

# 2017

## Annual Traffic Safety Report



Submitted by  
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## **Traffic Safety Committee**

The Traffic Safety Committee consists of the Mayor (no vote), the Street Commissioner (street department rep), the Traffic Safety Officer (police rep), mayor appointed person, a council appointed member and the city engineer. Three of the Five have to be present to have a meeting (quorum).

The Traffic Safety Committee met nine (9) times during the year of 2017, up from seven (7) times in 2016.

The Traffic Safety Officer investigated 39 minor complaints via email and phone calls. They mostly consisting of speeding vehicles, some stop sign issues, and parking problems. The highest number of complaints/requests was in year 2005 with over one hundred (100) complaints. We have not come close since then.

We always receive complaints about speeding vehicles in subdivisions and only received a few requests for stop signs at problem intersections to reduce the number of speeding cars or “almost collisions” that occur. This usually happens in the spring time when the weather warms up and the roadways are clear. HOA’s for housing additions were much quieter this year and didn’t request much speed limit changes only removal of junk vehicles or crowded parking along the streets.

The Traffic Safety Committee requested ten (10) new ordinances to be put in place for year 2017. These consisted of new stop signs, creating handicap parking, and newly constructed streets/intersections in the housing additions. The biggest ordinance to pass through the committee was for use of Golf Carts on city streets, with some restrictions and a permitting process.

This committee continues to brainstorm different ideas to make the City of Greenfield’s streets a safer place to drive.

## **FACT Team-Fatal Accident Crash Team**

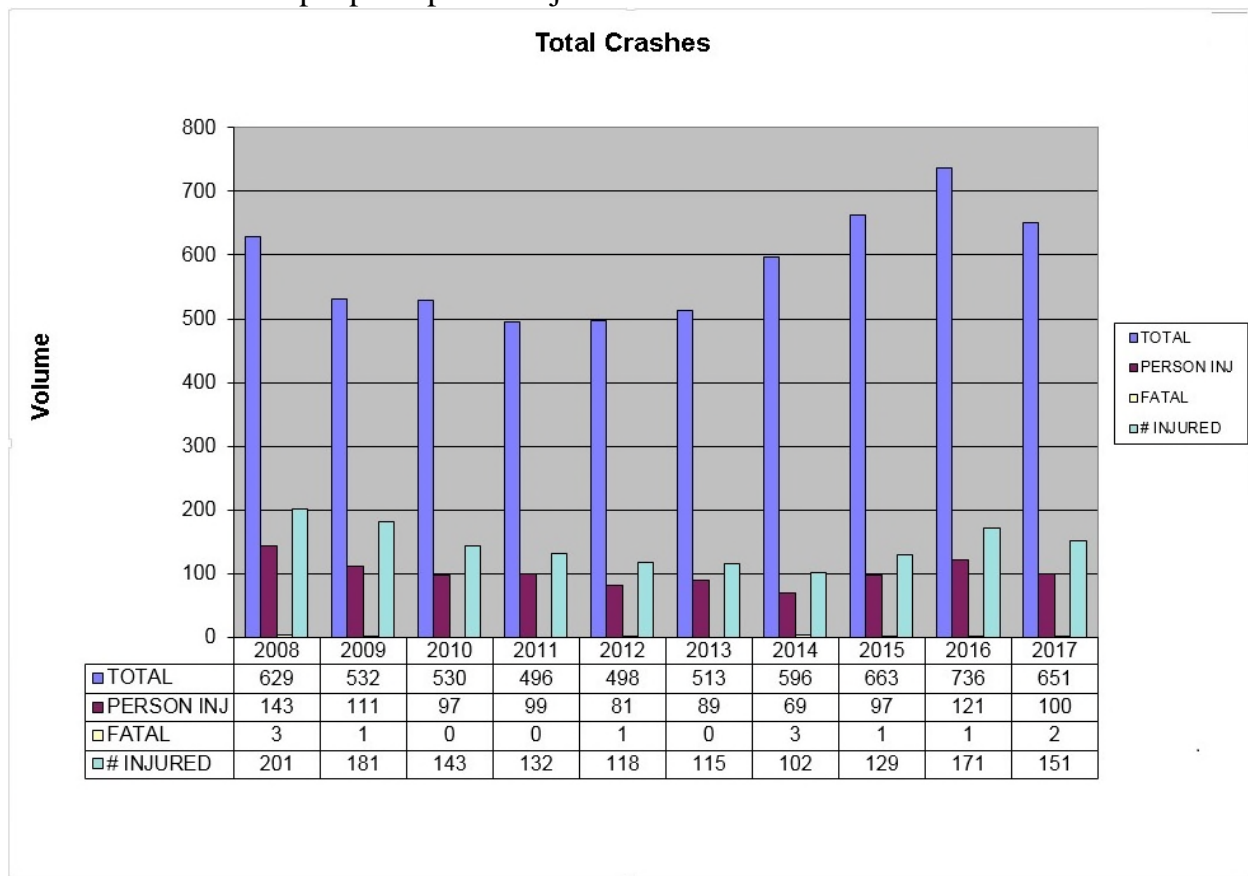
The team is a combination of the Greenfield Police Department detectives, evidence techs and crash re-constructionists along with members of the Hancock County Sheriff’s department. This team is a called out to any serious personal injury crash or fatal accident in the Hancock County area. This team is a huge asset for investigating serious crashes to their fullest.

