

MEETING OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

HELD ON 05/20/2025 AT 12:30 P.M. AT THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, 730 WEST KEMP STREET, RHINELANDER, WI

MEMBERS PRESENT: KIRBY/CHAIRMAN, COOPER/SECRETARY, RASMUSSEN/WISDOT BOTS, BAIER/WISDOT, GAUTHIER/RHINELANDER PD, WESTPHAL/WIS STATE PATROL, JENSEN/CITIZEN

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.
2. **Motion:** Gauthier/Jensen to approve the agenda. All ayes.
3. **Motion:** Jensen/Kirby to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All ayes.
4. Discussed budgetary items. Cooper mentioned that the lighted key chains with alarm did not arrive in time for the bike rodeo. The sample was brought and discussed with a couple third grade teachers, and volunteers at the rodeo. It was felt by most that the key chains were not appropriate for the third graders because of the very loud alarm. The committee discussed options for the key chains. It was agreed upon that the key chains would be better suited for teens to adults. Cooper will work with the committee to come up with a media release to inform walkers that the key chains are available for pick up at the Highway Department.
5. Oneida County/State Crash History and Data. Statewide, through May 18th there have been 164 fatalities to date, compared to 168 in 2024. Oneida County has 263 crashes and 3 fatalities to date. Discussed the two most recent fatalities on USH 51 in Minocqua and USH 8 in Woodboro. First quarter of 2025 had driver behavior crashes of Aggressive, 65+ drivers, and Teen driver related crashes all up over 40% compared to the three year average. Commercial vehicle crashes up 57% compared to three year average. Rasmussen discussed the proper way to report work zone crashes, to better help the understanding of why they are happening, and how to improve safety in work zones. Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicle now allows you to register an emergency contact name on your record. In the event you are in an accident, and unable to communicate, the officer on scene would be able to get that information and contact the person directly. Children's Wisconsin has initiated the Children's Wisconsin Teen Driving Program. Targeted to teens 13-18 to educate teens on things like: distracted driving, importance of seat belt use, and being a good passenger. Education materials and much more information can be found at Childrenswi.org. 2025 Drug Recognition Expert Training in October. Deadline for registration if July 1st. Governor's Conference on Highway Safety scheduled August 19-20th at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells.
6. Community Maps Update: Community Maps still has virtual office hours every second Monday of the month from 12 – 1 p.m. Training videos have been added. Ex. Failure to stop vs Failure to yield. The difference between the two and why it is so important to list the correct one on the accident report. Legislative updates are also available on Community Maps. Signed into Law by Governor Evers: Lead vehicle in a funeral procession to use a purple flashing light; 911 Dispatcher immunity. Anyone looking for additional crash data can contact CrashDataAnalysis@dot.wi.gov.
7. Baier updated the committee upcoming WisDOT projects.
 - 2025 - USH 51 from Minocqua to Woodruff, curb & gutter now. Contractor will shut down mid-June. Remaining construction will begin in September.
 - 2025 – Bridge replacement for Town of Minocqua on Camp Nine Road – includes Federal funding and WisDOT is administering it.

8. Cooper discussed county construction
 - 2025 - CTH “L” Bridge replacement on north end – includes Federal funding and WisDOT is administering it. Will begin in late July and will include complete road closure.
 - 2025 - CTH “L” construction from Lincoln County line to USH 51 – includes Federal funding and WisDOT is administering it. No word yet on when that will begin, but will be after above bridge is complete.
 - 2025 - CTH “Q” from Bass Lake Road to Roothouse Road.
 - 2025 – CTH “G” from CTH “Q” east to “Q” west and from CTH “B” to CTH “Q” west.
9. Public Comments: Westphal mentioned that, after internal transfers and upcoming recruiting, the Wisconsin State Patrol should be fully staffed soon and their presence in Oneida County should be more visible.
10. Future meeting dates; August 21st, moved to Thursday, and November 18th, 2025
11. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Committee Chairperson

Committee Vice-Chairperson