

MANITOWOC COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

April 21, 2026

Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office

Present: Todd Blaser, Todd Cummings, Curt Green, Gregory Grotegut, Justin Hansen, Joseph Jeanty, Benjamin Meinnert, Gary Mueller, Dave Murack, John Musial, Jason Orth, Todd Rasmussen, Mason Simmons, Kyle Stotzheim, Josh Stradal

Also Present: Jacinta Lehner

Excused: Christine Glaser, Barbara Herrmann

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Todd Cummings.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from January 20, 2026 made by Ben Meinnert, seconded by Kyle Stotzheim. Minutes will stand as written.

Public Comment: None.

Request for Site Evaluation:

CORD X: Gary Mueller mentioned the speed was monitored, 35 MPH WB and 55 MPH EB. Resident wants signs to the east outside of School Hill, but speed did not justify moving the signs. Mason Simmons suggested dynamic speed signs but would be up to the Town and not the County. Greg Grotegut made a motion to bring it to the County Highway Committee, and they will work with the township. Motion seconded by Josh Stradal.

Follow-up on Site Evaluation:

Proposed slow-moving vehicle signage on USHY 10 east of Reedsville due to large Amish population. Mason Simmons indicated the signs are through their sign department, and he believes they are working on it. Kyle Stotzheim suggested Amish Buggy signs on CORD W between USHY 10 and W Goodwin Rd as they use this stretch to go to and from the high school. Greg Grotegut made a motion to bring matter to the County Highway Committee, seconded by Kyle Stotzheim.

Additional shoulder widening at USHY 10 east of Maertz Rd. Mason Simmons stated once STHY 10 is resurfaced again, the shoulder width will be evaluated.

DOT Report from WI DOT-BOTS Representative: Todd Rasmussen reported there were 4 traffic fatalities and 56 non-fatal injury crashes with a total of 505 crashes in Manitowoc County thus far in 2026. Todd shared information regarding Community Maps Zoom meetings which are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at noon beginning on July 8, 2026. Information was provided on the Highway Safety Improvement Program which funds projects that reduce the number and severity of crashes on all public roads, focused on infrastructure improvements identified and selected through a data-driven approach. This year's Governor's Conference on Highway Safety will be August 24-25, 2026 in Wisconsin Dells. Information was provided regarding numerous legislative proposals as well as those recently signed into law.

Recent Fatalities:

Reifs Mills Rd / N CORD W: Todd Cummings indicated on 02/04/26 at 1510 hours, a 83-YO male was operating a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado SB on CORD W and veered off the road into the east ditch north of Reifs Mills Rd. The photos show a gradual entry into the ditch. All airbags were deployed and the operator was wearing shoulder and lap belts. The operator was suspected of being ill and/or fainted. The operator was transported for injuries and the death was reported on 02/11/26. Age and injuries sustained as result of the crash are factors for the death. Jacinta Lehner stated the death was due to blunt force injuries. Toxicology results are not back yet.

STHY 147 W / Melnik Rd: Todd Cummings indicated on 03/15/26 at 2249 hours, a 92-YO male was operating a Chevrolet Trailblazer NB on STHY 147 and went into the ditch west of Melnik Rd. The cause of the crash is believed to be failure to control the vehicle. Unknown if seatbelt was used as the operator was not wearing one upon arrival of law enforcement. The male had bruising and bleeding on his face and head. The male was transported by EMS and the death was reported on 03/17/26. Jacinta Lehner stated alcohol testing came back negative but still waiting on drugs. Jacinta stated death was due to blunt force trauma. Jacinta also mentioned the family stated the male had dementia, which could be a contributing factor to the crash.

8131 STHY 42: Todd Cummings indicated on 03/27/26 at 1733 hours, a 20-YO male was operating a Toyota Camry EB on Hillcrest Rd when he failed to stop at the stop sign and was struck by a 2014 Kia SW operating SB on STHY 42. Upon law enforcement arrival, one male operator was lying outside the vehicle and the 20-YO male operator was trapped inside vehicle. The 20-YO male was transported to Aurora BayCare and pronounced deceased there. The other operator was transported to St. Vincent Hospital for injuries and released. Contributing factors of the crash were disregard sign, inattentive driving (cellphone use), and failure to yield right of way. Per Jacinta Lehner, alcohol results came back negative.

Jacinta Lehner mentioned a crash in Kiel on 01/06/26 where an 82-YO female's foot was run over by a vehicle, and she died on 02/02/26 due to complications of the injury sustained on 01/06/26. This is within the 30-day window to be considered a traffic fatality. More information to be collected from Kiel Police Department.

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

Motion to adjourn made by Ben Meinnert at 10:36 a.m., seconded by Jason Orth. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Glaser
Traffic Safety Commission Secretary