## Crash Statistics and Trends

The Greenfield Police Department has kept a detailed record of crash statistics since 1976 and continues to do so to this day. Some of the older data will be in the attached spreadsheets with this report if you would like to refer back to it.

I would like to focus on the past ten years with my data; some comparisons may be older. It is clear that the number of crash reports investigated by the Greenfield Police Department has been on the rise due to the population increase and business growth along State Road 9 on the north end of town.

For 2017, 651 crashes (down 85 from 2016) were reported and investigated within city limits. Of these 651 crashes, 100 were reported as PI (personal injury) crashes, which totaled to 151 people reported injured.



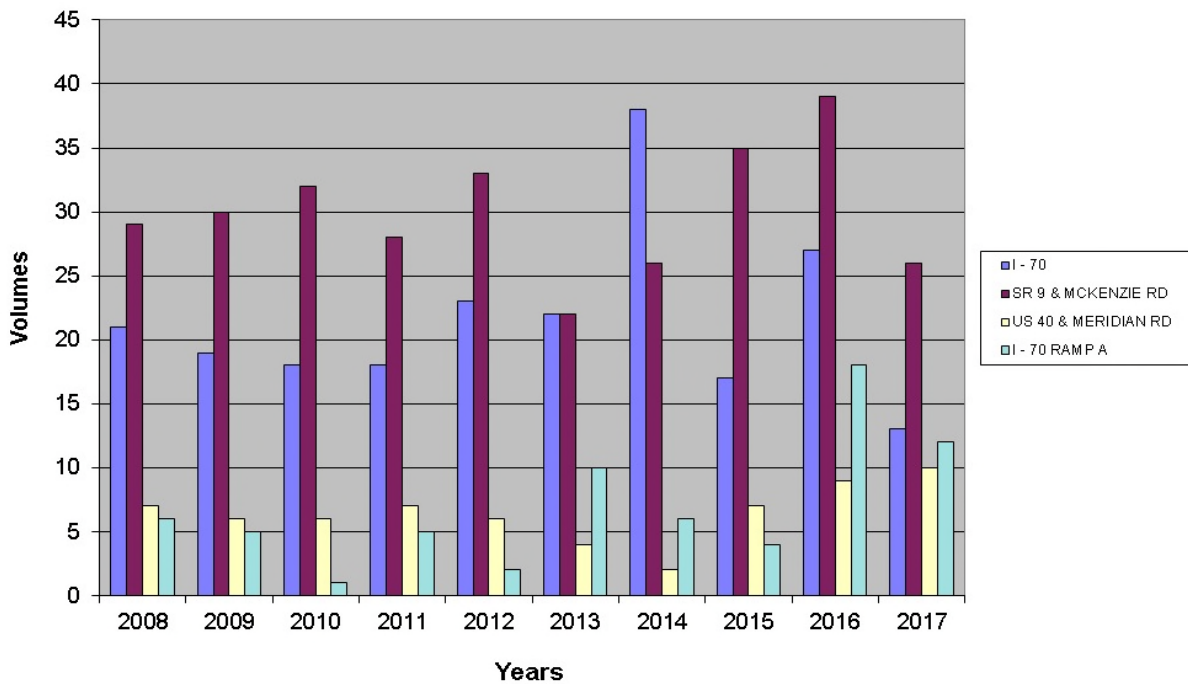
The busiest intersection for 2017 was State Road 9 and New Road. We had a total number of 30 crashes at this intersection; this has been about average for this intersection the last 5 years. This was down nine crashes from 2016.

