

LINCOLN COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 - 9:00 AM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Members Present: Sheriff Ken Schneider, Chief Corey Bennett, Jason Lemmer, Todd Rasmussen, Gerry Baier, Trooper Tim Westphal

Members Excused: Chief Deputy Tyler Iverson, Captain Don Suebert, Tyler VerHasselt

Visitors: Ashley Kickbush

2. Approval of the Minutes

a. May 2026 Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chief Corey Bennett, seconded by Jason Lemmer.

3. Review Crash Data

a. Merrill Police Department

Chief Corey Bennett noted the year-to-date crash totals are slightly higher than in 2025, same with controlled intersection accidents. Mentioned an e-scooter v. car accident which led to a brief discussion on e-bikes, e-scooters and e-motos. Noted a complaint received regarding the hedges on Nicolet Bank's corner stating it is potentially blocking vehicle visibility of pedestrians at the crosswalk.

Motion by Sheriff Ken Schneider, seconded by Jason Lemmer.

b. Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Ken Schneider reported a 5% decrease in crashes compared to the same period last year. There have been zero fatalities, with a total of 62 crashes, of which 41 were car versus deer incidents, for this quarter.

Motion by Chief Corey Bennett, Seconded by Jason Lemmer.

4. Lincoln County Highway Department Report

Jason Lemmer noted County Road D remains closed but will open soon. Mentioned County Rd M bridge over Cooper River is posted at 10 tons until repairs can be made. County Road YY remains closed for repairs. State Hwy 8 at County Rd CC and County Rd T are closed for repairs. County Rd K overpass at State Highway 51 is down to one lane for deck repairs. Noted complaints have been received that westbound traffic on County Rd B at County Rd D is not stopping at the stop sign. Mentioned two attenuators have been hit by vehicles on US Highway 51 by inattentive drivers.

Motion by Chief Corey Bennett, seconded by Sheriff Ken Schneider

5. State Report

Todd Rasmussen mentioned year-to-date crash fatalities are down. Noted Lincoln County crashes this year total 197, of which 14 were with injury. Noted the Community Maps Virtual hours. Brief discussion regarding the WI Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Traffic Engineering, Operations and Safety Manual. Noted the Governor's Conference from August 24th through the 26th.

Ashley Kickbush (a Breath Alcohol Toxicologist from the state) discussed evidential breath testing of instruments and oral fluid testing (Act 99).

Gerry Baier mentioned the Spirit River Bridge project is on schedule, the Noisey Creek Bridge project has not begun yet and County Rd D at US Hwy 51 is completed. Discussion regarding State Rd 107 is not on schedule and will not be completed for the Fall Ride. The Barnes Creek bridge is done. However, pavement resurfacing has been moved up due to deterioration. The detour is unknown at this time.

Motion by Chief Corey Bennett, seconded by Jason Lemmer.

6. Schedule Next Regular Meeting (November 17th, 2026, 9:00am, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Lower Conference Room)

7. Adjourn

Motion by Jason Lemmer, seconded by Todd Rasmussen. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:46am.