



February 6, 2025

Re: Highway 14 Traffic Accident and Safety Concerns

Greetings,

With the increase in traffic on our roadways, traffic crashes along the Highway 14 corridor have been a serious topic for the last several years. Some recent social media comments have created concern in the community about the safety of Highway 14 and I would like to address the facts regarding these crashes and put an end to some of the misinformation that has been shared. I will acknowledge that we have taken note of these concerns and implemented enforcement and education measures to help reduce the number of crashes on this stretch of roadway.

Ault Police Department Jurisdiction

The Ault Police Department provides law enforcement services for a 2.1 mile stretch of Highway 14 extending from the East side of Weld County Road 31 to 3rd Avenue. This area is shown, circled in green, on the maps attached to this letter. This letter will address the information on the locations within the Ault Police Department jurisdiction.

Highway 14 through the Ault Police Department jurisdiction is a State of Colorado Highway. This means that all repair, maintenance, and improvements are completed by the Colorado Department of Transportation, not the Town of Ault or the Ault Police Department. Concerns with the infrastructure itself need to be addressed with the CDOT Region 4 Office.

*CDOT Region 4 Office
10601 W. 10th Street
Greeley, CO 80634
(970) 350-2368
<https://www.codot.gov/topcontent/contact-cdot>*

Highway 14 Crash Data

I was able to analyze the crash data from within the Ault Police Department Jurisdiction beginning January 1, 2022 through the date of this letter. This data is collected for each traffic crash incident and reported to the State of Colorado. The crashes in the data includes all non-injury, injury, fatal, hit-and-run, and property damage only incidents.



Intersection with Highway 14	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	YTD 2025
Mile Marker 152 (West of WCR 33)	2	1	1	0
Weld County Road 33	1	3	3	0
16000 Block (Between WCR 33 & Pawnee Road)	1	0	0	1
Alpine Avenue	0	1	0	0
Graefe Avenue	0	0	0	0
1 st Avenue	1	2	0	0
2 nd Avenue	0	5	3	0
Highway 85	5	4	4	0
Railroad Avenue	2	0	2	0
3 rd Avenue	0	2	0	0
Total Crashes Per Year	12	21	14	1

The severity of each crash is documented by the level of injury caused, as well as factors like the involvement of alcohol or drugs, for each vehicle involved in the crash. The injury statistics are from injuries reported at the time of the crash. Alcohol was involved in two (2) crashes in 2023 and three (3) crashes in 2024.

Injury Severity at the Time of the Crash	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	YTD 2025
Non-Injury Crash / Property Damage Only	12	18	12	0
Observed Injuries of any Severity Level	0	1	2	0
Fatal Injuries	0	2	0	0

Enforcement Updates and Results

In year 2023 the Ault Police Department recognized a significant increase in the number of traffic accidents occurring on our stretch of Highway 14, along with surrounding areas of Highway 14. After observing this increase and hearing the community concerns, we partnered with the Colorado State Patrol and the Weld County Sheriff's Office to begin a series of high-visibility enforcement operations. These operations focus on education and enforcement related directly to violations observed on the roadway.

In the year 2024, our stretch of Highway 14 saw a 33.33% decrease in traffic accidents overall and a 100% decrease in fatal traffic accidents. These results are only for the Ault Police Department stretch of Highway. Information on crash statistics in outer jurisdictions would need to be provided and reviewed by the investigating jurisdictions.



Highway 14 Safety Study

The Colorado Department of Transportation has hired a third-party company to complete a safety study of the entire Highway 14 corridor from I-25 to Ault. This study has begun, and the Town of Ault and Ault Police Department are active participants in the process. Upon completion of this study, CDOT will be presented with recommended changes to Highway infrastructure that will increase the safety of travelers on the roadway. From my participation in this study to date, I believe that the information being produced will be of great benefit when, and if, implemented by CDOT.

Conclusion

The Ault Police Department has implemented processes, patrols, and partnerships to address the traffic accident concerns on Highway 14 through our jurisdiction. Our enforcement efforts, the communities' voice, and members of our community choosing to drive safely have shown a reduction in traffic crashes. Our agency will continue the efforts in place with the goal of further traffic crash reduction.

If any member of the community has additional concerns or suggestions, please contact my office.

Respectfully,

Dakota Germer
Interim Police Chief