Another busy intersection was State Road 9 and McKenzie Road. We had a total of 26 crashes at this intersection. The past ten years shows that crashes average in the 20's-30's range.

Another busy area of our city is State Road 9 and Green Meadows Drive. There have been 20 crashes reported in this area for 2017, this was down 13 from 2016.

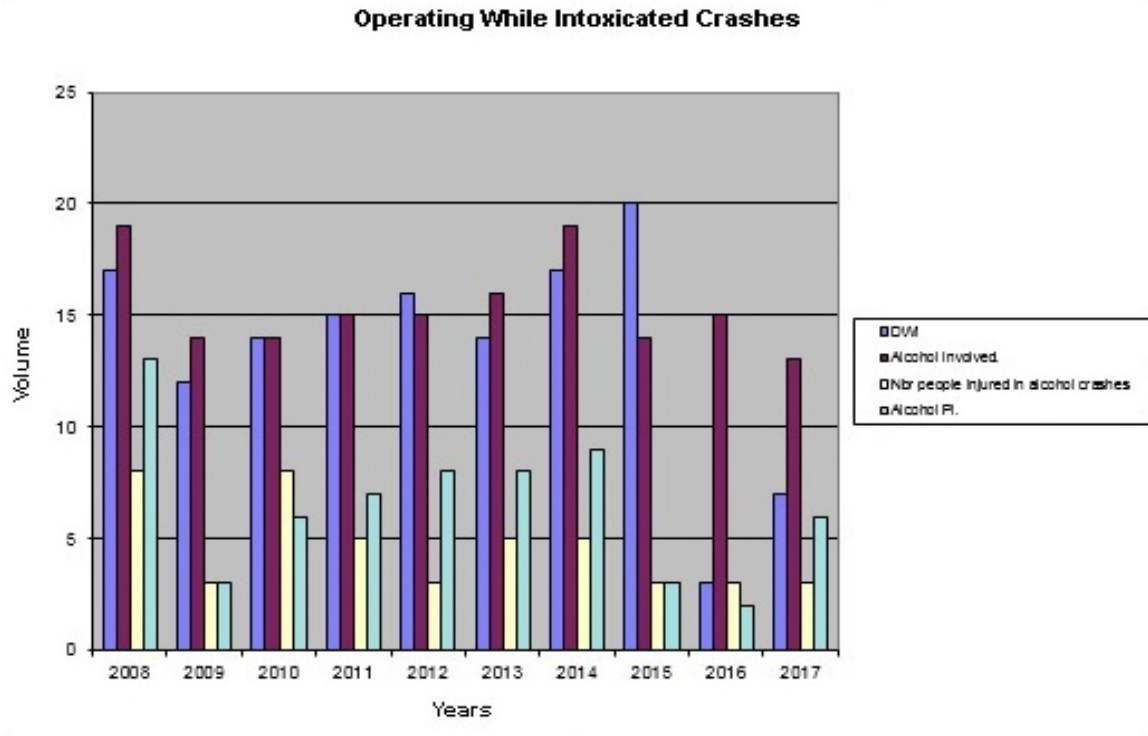
These State Road 9 intersections will be closely watched due to the rise in crashes and daily traffic volume. Some changes to the turn arrows by the State Highway have seemed to help with some of the crashes, but there is still a high volume of traffic on State Road 9. For 2019 or 2020 the State has planned to construct a center median up State Road 9 to help with smaller intersection entrances and exits and force cars to use traffic lights.

