

MARQUETTE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 2, 2025

Marquette County Sheriff's Office
Public Safety Room – Montello, WI

Members present: Mike Kowalski, Aaron Williams, Joe Konrath, Trace Frost, Tony Kemnitz, Dave Benson, Mike Raddatz, Rob Lulling, Glen Bubolz, Matt Strickland, John Bitsky, Brian Trebiatowski, Ron Barger, Michael Kohnke, Amanda Thoma, Michelle Johnson, Kimberly Werden, and Stephanie Warren.

The Traffic Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mike Kowalski at 9:00 a.m.

Introductions were made.

Moved by Ron Barger and seconded by Joe Konrath to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Dave Benson and seconded by Mike Raddatz to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025, meeting. **Motion carried.**

Citizen Concerns

John Hoffmann again expressed concerns at the Lake Ave and Underwood Ave intersection due to obstructions from the Emporium and the metal yard objects for sale on their property. He was also concerned about pedestrian traffic using the crosswalk near that intersection. John asked about 3-way stop signs being placed at the intersection. Tony Kemnitz advised there are federal guidelines that would prohibit this and crash data at the intersection does not support this either. Mike Kohnke advised the city is observing the business to make sure yard objects are kept off the green space right away to avoid obstructions. Solar cross walk signs would cost the city \$14,000.00 and they do not have the budget for it. Tony advised he would do some research and follow up in July.

Old Business

1. Speed reduction on STH 23 from CTH C to 16th Road is not warranted after speed studies were conducted. Flashing beacons on the reduced speed signs would be approximately \$4,000 each. Glenn Bubolz advised he would bring up the issue at the next Town of Montello meeting.
2. Intersection review of Underwood Ave at Lake Ave was discussed under citizen concerns.
3. Everyone is invited to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) training on April 29 and May 1, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Marquette County Service Center.

New Business

1. The traffic grant for 2025 is open, however Marquette County does not qualify as we rank 52 out of 72 counties. Captain Kowalski tried to get the funding but was denied. Last year the sheriff's office was able to purchase a speed trailer from the grant. The sheriff's office was audited and passed.
2. Montello Fish N Fun will be May 2nd through the 4th, 2025. Traffic and pedestrian traffic will be heavy in the City of Montello with extra patrol being utilized.
3. Memorial Day Parades on May 26, 2025, will be assisted by the Sheriff's Office. The Oxford parade is a one-hour parade with STH 82 being shut down.
4. Dairylicious Days Breakfast is June 14, 2025, at Slowey Farms. Message boards will be used on CTH A for traffic.
5. Brakebush Brothers will be having a 100-year Celebration on June 21, 2025, at the Fairgrounds from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Parking will be at the Westfield High School and Brakebush with shuttles being utilized.
6. Montello will be having a parade to celebrate their 175th birthday. The original parade route will be used starting at East Street, going west on Montello Street to West Street to Park Street. Shutting down STH 23 will cause many problems and detours will need to be determined. Looking at a one-hour closure.
7. The Westfield School District has reported 9 red light violations so far in 2025. There was a total of 28 in 2023 and 30 in 2024. CTH E near Lawrence Lake and CTH A and STH 82 from the tracks going into Oxford are the worst areas for these violations. They currently have 12 routes and 3 van routes. They currently have cameras on their buses and footage is always available if needed. Kim Werden will send Capt. Kowalski the current routes for dissemination to patrol deputies.

Crash Review

Totals indicate there has been a total of 96 crashes with 17 injuries and 0 fatalities so far in 2025 for Marquette County. 2 have had serious injuries. Hot spots continue to be on I39 near Endeavor and Westfield. CTH E east of STH 22 near Tuttle Lake Rd has also seen numerous crashes with 7 crashes and 12 injuries since 2019 in that area.

Transportation Safety Report and Highway Safety Input

Trace Frost advised that preliminary totals for 2024 are 573 fatalities in the State of Wisconsin. So far in 2025 there have been 110 fatalities compared to 90 in 2024.

The 50th Annual Governor's Conference will be on August 19 & 20, 2025 at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells.

It is important that deputies indicate on crash reports if a crash occurs in a work zone or even enters a work zone.

Highway Construction Update

2025 DOT construction projects will be a bridge replacement on Dover Ave in the Town of Crystal Lake over the Mekan River. Dover will be closed during the duration of this project which is scheduled to start in June and be completed in August.

The Highway Department will be paving CTH D/Causeway with a completion date at the end of June.

CTH J east of STH 22 to the county line will be re-paved.

CTH B at the School House Tavern to the county line will be re-paved.

If funding allows CTH A south of CTH M and CTH Z will be done.

Other Business

Mike Kohnke advised there will be work done on the lock system at Krakow Park this summer around late July. The parking lot will be shut down during this time.

Tony Kemnitz advised that the passing zone by Bond's Auto Body was found to be correct.

Mike Raddatz questioned whether a passing zone on CTH C in front of a daycare and 25 mph zone was correct.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m. The next meeting was set for July 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Warren