

MANITOWOC COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

January 20, 2026
Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office

Present: Todd Blaser, Todd Cummings, James Falkowski, Christine Glaser, Gregory Grotegut, Daniel Diedrich, Daniel Hartwig, Barbara Herrmann, Joseph Jeanty, Jason Orth, Andrew Raatz, Todd Rasmussen, Mason Simmons, Kyle Stotzheim, Matthew Wallander.

Also Present: Jacinta Lehner, Amanda Ziarnik, William Rexses, Joshua Stradal.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Todd Cummings.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from October 21st, 2025 made by Todd Blaser, seconded by Greg Grotegut. Minutes will stand as written.

Public Comment: Josh Stradal of Branch Fire and Rescue expressed interest in joining the Traffic Safety Commission. Motion to approve made by James Falkowski, seconded by Greg Grotegut. Referred to County Board for approval.

William Rexses of the Northern Shores ATV/UTV Club provided county maps to Board members outlining 10 locations where UTV club is requesting approval for usage of ATVs/UTVs on landlocked or small sections of the county. Dan Hartwig explained difficulty enforcing UTV laws due to Manitowoc County Townships having different ordinances regarding UTV operation. Kewaunee County adopted the same enforcement for all townships, thereby making it easier to enforce UTV ordinances. Concern was raised by Greg Grotegut and Barb Herrmann regarding the difference in OWI and open intoxicant laws for UTV operators vs. vehicle operators. Recommendation made by Greg Grotegut to table matter until UTV and vehicle operators are governed under the same State Statutes. Motion made by Greg Grotegut, seconded by James Falkowski. Motion carried.

Request for Site Evaluation:

Alverno Rd at Middle Rd: Greg Grotegut advised he went to the location and observed traffic in all directions. He does not believe there are any obstructions at this intersection. Greg advised that statistically there has been 1 crash at this location in the previous year. There was also 1 crash in 2021 which was attributed to distracted driving. Greg does not recommend additional signage at this location. Motion made by Barb Herrmann to close the matter, seconded by Joseph Jeanty. Motion carried.

Follow-up on Site Evaluation:

CORD XX / STHY 67 and STHY 67 / STHY 57: Mason Simmons advised all signage has been removed from the right-of-way. Matter is considered closed.

DOT Report from WI DOT-BOTS Representative: Todd Rasmussen reported there were 4 traffic fatalities and 429 injuries with a total of 2140 crashes in Manitowoc County in 2025. Todd compared crash data from 2025 to the 3-year average. Todd explained RCUTS (Restricted Crossing U-Turns), which were previously referred to as J-turns in the State of Wisconsin. Todd advised RCUTs are utilized to reroute left-turn and crossing traffic through U-intersections, which decreases the potential for severe injury crashes by reducing the amount of conflict points. Todd advised use of RCUTs has led to an 88% long-term decrease in crashes.

Information was provided regarding numerous legislative proposals as well as those recently signed into law.

Recent Fatalities:

English Lake Rd / S Union Rd: Report given by Todd Cummings indicated a 24-YO male was operating a 2004 Subaru Impreza WB on English Lake Rd when he lost control and was ejected from the vehicle into a farm field. Careless driving and failure to control the vehicle were contributing factors to the crash along with a blood alcohol content of 0.184%.

STHY 32/57 / Cemetery Rd: Todd Cummings indicated a 17-YO female was operating a 2005 Buick LaCrosse SB on STHY 32/57 when she lost control, crossed the median, and struck a NB 2002 GMC Yukon. According to accident reconstruction data, the victim's vehicle was traveling approx. 58 mph at the time of the crash. The vehicle's speed along with ice and snow-covered roadways are believed to be contributing factors to the crash.

Next Meeting: April 21, 2026 at 10:00 am.

Motion to adjourn made by Todd Blaser at 11:09 a.m., seconded by James Falkowski. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Glaser
Traffic Safety Commission Secretary