

EAU-CLAIRE COUNTY POLICY FOR ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) ROUTES ON THE COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY SYSTEM

An ATV route is a highway, or section of highway, designated for the use of ATV's by the governmental agency having jurisdiction. A route is generally recognized as a means to connect the terminal ends of a trail or route when it is obstructed by a city, village, river, railroad track or other impediment. The Wisconsin state statutes give the Counties the authority to accommodate ATV's on County Trunk Highways designated as routes.

The attached Application Form must be completed and forwarded to the Highway Commissioner or Designee by a Trail Association or Town/Village/Municipal Board for consideration. Before a highway segment can be considered for designation as an ATV route, the petitioner(s) shall demonstrate to the Highway Committee that no other practical option as an off road trail exists. The single most important route consideration is the safety of all users: ATV riders, pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, automobile and truck operators, and others. The following criteria shall be considered by the Highway Committee during the review and approval of reasonable requests for ATV route establishment.

- Has the route application been submitted by a Municipal Board
- Has the route been approved by the Town or Municipality
- Is the required application form completed with sufficient detail
- Have all alternatives been fully investigated
- Does the requested segment connect segments of ATV trail/route networks
- Length of segment requested
- Posted speed limit of the roadway
- Traffic volume on requested segment
- Pavement condition (PASER Rating)
- Vertical or horizontal alignment safety concerns
- Pavement width
- Is the route approved by the County Highway Department
- Is the route approved by the County Sheriff's Department
- A notification letter will inform resident on how to respond to proposed route prior to approval consideration
- Safety Disclaimer letter will be sent to applicant if approved
- Applicant to supply all signs – as needed

The County as the unit of government that designates the routes is responsible by statute to post the proper route signs. Route signing must be clearly understandable to everyone. The County Highway Department as the maintaining authority of the highways designated as ATV routes shall install and maintain the legally required signage.

If a situation develops that warrants closure of a designated ATV route, the Highway Commissioner shall have authority to temporarily suspend or close the route subject to review and final determination by the Highway Committee. Should the designated route be permanently closed, the ATV route signage will be entirely removed.

Following due consideration of the economic and recreational value to connect trail/route opportunities and weighed against the health and safety of the public, liability aspects, terrain involved, traffic density and history of automobile and truck traffic; the Eau Claire County Highway Committee is authorized to establish necessary and reasonable ATV routes on the County Trunk Highway System. The Eau Claire County Highway Committee and/or Highway Commissioner shall retain sole authority for closure or termination of any ATV route on the County Trunk Highway System. The designation and opening of an approved ATV route will become effective upon County Board action to add the route to the County Ordinance.

This policy shall become effective upon passage by the Eau Claire County Highway Committee in accordance with chapter 10.05 of the Eau Claire County Ordinance which designates all-terrain vehicle routes and their regulation on the County Trunk Highway System.