

October 25, 2022

Highway Committee Report

Subject: Jefferson County All-Terrain (ATV) and Utility-Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Route Ordinance

Background: Jefferson County Board passed the ATV/UTV Ordinance on April 20, 2021. The ordinance allowed ATV/UTV vehicles to utilize Jefferson County Highways in Jefferson County within limitations stated in the ordinance. The Ordinance stated a review of the recreation and economic benefits should be completed against any possible dangers including safety and health effects. Any findings and recommendations by the Highway Committee should be forwarded to the County Board as a communication by November 30, 2022.

Review/Comments

Traffic Safety Committee Information (Highway/Sheriff's Departments) – ATV/UTV Ordinance

The Traffic Safety Commission has placed this on the agenda numerous times since the Ordinance passed on April 20, 2021. The comments from the committee were mostly about educating the public on the ordinance, and discussing how the Ordinance affected local municipalities that did not have roads open to ATV's.

The Highway Department and Sheriff's Department have discussed the Ordinance numerous times since the Ordinance passed, including input at most of the Traffic Safety Committee meetings. There have been very few issues from the Ordinance, with most of the discussion centering on the initial posting of the Ordinance and questions regarding the details of the Ordinance.

Highway Committee Review

The Highway Committee discussed the ATV/UTV Ordinance for County Highways at the October 25, 2022 Highway Committee meeting. The Committee discussed general information regarding the Ordinance including the feedback from the Traffic Safety Commission. The Committee also discussed the adoption of similar ordinances from the majority of local government (Towns, Villages, Cities) agencies in Jefferson County. The unanimous consensus of the Committee was to leave the ordinance in-place without any adjustments at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

George Jaeckel

George Jaeckel, Chairman
Jefferson County Highway Committee