



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2017 HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Crow Wing County Highway Department has installed numerous safety improvement projects over the years. Some of these are highly visible, while others may be less noticeable. Numerous programs and funding sources are utilized to provide these improvements, including local, state and federal.

Curve chevron signing has been in place at isolated locations for many years. Beginning in 2009, the County took a proactive approach to providing the signage on all high speed paved roadways. Since 2009, more than 350 miles of county roadways have had the signs installed. On average, a 34% reduction in run-off-the-road crashes on curves has been realized after the signs were installed.

Another tool that has been utilized, which may be less apparent to drivers, is the installation of grooved-in pavement markings. A shallow groove is cut into the pavement, with a specialty pavement marking being painted in the groove. The paint is protected from deterioration from traffic and snowplows, resulting in a longer life. It also is wet-reflective, allowing it to remain more visible at night and when precipitation is present. A total of 33 miles received this treatment in 2012, with another 40 miles being done in 2016. More roadways are planned for future projects. An average reduction of 58% in run-off-the-road crashes has been calculated after installation, making this a very cost effective safety improvement.

Intersection lighting has been another tool that has been utilized. Since 2009, over 30 intersections have received lighting. Crash data has not revealed a significant reduction; however, some unexpected benefits have resulted. Numerous comments are received from roadway users that consider the lighting a helpful amenity, and our own snowplow operators have stated that removing snow and ice at intersections with lighting is faster and safer, especially in the early morning hours.

A number of other isolated projects have been accomplished. These include LED flashing stop signs, rural intersection conflict warning systems, dynamic speed feedback systems, dynamic advisory signing, and school zone signing. The use of this specialty signing needs to be installed at appropriate locations to address an issue, and to assure there is not an over-proliferation. Placing these types of signs in too many locations would result in them being less effective where needed.

The County Highway Department is also a charter member of the Brainerd Lakes Towards Zero Deaths coalition. This group consists of professionals from Law Enforcement, Engineering, Emergency Services, education and the public. The overarching goal is to reduce serious traffic crashes and share information in a collaborative manner.

For any questions, please contact the County Highway Department at (218) 824-1110 or visit the County website.

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Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

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