

**JEFFERSON COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, January 16th, 2025

The Jefferson County Traffic Safety Commission met on Thursday, January 16th, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. for a meeting at the Jefferson County Highway Department.

ROLL CALL OF THE HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:

Members present: Cooper, Horn, Heaslip, Maze, McGeary, Preuss, Udovich, Wells

Members absent: Lorenzen, Ward,

Also present: Keith Bartholomew

Peggy Stewart

Kevin Emrath, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church (Farmington)

Jim Buege, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church (Farmington)

Laura Bohlman, City of Watertown Police Department

Don Hunter (online)

Laura Payne (online)

Walt C. (online)

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES:

The minutes from the October 17, 2024, Jefferson County Traffic Safety Commission meeting, having been distributed in advance, it was moved by Preuss and seconded by Maze to approve the minutes as printed. Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Peggy Stewart expressed continued concern about speed and truck traffic on STH 89. This was discussed further during Old Business.

-Kevin Emrath and James Buege of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Farmington expressed interest in installing a crosswalk with flashing cautionary lights on CTH B by Immanuel Church.

-Keith Bartholomew expressed concern about frequent accidents at the intersection of STH 106 and CTH J.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Discuss speed concern on USH 18 near Cambridge:

Chris Wells said there is a safety project scheduled in 2027 & WisDOT to study (collect speed data & investigate speed limit reduction/improvements)

b. Discuss speed/Jake Brake concerns on STH 89 (Forth Atkinson-Lake Mills):

Peggy Stewart stated braking/speeding is still an issue; asked about reducing speed limit.

Chris Wells stated that there is not much that can be done about increased semi traffic on STH 89 as it is a State Trunk Highway (truck route); didn't think reducing speed limit would be feasible, but said it can be monitored (collect speed data).

c. Discuss Subcommittee outreach Efforts:

Elizabeth McGeary mentioned that Lake Mills High School is interested in the subcommittee's participation during a wellness event on March 12th. Jefferson also is planning an event, but a date had not yet been set. Impact Teen Drivers: Health Department staff to shadow WisDOT representative/(pre)teen driving kits. April: parent accountability for distracted driving. In contact with school resource officers as well.

d. Discuss CTH B (Lake Mills) speed concerns:

Brian Udovich discussed traffic studies done on CTH B due to expressed speed concerns. No further action is needed.

e. Discuss USH 18 (St. Coletta) Crosswalk concerns:

Chris Wells to collect speed data; Brian Udovich to continue to work with St. Coletta, WisDOT, & Town of Jefferson.

f. Law Enforcement/Legal Involvement:

Brian Udovich discussed the importance of law enforcement and legal involvement at Traffic Safety Commission meetings; he will contact Blair Ward/Danielle Thompson (legal) and work with Travis Maze/Laura Bohlman (law enforcement) to increase participation.

g. Emergency Vehicle Preemption

It was decided to table this topic, but will continue to work with local Fire/EMS agencies in regard to interest in Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) in area communities and coordinating technology.

Chris Wells stated that there are not many Traffic Safety Commissions in the Southwest Region that utilize EVP.

Laura Bohlman indicated that the City of Watertown is investigating us of this technology.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss CTH B pedestrian crossing at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church (Farmington):

The Commission discussed installing a pedestrian crossing at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church. Brian Udovich explained the permitting process that would be necessary and will coordinate with the Church.

b. Discuss CTH E speed concerns/crashes ("S" curves):

Brian Udovich discussed a concern he received from a citizen that lives on CTH E. The crashes took place on the "S" curves on CTH E, south of Northside Drive. Will look into setting up traffic counter to collect data (speed, volume, classification).

c. Discuss concerns of CTH A/CTH V intersection (Lake Mills):

The Commission discussed high traffic volume at the intersection of CTH A & CTH V due to resident concern of pedestrian safety (& no sidewalk). It was noted that traffic is especially heavy at the beginning/end of school days; discussed the possibility of traffic signals/4-way stop at intersection. Travis Maze & Brian Udovich believe that traffic from north will have difficulty stopping (& visibility) crossing over I-94.

d. d. Discuss speed concerns/crashes on STH 106 at CTH J:

The Commission discussed concerns about crashes at STH 106 & CTH J that were expressed by a citizen that lives at the intersection; Keith Bartholomew asked about installing beam guard in northeast quadrant of intersection.

Chris Wells indicated that chevrons could help, but typically not used at intersections; he will investigate situation – possibly increase the size of the night arrow signs.

Sheriff Maze mentioned that he would have one of his deputies monitor this intersection more frequently.

e. Discuss possible intersection improvements at USH 18/STH 89 intersection:

Chris Wells stated that he thought there was an upcoming State project to construct a round-about at the western USH 18/STH 89 intersection (but not the eastern intersection); he will try to confirm at the next meeting.

Bob Preuss indicated that the intersection is dark at night due to a lack of street lighting.

10. Traffic Accident Spot Map – Jefferson County Sheriff's Department

The Spot Map was reviewed by the Commission: 5 fatal crashes since last meeting. No motion.

11. WisDOT Southwest Region, Madison - Traffic Section

Christopher Wells discussed the wrong way driving concerns on the westbound ramp on I-94 at STH 89 in Lake Mills. The State is working on a pilot program that might allow the testing of new signage (TAPCO) at this ramp to deter wrong way driving.

Captain Bohlman indicated that the existing wrong way signs are too low to the ground and too far down the ramp (they should be closer to STH 89).

12. WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety – Transportation Safety Report & Highway Safety Input

Todd Horn presented the B.O.T.S. Transportation Safety Reports/Highway Safety Input (will send presentation slides), 4th quarter crash data, DOSCI roadside screening tool for law enforcement (driver behavior reporting), & Traffic Safety Commission Toolkit on Community Maps; 50th Governor's Conference on Highway Safety: August 19 & 20 at Kalahari in WI Dells (Traffic Safety Coordinator Meeting: August 18).

13. Wisconsin State Patrol

No report

14. Village/City Police Department-Reports

No report

The next Traffic Safety Commission meeting is set for April 17th, 2025, at the Jefferson County Highway Department, at 1:00 P.M.

It was motioned by Cooper and seconded by Maze to adjourn at 2:50 p.m. Carried unanimously.