



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff **Chad Enright** Chief Deputy

July 2, 2025

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Hills Farm State Office Building
4822 Madison Yards Way
Madison, WI 53705

Representative Mark Born
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator John Jagler
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Sen.Jagler@legis.wisconsin.gov

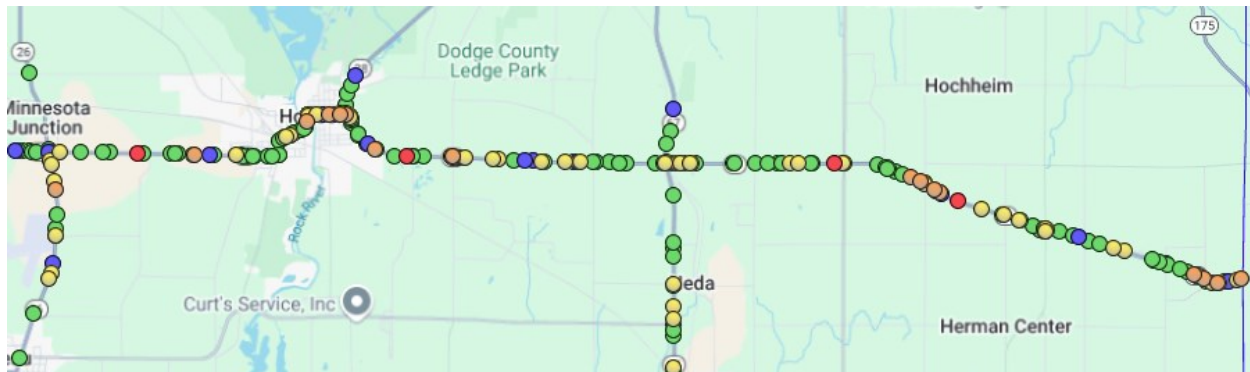
RE: State Highway 33 – East Half of Dodge County

To whom it may concern at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Representative Mark Born and Senator John Jagler,

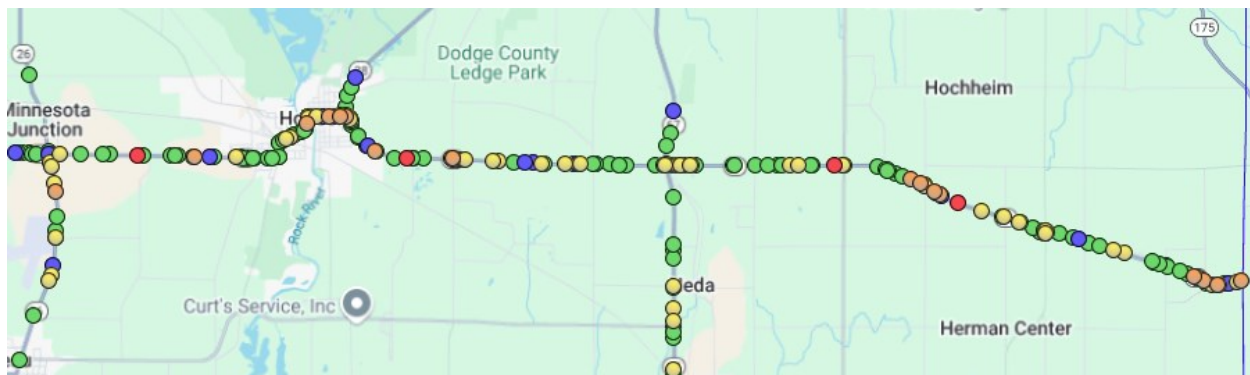
I am writing to you today to bring to your attention an increasingly dangerous stretch of highway in Dodge County. While I certainly understand that there are many highways needing attention in the State of Wisconsin, I believe that Highway 33 between Highway 26 and the East Dodge County Line (likely to Interstate 41) has seen a significant increase in traffic, speeds, and crashes. I recently responded to a crash on Highway 33 at County Highway TW, which fortunately ended up being only a minor injury crash, but involved a semi, a box truck, a cargo van, and an SUV. This crash should have been a fatal crash, but we got lucky. As I was standing there, my crash investigation sergeant came over to me and told me he had to use a different color paint to mark the scene, as the paint from the last crash was still present.

This intersection and others have been very problematic in Dodge County, and while the roundabout that was placed at Highway 33 and County P has been great, intersection improvements do not resolve the mid-block issues that we also see along this entire stretch of highway. Our staff have worked to try to slow down traffic along this stretch of highway, but we still have very aggressive driving, including speeding, passing in no passing zones, and tailgating, causing a great deal of problems.

I did some research using Wisconsin Community Maps and discovered that over the last 10 ½ years, (January 1, 2015 – July 2, 2025) we have had a total of 377 crashes involving 657 vehicles, 164 Injuries (numerous with serious injuries), and 7 fatalities. Here is a graphic of this stretch over the last 10 years:



According to Wisconsin Community Maps, in the last 5 ½ years (January 1, 2020-July 2, 2025), we have had 250 crashes, involving 442 vehicles, 105 injuries, and 5 fatalities. Here is a map of that time period:



Here is a breakdown/comparison of these time frames:

Years	Jan 2015 – Dec 2019	Jan 2020 – July 2025	Percent Increase	Total
Total Crashes	127	250	96%	377
Fatalities	2	5	150%	7
Injuries	59	105	78%	164
Vehicles Involved	215	442	105%	657

Traffic on Highway 33 has increased tremendously. People are commuting more and more from Beaver Dam, Horicon, and Mayville areas to the West Bend and Milwaukee areas every day for work. It is incumbent on us to do our research to evaluate whether the traffic crashes and traffic volume warrant restructuring our highway in this area.

My opinion as the sheriff is that it is time to study whether a 4-lane highway is appropriate or if other highway improvements are necessary to keep our community safe. While only one option, and I am not an expert on highway design, a 4-lane highway could not only increase traffic safety but also allow for a decrease in congestion of the traffic along this stretch of highway. I also believe that it would be important to explore if a bypass around the city of Horicon is feasible/appropriate in a long-range plan, as congestion

throughout the city has become problematic as well, causing significant safety concerns for the residents of Horicon and motorists traveling through.

I view this project as being similar to the needed expansion of Highway 26 north of Watertown to 4 lanes. It has made Dodge County much safer on a highway that has similar or even reduced traffic counts to Highway 33.

I ask your consideration in at least authorizing a study to explore the future of this stretch of highway before more dollars are thrown at only correcting intersections when the entire stretch of highway has become dangerous.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,



Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt

CC:	Josh Maas	(Mayor - City of Horicon)
	Tim Baier	(Town Board Chair – Town of Herman)
	Daniel Guenterberg	(Town Board Chair – Town of Hubbard)
	Jeff Pitzlin	(Town Board Chair – Town of Oak Grove)
	Brian Field	(Dodge County Highway Commissioner)
	Scott Smith	Dodge County Highway Traffic Safety Committee Chair