

The Board of Commissioners of Wabash County, Indiana

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 85-7, 2010

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING TRAFFIC ON COUNTY HIGHWAYS BY THE DECLARATION OF TRAVEL ADVISORY LEVELS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Wabash County, Indiana, may adopt ordinances regulating traffic on any highway in the County highway system, subject to I.C. 9-2;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Wabash County, Indiana, previously adopted Ordinance No. 85-11, 2007 and desires to repeal and replace the same by this Ordinance;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a procedure should be implemented when it is believed that there is a threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from the accumulation of snow and/or ice.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS NOW ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Definitions.

- 1.1. "Commissioners" shall mean the Board of Commissioners of Wabash County, Indiana.
- 1.2. "Committee" shall mean the committee composed of the president of the Commissioners, the Wabash County Highway Superintendent, the Wabash County Sheriff, and the Wabash County Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, or their respective designees.
- 1.3. "Coordinator" shall mean the president of the Commissioners or his designee.

2. Travel Advisory Levels.

- 2.1. A declaration pursuant to this Ordinance shall consist of four (4) levels in order to keep the residents of Wabash County, Indiana informed of the weather and county road conditions, and to assist the County Highway Department in the clearing of the County highways by eliminating stranded vehicles.
 - 2.1.1. A Level 1 (Red) "Emergency" Travel Advisory may be declared when Roads have become impassable and the County Highway Department is not able to keep the Roadways cleared due to severe snow fall and high winds producing high drifts and blizzard like conditions. Travel may be restricted to emergency personnel ONLY and essential emergency travel by members of the public. Further restrictions that the Board deems necessary may be enacted at this time.
 - 2.1.2. A Level 2 (Orange) "Warning" Travel Advisory may be declared when conditions are threatening to the public's safety. Only essential travel is recommended. Emergency action plans have been or should be implemented by businesses, schools, government agencies and other organizations.
 - 2.1.3. A Level 3 (Yellow) "Watch" Travel Advisory may be declared when routine travel or activities should be restricted in areas of the County because of a

hazardous situation; citizens should use caution to avoid these areas. Schools and businesses should begin to implement their emergency action plans.

2.1.4.. A Level 4 (White) "Caution" Travel Advisory may be activated when conditions may develop that limit or hinder travel or activities in isolated areas. No travel restrictions have been imposed, but citizens should be alert to changing road and weather conditions. (This is not a declared Travel Advisory, but an activation of the ordinance to alert the public of possible hazardous conditions).

3. Procedure for Declaring a Travel Advisory Level.

- 3.1. When, in the opinion of the Committee, the actual or expected accumulation of snow and/or ice will create a threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from the accumulation of snow and/or ice, the Committee shall recommend, in its discretion, to the Commissioners that they declare either a Level 1 Emergency Travel Advisory, a Level 2 Warning Travel Advisory, or a Level 3 Watch Travel Advisory based on the criteria set forth in section 2 above.
- 3.2. The Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security shall alert media outlets when a Travel Advisory Level has been declared.
- 3.3. A Level 4 Caution may be activated and transmitted to the public by any Committee member and does not need a declaration from the Commissioners.
- 3.4. A declared Travel Advisory shall continue in effect until whomever declared the Advisory thereafter determine an emergency no longer exists and terminates the declaration.

4. Effect of Declaring a Travel Advisory Level.

- 4.1. If a Level 1 Emergency Travel Advisory is declared, all motor vehicle travel on County highways is prohibited.
- 4.2. If a Level 2 Warning Travel Advisory is declared, motorists may travel on County highways at their own risk.
- 4.3. If a Level 3 Watch Travel Advisory is declared, motorists need to be aware that travel could be restricted on County highways and caution should be used.
- 4.4. If a Level 4 Caution Travel Advisory is activated, motorists may travel on County highways.
- 4.5. If, during an Emergency, Watch, Warning, or Caution Travel Advisory, a motor vehicle becomes disabled, abandoned or incapable of moving under its own power on the County Highways, the vehicle may be removed at the expense of its owner at the direction of any member of the Committee.
- 4.6. If a Level 1 Emergency Travel Advisory or a Level 2 Warning Travel Advisory is declared:
 - 4.6.1. No motor vehicle shall be parked on a County highway or right of way.
 - 4.6.2. Pushing (plowing) snow on to a County highway or right of way is prohibited.

5. Motor Vehicles Exempt from Travel Advisory Levels.

5.1. The following motor vehicles shall be exempt from the effects of declaring a Travel Advisory Level:

5.1.1. All emergency response vehicles, public utility vehicles, towing vehicles, and vehicles being operated for the sole and express purpose of caring for livestock.

5.1.2. Any snowmobiles or other off-road vehicles which are declared to be "emergency vehicles" by the Coordinator or Sheriff of Wabash County.

6. Penalty.

6.1. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance commits a Class "C" infraction.

7. Effective Date.

7.1. This ordinance shall become effective upon publication pursuant to Indiana Law.

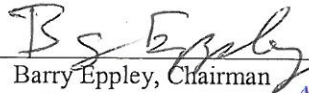
8. Repeal of General Ordinance 85-11, 2007.

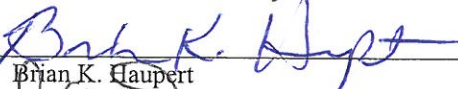
8.1. General Ordinance 85-11, 2007 is repealed upon the effective date of this ordinance.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Wabash County, Indiana, this 29th day of November, 2010.

Board of Commissioners of Wabash County, Indiana


By:


Barry Eppley, Chairman


Brian K. Haupt


Scott E. Givens

ATTEST:


Jane Ridgeway, Wabash County Auditor
Wabash County, Indiana