

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-85-20

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS
AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
FOR HORSE DRAWN VEHICLES AND TRAILERS**

WHEREAS, Pursuant to I.C. 9-21-1-2(a), the Board of Commissioners may adopt by ordinance traffic regulations with respect to highways under the Commissioners' jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-1-3 grants the County all powers necessary or desirable in the conduct of its affairs.

WHEREAS, the County needs to keep an accurate account of the number of horse-drawn vehicles or buggies that transverse its public roadways for purposes of safety, traffic flow information and fiscal planning due to the additional wear horse-drawn vehicles or buggies cause upon the public roadway system for which there is no compensation by the State as part of the disbursement of highway funds by the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Definitions.** The following definitions apply throughout this Ordinance:
 - a. "Horse Drawn Vehicle" means a buggy, carriage, cart, dray, gig, or wagon designed or intended to use one or more horses as power for motion. The term does not include horse drawn agricultural implements.
 - b. "Horse Drawn Trailer" means a wagon or trailer, which is pulled behind or attached as a supplemental vehicle to a horse drawn vehicle. The term does not include horse drawn agricultural implements.
 - c. "Owner" means any person, firm, corporation, company, partnership, association, or other entity, that for a period of at least thirty (30) days in any calendar year owns, rents, leases, or has use of a horse drawn vehicle or horse drawn trailer.
 - d. "Resident" means a any person, firm, corporation, company, partnership, association, or other entity who has his or her principal place of resident in Wabash County, Indiana, or who owns or operates a business in Wabash County, Indiana.
2. **Registration.** There is hereby imposed an annual registration requirement upon each Resident Owner of a Horse Drawn Vehicle or Horse Drawn Trailer, which such registration shall apply to each Horse Drawn Vehicle and each Horse Drawn Trailer that is used upon the public highways or roads of Wabash County, Indiana.
3. **Fee.** The annual registration fee shall be the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), which shall apply to each Horse Drawn Vehicle and each Horse Drawn Trailer. Such annual registration fee shall be paid to the Wabash County Auditor not later than May 31 of each year.
4. **Plate / Sticker.** Upon payment of the annual registration fee, the Wabash County Highway Department shall issue a numbered permit/plate which shall be affixed to each Horse Drawn Vehicle and each Horse Drawn Trailer operated by any Owner on any public highways or roads of Wabash County, which such permit/plate shall be permanently affixed and nontransferable on the back of each Horse Drawn Vehicle and each Horse Drawn Trailer. The form of the permit/plate shall be determined by the Wabash County Auditor and/or Wabash County Highway Department, but should provide for a white or light background and black or dark letters and numerals.

5. **Renewal.** For any subsequent renewal for an annual registration previously issued under this Ordinance, the Wabash County Auditor shall issue a self-adhesive label tag bearing the year of issue that shall be affixed to the previously issued permit/plate in order to be effective.
6. **Reissuance.** Any lost, misplaced, or destroyed permit/plate requiring reissuance shall cost the Owner a reissuance fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).
7. **Operation.** Each registration shall permit the registered Horse Drawn Vehicle or Horse Drawn Trailer to be operated on any public highways or roads in Wabash County for a period of up to midnight of May 31 of the year following the year of issuance.
8. **Wheel Rims.** Horse Drawn Vehicle or Horse Drawn Trailer shall be equipped with pneumatic tires or spoked wheels with no less than one and one-quarter inch (1¼") rubber covering thick enough to protect the highways and roads from damage.
9. **Horseshoes.** Between May 1 and October 31 of each year, no person shall use or allow any horse on any part of a highway or road having a paved surface if such horse is fitted with tow corks or heel corks or any other shoe extension longer than one-quarter inch (1/4").
10. **Sanitation.** No Horse Drawn Vehicle or Horse Drawn Trailer shall be operated on any public highways or roads of Wabash County, Indiana, without having a manure catcher bag or other similar mechanism affixed to the horse(s) to prevent manure from being dropped and/or deposited onto any highway. If manure is dropped and/or deposited onto any highway or road, the Owner or the operator of the Horse Drawn Vehicle or Horse Drawn Trailer shall be responsible for removing the manure immediately while it is safe to do so.
11. **Prohibition.** No Horse Drawn Vehicle or Horse Drawn Trailer shall be operated on any public highways or roads of Wabash County, Indiana if it fails to have an active annual registration as set forth herein.
12. **Fund Administration.** Any and all funds collected by the Auditor's Office as a result of the issuance of the annual registration shall be placed in the Motor Vehicle/Highway Funds of the County, and be used in a manner as the County Commissioners shall approve and/or as the funds may be appropriated by the County Council. The Auditor shall keep an accounting of the funds in a manner acceptable to and as regulated by the Department of Local Government Finance and the State Board of Accounts.
13. **Enforcement.** The Wabash County Sheriff's Department may enforce the requirements of this Ordinance, and ensure that each Horse Drawn Vehicle or Horse Drawn Trailer operated on any public highways or roads of Wabash County, Indiana has a plate affixed thereto in a prominent and easily located position. Proceedings for ordinance violation enforcement may be brought pursuant to I.C. 34-28-5 *et. seq.*
14. **Violations.** Any person who violates this Ordinance shall be guilty of a Class C infraction and liable for a fine of up to \$300.00, and shall be responsible for court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the County to prosecute such action. Each day in which a violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation.
15. **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective as of January 1, 2026, and upon publication of notice of its adoption as required by Indiana law.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WABASH COUNTY

Jeff D. Dawes, Chairman

Cheryl Ross

Tyler Niccum

ATTEST:

Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor