

# MEETING OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

HELD ON 08/17/21 AT 12:30 P.M. AT THE ONEIDA COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER,  
WINNEBAGO STREET, RHINELANDER, WI

**MEMBERS PRESENT: HEGEMAN/COORDINATOR, COOPER/SECRETARY,  
OLIG/WISDOT, BOTS, BAIER/WISDOT, GAUTHIER/RHINELANDER POLICE DEPT,  
DUDEK/WISCONSIN STATE PATROL, HEMPE/PUBLIC**

## The following matters were taken up to wit:

1. Hegeman called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. It was noted the meeting was properly posted and the media notified.
2. **Motion:** Olig/Gauthier to approve the agenda. All ayes.
3. **Motion:** Cooper/Gauthier to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All ayes.
4. Oneida County and State Crash History and Data for 2021 to date. Oneida County has one fatality compared to three this same time last year. 340 crashes to date compared to 337 this same time last year. Top five county highway crash probability locations based on previous three years' worth of data: Woodruff area, USH 51 from north county line to south of STH 70, number one contributing factor is drivers 65+ years of age drivers. Pelican Lake area, STH 17, CTH C and CTH P locations, number one contributing factor is speed. Hazelhurst area south, USH 51 to CTH D and northern CTH Y, number one contributing factor if 65+ years of age drivers. Newbold area, STH 47 from CTH K north to Northwestern Drive, number one contributing factor if no seat belt and distracted driving. Pine Lake area CTH W and River Road, number one contributing factor speed and drivers 65+. Statewide, 326 fatalities compared to 346 this same time last year. Statewide fatalities for 2019 were 550, 2020 there were 594.
5. Speed limit reduction for Sand Lake Road between Fawn Lake Road and Lakewood Road in the Town of Cassian. Mr. Hempe, a resident along that road, was present to request information on if it was possible to have the speed limit reduced, and if so, how to go about it. The road was originally 55 MPH many years ago and awhile back, the Town of Cassian reduced it to 45 MPH. Mr. Hempe wanted to know if it could be reduced further, to 35 MPH. Mr. Baier, WisDOT Traffic Engineer, informed Hempe that it is possible to reduce the speed limit but a study would have to be done. The study should originate at the town level, and does not have to be performed by an engineer. The study should be comprehensive and include things like, measuring blacktop surface, shoulder width, site distances from intersections, and distances between driveways. It would also be good to get a radar gun and actually check the speeds going through there. He will probably find that drivers are most likely not going 45 MPH through there because the road is very curvy and hilly. The town needs to determine if the road warrants the reduction to 35 MPH and if so, the town needs to adopt an ordinance for the speed limit change and notify law enforcement of the change. Baier will send information to the Town Chairman, Gene Rio.
6. 2021 Budget items. Cooper displayed blinking lights with our logo on them. Many lights were given to Oneida County Sheriff's Dept, Rhinelander PD, Three Lakes PD, Three Lakes Fire Dept and Rhinelander Fire Dept. Cooper and Kirby handed them out at the 'HODAG Run For Your Life' back in June. Asked committee members to try to come up with something for 2022.
7. WisDOT New County Profile Report. Not reviewed because of computer problems.
8. WisDOT Construction Updates. Baier updated the committee on the State construction projects. Projects for 2021 include:
  - Highway 17 from Rhinelander to the Vilas County Line is done
  - Highway 70 west from USH 51 to Morgan Rd will be open by the end of the week
  - Highway 32 east of Three Lakes large culvert replacement is complete
  - USH 51 two resurfacing projects between Tomahawk and Minocqua will be done in the fall

2022 projects include:

- Highway 32 east of Three Lakes large culvert replacement
- Highway 8 east from Monico to the Forest county line will be reconstructed
- Highway 47 from Kildeer to Vilas county line resurface with culvert and beamguard replacement
- Highway 45 from Highway 32 to Vilas county line resurface with culvert replacement

9. County Construction. Hegeman reported on county construction projects
- Highway E reconstruction from Highway J to Frederich Drive is complete
  - Highway D from Swamp Creek Road to the Lake Nokomis Cranberry Marsh is complete
  - Highway D from Sand/Dam Bridge to Echo/Chain Bridge is complete except for a curve by Sand Beach that will be straightened. We are waiting for Frontier to move their lines.
10. Public Comments. Dudek mentioned that there is no speed limit sign when you enter onto Highway 45 south just off Highway 8 heading towards Pelican Lake. Hegeman said he would check with the county sign man and see if the sign is missing.
11. Future meeting dates; November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
12. **Motion:** Cooper/Gauthier to adjourn at 1:50 p.m. All ayes.

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Committee Chairperson

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Committee Vice-Chairperson