

HIGHWAY SAFETY
August 5, 2025

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Committee Chairman, Brad Steiner. In attendance were: Trace Frost, WI DOT-BOTS LEL; Kyle Kozelka, Highway Commissioner; Marc Myhre, Interim EM Director; Tad Beutin, Prairie du Chien Fire Chief; Nick Gilberts, City of PdC Street Dept Superintendent and Rose Dull, Chief Deputy Co. Clerk. Via Zoom: Brad Byom, Wis. DOT and Luke Yahn
Verify Posting	Steiner verified that the meeting notice was properly posted.
Approval of Minutes	Motion by Kozelka, second by Beutin to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2025, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
Road Hazards	Kyle Kozelka provided the following updates: • Seasonal Hazards: Deer and other wildlife remain common summer road hazards. • Construction Activity: Major projects on Highways 35 and 131, with multiple contractors working simultaneously from Gays Mills to Soldiers Grove, causing multiple overlapping flagging operations. • Flagging Concerns: Inconsistent flagger presence creating driver confusion; public calls received regarding delays and safety. • Safety Issues: Drivers bypassing barricades encourage others to follow, undermining local-traffic-only restrictions and increasing risks to workers and motorists. • Mitigation Efforts: Additional signage and rumble strips in place, though driver distraction remains a significant problem.
WI DOT-BOTS	Trace Frost shared the following updates: • Fatalities & Crash Data: As of yesterday, 315 fatalities have been reported statewide, up from 308 at this time last year. While early year numbers were lower, recent weeks have seen an increase. The five-year average is 316. Another category stands at 1,639, up from previous years. Pedestrian fatalities have dropped from 33 last year to 23 this year. As of this morning, 119 crashes have been reported year-to-date, with 32 injuries and zero fatalities. All crashes are 100% matched, reflecting strong use of the Track Location Tool. Great work by law enforcement and the county. • Law Enforcement Phlebotomy Program: The pilot program, launched last year, trains law enforcement personnel to conduct blood draws in place of hospitals. Three classes have trained 20 phlebotomists, completing 120 blood draws statewide. Two more classes are planned for January and May 2026, helping address rural access challenges. • Community Maps Virtual Office Hours: Held via Zoom on the second Monday of each month from 12-1 p.m. Informal sessions with liaisons and designers to answer questions, gather feedback, and discuss improvements. • Governor's Conference on Highway Safety: Scheduled for August 19-20, 2025 in Wisconsin Dells, offering valuable training opportunities. • Wrong-Way Driving Task Force: Engineers are reviewing causes, circumstances, and potential engineering solutions to prevent wrong-way driving. Defined as traveling in the opposite direction on a divided highway (e.g., southbound in a northbound lane), not simply driving the wrong way on a one-way street.

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- WI DOT-State** Brad Byom joined via Zoom. There were no new updates to report at this time. They are still waiting for crash data from 2020 to 2024, which is expected within the next month. Once this data is received, an update will be provided, and details will be shared at the next meeting.
- Next Meeting** **November 4, 2025**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Crawford County Administration Building, Room #215 with Zoom access.
- Adjournment** Motion by Beutin, second by Kozelka to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Rosarie Dull
Chief Deputy County Clerk