

MEETING OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

HELD ON 05/19/26 AT 12:30 P.M. AT THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, 730 WEST KEMP STREET, RHINELANDER, WI

MEMBERS PRESENT: KIRBY/CHAIRMAN, RICH/COORDINATOR, GLEANSON/HIGHWAY, RASMUSSEN/WISDOT BOTS, BAIER, KOPP/WISDOT, SOLTOW/WISCONSIN STATE PATROL, CHIAMULERA/RHINELANDER POLICE DEPT, JENSEN/COUNTY BOARD, SCHREIER/JEROW/CITIZENS

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:** Jensen/Kirby to approve the agenda. All ayes.
3. **Motion:** Jensen/Baier to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All ayes.
4. Discussed budgetary items. Shirts are on order at Metro Screenprinting. There will be approximately 300+. Most likely not ready before school lets out. Once the shirts are in, the committee will discuss who will hand them out at the three Oneida County high schools.
5. Oneida County/State Crash History and Data. Wisconsin has had 126 crashes to date with 133 fatalities. May 1 through 17 has already had 17 crashes with 18 fatalities. Oneida County from 2-17-26 through 5/18/26 has had 146 crashes, and 1 fatality. Oneida County crashes for first quarter of 2026 show 65+ drivers involved in crashes up 41% with distracted drivers up 77%. Impaired driver related crashes down 44%. Discussed Highway Safety Improvement Program. This is a federal reimbursement program that can reimburse counties, towns, cities, and villages up to 90% for most projects. This is for projects that would reduce the number and severity of crashes on all public roads. For information, contact North Central Coordinator Cole Dineen at 715-421-8083. Governor's Conference scheduled for August 24 – 26, 2026 at Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. Hot topics for conference; E-Bikes, ATV/UTVs, Impaired driving. Traffic Safety Coordinators meeting & dinner on Tuesday August 25th at Kalahari. Dinner is free but must register – TSC Coordinator Meeting & Dinner.
6. Community Maps Updates: Legislative updates found here. 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.
7. Discussed 25 MPH speed limit on Kemp Street. The 25 MPH speed limit sign was moved further east. 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. Baier explained that the speed limit is not enforceable because a declaration and a speed study were not done. Jerow and Schreier explained that the reduced speed being moved further west really helped slow drivers down before they reached the bridge. Now, with the increased traffic because of the detour, and the speed limit not being reduced until you are almost to the bridge, traffic is exceeding the speed limit way into the city limits. Baier explained that speed limits are set by State Statute, and Kemp Street cannot be reduced to 25 MPH without a speed study, and then has to be approved by the State. Although Kemp Street is in the city limits, the road is the jurisdiction of the County Highway Department. If people are speeding, it is an enforcement issue.
8. Baier updated the committee upcoming WisDOT projects.
 - Two Roundabouts going in on 8 East at STH 17 south and CTH “G” and replacing pavement in between. Detour in place

- Two local bridge jobs coming up. Haymeadow Road, full replacement and Town Road X rehabilitation of piers.
- USH 45 Monico to Three Lakes with 23 culverts being replaced.
- USH 51 Concrete patches in downtown Minocqua.
- USH 51 Concrete repairs USH 8 to CTH “L” – with detour. Detour will be lifted this Thursday before Memorial weekend, with flagging operations after the holiday weekend.

9. No county construction discussed.
10. Public Comments: Addition of the turn arrows on the stop lights at the corner of South Pelham and Courtney Streets is very beneficial.
11. Future meeting dates; Tuesday August 18th, and November 17th, 2026
12. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

DRAFT

Committee Chairperson

Committee Vice-Chairperson