



# The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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## **Governor announces freight rail awards totaling \$30.6 million**

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle has announced state freight awards totaling nearly \$30.6 million that will benefit 10 freight rail projects around the state. Three loans totaling \$3.4 million were approved for projects in Zenda and Janesville and for a project between Madison and Milton. Another seven grants totaling \$27.2 were awarded for projects in Barron, Sheboygan, Dane, Green, Milwaukee and Washington counties as well as several bridge repairs along Wisconsin and Southern rail lines. More info can be found at: [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news\\_1632.html\\_786229440.html](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_1632.html_786229440.html).

## **Statewide drunk driving crackdown results in over 1,200 OWI arrests**

Wisconsin law enforcement officers participating in the "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest" safety campaign issued over 52,000 warnings and citations including 1,200 arrests for operating while intoxicated. About 2,700 law enforcement officers from over 320 police agencies throughout the state teamed up for the crackdown which took place between August 21<sup>st</sup> through September 7<sup>th</sup>. More info is available at: [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news\\_1633.html\\_786229440.html](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_1633.html_786229440.html).

## **Traffic crashes claim 54 lives in Wisconsin in September**

Preliminary data shows traffic crashes along Wisconsin roadways in September claimed 54 lives ranking it among the top five safest Septembers on record. Through the first nine months of the year, Wisconsin traffic crashes have killed 404 people. That's down 48 from the same period a year ago and down 140 from the five-year average. More details can be found at: [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news\\_1646.html\\_786229440.html](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_1646.html_786229440.html).

## **DMV offices closed Monday (10/12) for employee furloughs**

Like many state offices, all Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices will be closed for business on Monday, October 12 as DMV staff complete the third of eight unpaid days required for each of the next two years. Employee furloughs for all university and state employees are part of the 2009 - 2011 state budget. DMV's automated phone system will remain available and a variety of business can be handled via the DMV's Web site at: [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/online.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/online.htm).

## **SafeRide grant funding available**

WisDOT's Bureau of Transportation Safety is offering state grant funding to provide safe rides. The grant funding pays for the cost of transporting persons suspected of having a prohibited alcohol concentration (as defined in s.340.01(46m)) from any premises licensed under Chapter 125 to sell alcohol to their place of residence. A SafeRide grant can be awarded to any county or municipality or to any nonprofit corporation as defined in state law (s.66.0129(6)(b)). For more information about the grant funding, contact WisDOT's Janet Nodorft at (608) 266-0550 or [janet.nodorft@dot.wi.gov](mailto:janet.nodorft@dot.wi.gov).

## **Coming up**

WisDOT Annual Freight Railroad Conference, Tuesday, November 3, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Madison, contact WisDOT's Frank Huntington at [frank.huntington@dot.wi.gov](mailto:frank.huntington@dot.wi.gov).

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