MEETING OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

HELD ON 08/18/26 AT 12:30 P.M. AT THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, 730 WEST KEMP STREET, RHINELANDER, WI

MEMBERS PRESENT: KEVIN KIRBY/CHAIRMAN, BEN RICH/COORDINATOR, DAN GLEASON/HIGHWAY, TODD RASMUSSEN/WISDOT BOTS, GERARD BAIER/WISDOT, TIMOTHY WESTPHAL/WISCONSIN STATE PATROL, BRIAN KELLER/ONEIDA COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

The following matters were taken up to wit:

1. Kirby called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

2. Approve Agenda
Motion: Keller/Kirby to approve the agenda. All ayes; motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting
Motion: Kirby to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All ayes.

4. **Discuss 2026 Budgetary Items**
Discussion of the distribution of the shirts once schools reconvened. Kirby commented he would contact Mr. Ellenbecker for ideas to distribute the shirts. Keller commented he would be in schools the following week and could follow up with Ellenbecker suggesting handing the shirts out at the driver's education classes or more broadly throughout the schools. Shirt sizes and colors were discussed for distribution for the different Oneida County schools.

5. **Oneida County/State Crash History and Data**
Rasmussen reported Wisconsin had 307 fatal crashes as of August 16 compared to 336 the previous year noting the five-year average was 341 deaths. Locally there were 231 total crashes noting 1 fatality and 67 injuries. Rasmussen reported the five-year history showed there were four total crashes at the location of the fatality but only two were intersection related. Oneida County crashes were up six percent from 193 to 205 for the second quarter of the year noting serious injury and fatal accidents increased slightly, 65 and older driver crashes were up 35 percent, speed crashes decreased, impaired driver increased, distracted driving decreased, lane departure increased, deer crashes decreased 24 percent and winter roads decreased 75 percent. However, from the mid portion of the State to south winter road crashes increased significantly over the 3 year average.

6. **Community Maps Updates**
Rasmussen reported both Minocqua and the State Patrol transmit written citation and warning data to Community Maps. In February, the State adopted the 11th edition of the Wisconsin Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which must be followed by state and local governments and was available online. The Traffic Engineering, Operations and Safety Manual was also available online noting changes to the section addressing intersection control in order of restriction adding language to always use the least restrictive control that provides adequate safety and efficiency. In addition, new signs indicating speed of travel must all be black and yellow and attached a regulation speed limit sign. However, existing non-compliant devices can continue to be used for the life of that piece of equipment. The State will be replacing alternate route signs with emergency route to signs, new general information signs in addition to using 6-inch lane lines as recommended. The section addressing crosswalks was updated and signs indicating higher fines in school zones can only be on the speed limit sign. Rasmussen noted there were new laws or bills to report.

7. **Discuss 25 MPH Speed Limit on West Kemp Street**
Baier reported he sent an email to the City requesting a yield to pedestrians sign by the crossing and questioned if there were plans to repaint the crosswalks but did not receive a response. In July, the City placed stop signs on Kemp Street creating a four-way stop backing up traffic in both directions so he requested the signs removal.

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Baier commented there was not much that could be done and traffic would be reduced once the bypass project was completed.

8. **WisDOT Construction Updates**

Baier updated the committee on WisDOT projects.

- USH 51 Concrete repairs to the south should be completed
- USH 51 Concrete patching in Minocqua should be started within the next few weeks
- USH 8 Bypass project was on schedule for completion in September noting traffic was now routed through the roundabout by STH 17 and there two lifts competed between Germond Road and CTH G
- The Haymeadow Creek Bridge was not started along with a second bridge in northeast Lincoln County
- The Town Road X Bridge was ongoing with a traffic signal limiting it a single lane
- USH 45 Monico to Three Lakes – the culverts were replaced and paving was ongoing

9. **County Construction Updates**

Rich reported construction was mostly complete with only some painting needed on CTH K and CTH N. Both no U-turn and no left turn signs will be installed on Kemp Street to direct traffic through the roundabout rather than attempting to make either a U-turn or a left turn from the live lane. Rich commented the specialty markings at CTH J/STH 47 and CTH/USH 51 were repainted. Traffic was stopping at the white snowmobile crossing and not triggering the traffic signal at the intersection so they will be covering the crossing with mastic. Rich noted the State Patrols additional presence helped discourage motorists from passing buses while traffic from USH 51 was detoured onto STH 47.

10. **Public Comments**

None

11. **Future meeting dates**

November 17, 2026

12. Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

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Committee Chairperson Committee Vice-Chairperson