but it was not the county. Baier explained that the speed limit is not enforceable because a declaration and a speed study were not done. Jensen recommended removing the first 25 MPH sign so the speed limit remains at 45 MPH until Sutliff Ave.
8. Baier updated the committee upcoming WisDOT projects.
  - 2026 - Two Roundabouts going in on 8 East at STH 17 south and CTH "G" and replacing pavement in between.
  - 2026 – Two local bridge jobs coming up. Haymeadow Road, full replacement and Town Road X rehabilitation of piers.
  - 2026 – USH 45 Monico to Three Lakes with 23 culverts being replaced.

- 2026 – USH 51 Concrete patches in downtown Minocqua.
- 2026 – USH 51 Concrete repairs USH 8 to CTH “L” – with detour

9. Hegeman discussed county construction

- 2026 - CTH “K” from the Sheep Ranch to Hancock Lake Road. Culvert replacements and mill and pave.
- 2026 – CTH “K” O’Day Lake culvert work
- 2026 – CTH “E” from CTH “D” to Frederick Drive.
- 2026 – CTH “N” from USH 8 to Washburn Lake Road

10. No Public Comments:

11. Future meeting dates; Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup>, August 18<sup>th</sup>, and November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

12. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

DRAFT