**Major Intersection Crashes**



## Operating While Intoxicated Crashes

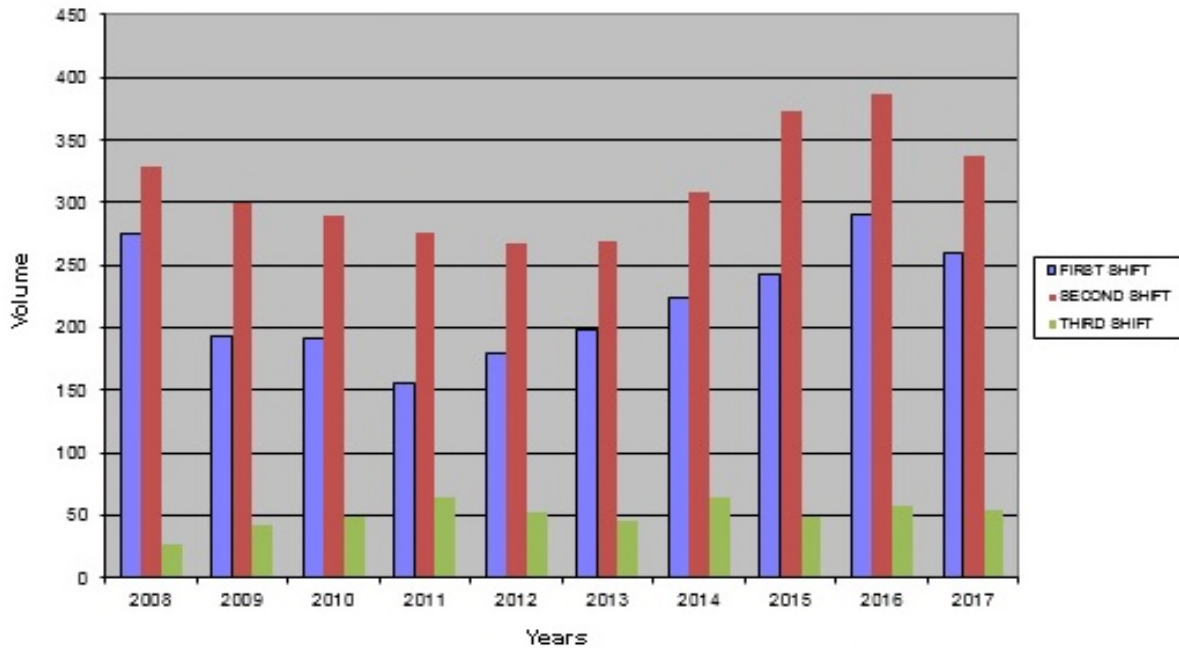
There were 13 suspected alcohol/drug involved crashes for 2017, this being around the average number for the last 10 years. Any OWI involved accident raises the chances of injuries but this past year we had a total of 6 injuries reported.



There were a total of 12 arrests made during crash investigations; this is down by five from 2016. These include the OWI arrests and the rest are mostly suspended licenses or no license violations.

If we break down which shift takes the most crashes by the time of day, 2<sup>nd</sup> shift (2p-10p) takes the most reports, followed usually within one hundred reports is 1<sup>st</sup> shift (6a-2p). 3<sup>rd</sup> shift comes in last with numbers. They usually stay well below a hundred reports per year.

**Crashes Taken by Shift**



Now for the worst possible scenario to happen in a crash is having a fatality involved. For 2017, the city had two fatal crashes. Both crashes involved drugs or alcohol with the driver running off the road and crashing into a residence.

To sum up this section on crashes, a vast majority is human error while driving. The Street Department does a good job of maintaining the roadways throughout all times of the year. The Greenfield Police Department will continue to enforce traffic laws and inform the public on driving safely. The Traffic Safety Committee will continue to aid the city with the latest traffic control signs or equipment to date.

## **Special Events/Parades**

The Greenfield Police Department gave several safety presentations and/or promotions about bicycle safety, seatbelt usage, child safety seat usage and other traffic safety issues to many different types of groups from preschoolers up to high school students in driver's education classes. The goal is to continue to give safety talks to the community so that we can reduce or even prevent crashes and injuries. These events show the community that we, the City of Greenfield, are committed to keeping Greenfield safe.

Last year all of the parades went without any injuries to parade participants or spectators. The officers that worked the 4-H parade, the Riley Festival Saturday parade, the Flower parade, Christmas parade and the Greenfield-Central High School Homecoming parade did a great job this past year keeping everything safe.

For 2017 the Greenfield Police Department attended or helped organize a total of twenty (20) events. These include public relations, public safety days, 5k runs and several large parades.

## **Crossing Guards**

The city utilizes six adult crossing guards located throughout the city. The crossing guard's main duty is to assist the elementary school children and junior high kids cross busy roadways. The traffic safety officer checks these locations when school is in session to make sure guards remain punctual, which was not an issue this past year.

We haven't had as many complaints on visibility of the crossing guards as in the past. The crossing guards are issued bright yellow class II traffic vests (summer) and heavy large reflective winter coats. They also have large 18" handheld reflective STOP signs that help stop traffic. I will be looking into grants to help better equip the crossing guards with light-up handheld signs or even light-up roadway signage at crosswalks. I have had complaints from crossing guards who say that they aren't visible enough to vehicle traffic and need extra help.

All of the crossing guards continue to do an outstanding job with helping kids cross the roadways safely. These employees are a huge asset to the City of Greenfield.



## **Right of Way Permits**

The Traffic Safety Officer receives these permits for anything from parade details, festivals to dumpsters. Festival Committee's or citizens fill these permits out asking to place dumpsters in the roadways or close roads temporarily (anything in the right of way of pedestrian or car traffic). For 2017 there were 40 permits issued out city wide, which is up 14 from 2016.

## **Grants**

Greenfield Police Department officers still participate in certain grants ("Operation Pullover") that help within the city limits. These grants include Seat Belt Pullover, DUI blitz and some special patrols which could be any traffic infraction. These occur multiple times throughout the year and definitely get the public's attention on seat belt laws. In 2017, we did get an officer certified to teach Standardized Field Sobriety Tests to other officers. This helped the department remain compliant so we could utilize these grants.

The Greenfield Police Department should continue to look for and/or write grants for programs that will help the police department and the Traffic Safety Committee make the City of Greenfield a safer place to live and drive.

## **Recommendations**

We need to have the most current and up to date traffic control devices which are installed and maintained on roadways and intersections within the city limits of Greenfield. The Greenfield Police Department needs to continue to be proactive in the enforcement of all traffic laws.

Some bigger goals that were met in 2017 include: Martindale Drive Traffic circle was turned into a roundabout, Barrett Drive and New Road will be getting a traffic light in the spring of 2018, State Road 9 from McKenzie Road up to I-70 will be getting an overhaul on turns lanes and a median, School zone times and speeds were altered and public parking location signs were posted for better directions for outside visitors.

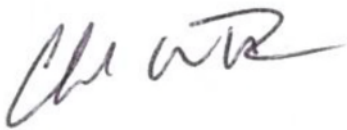
The following recommendations are from the Traffic Safety Committee:

1. We should always be updating and reviewing the types of traffic control devices to be sure that we are staying current with new technologies.
2. Continue to update the Traffic Schedules in the City Ordinances.
3. The City of Greenfield needs to continue to look for funding for intersection updates and configurations, or roundabout locations.
4. Continue working with INDOT about traffic flow and patterns on US40 and State Road 9.
5. Continuous traffic studies need completed to track traffic patterns and volume for newly constructed housing additions.
6. Ordinance Sweep of neighborhoods city wide for traffic safety issues such as junk cars, and right of way violations.

The City of Greenfield is one of the safest cities in Indiana, if not the entire country, to live and drive a vehicle. The Greenfield Police Department must continue to enforce traffic laws and make arrests. The Street department has updated and is continually making sure the proper traffic control devices are in place. They also have done a great job of keeping the streets clear of snow and in good condition. The Engineering department is continually making sure new construction is being inspected and properly designed to make the streets safe. Together, all of the city departments are working together very well to make our city the safest it can be.

Overall, this Traffic Safety report shows that the citizens of Greenfield are reaping good benefits for the traffic safety measures that have been implemented.

Respectively Submitted,



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Traffic Safety Officer  
Greenfield Police Department

Attachments  
2017 Crash Statistics/Graphs

# **APPENDIX**