



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Public input sought on draft *Connections 2030* transportation plan

WisDOT is seeking public input into the draft *Connections 2030* long-range transportation plan that addresses Wisconsin's highways, local roads, air, water, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and transit needs over the next 20 years. Ten public meetings are scheduled across the state between now and February 26 including Madison, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Superior, Eau Claire, Rhinelander, Wausau, Green Bay and Oshkosh. The overall goal of the planning process is to identify a series of policies to aid transportation decision-makers when evaluating programs and projects. Citizens can review and comment on the draft plan and get specifics on the upcoming public meetings via the *Connections 2030* Web site at: www.wiconnections2030.gov. Interested citizens can be kept up to date on the latest plan developments by subscribing to the *Connections 2030* electronic mailing list at: connections2030@dot.state.wi.us.

Record lows for traffic deaths.

The 589 people who died in Wisconsin traffic crashes in 2008 represents the lowest traffic fatality total in the state since World War II. Preliminary data shows traffic fatalities dropped about 20% in Wisconsin last year, compared to the 737 people who died in 2007. Factors contributing to the drop include drivers heeding the message to buckle-up and drive responsibly, unusually severe winter and spring weather, volatile gas prices and stepped-up law enforcement efforts. To emphasize that virtually all traffic fatalities are preventable, WisDOT has launched a "Zero in Wisconsin-A Vision We Can All Live With" campaign that includes federally-funded TV and radio messages and a Web site: ZeroInWisconsin.gov.

Record highs for Hiawatha ridership

A total of 766,167 passengers boarded Amtrak Hiawatha Service trains between Milwaukee and Chicago during 2008 - a new calendar year record - and a 24% increase over the old record of 617,799 set in 2007. The Hiawatha finished the year strong - ridership for December of 2008 totaled 62,935 - a nearly 6% increase over the same month in 2007.

511 travel information system now available

Wisconsin motorists now have travel information at their fingertips. Dialing 511 on a telephone or cell phone will connect motorists to WisDOT's new 511 traveler information system that utilizes voice recognition software to provide information on winter road conditions, incident reports, work zone lane closures and more. There's also a companion Web site (www.511wi.gov) that provides all the information available through the phone system, plus maps and other features. To reduce the possibility of getting a busy signal, the new 511 system offers more than five times the number of available phone lines. Motorists are asked to use the 511 system prior to their trip, not while driving.

Upcoming events

January 7 – February 26, public meetings on *Connections 2030* plan, www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/state/2030-draft-meetings.htm

January 21 – 22, 2009, WTBA/WisDOT Contractor/Engineer Conference, Marriott West, Middleton

May 21, 2009, WisDOT Transpo Expo, www.dot.state.wi.us/news/events/expo.htm

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Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Office of Public Affairs, PO Box 7910

Madison, WI 53707-7910

Phone: (608) 266-3581 E-mail: opa.exec@dot.state.wi.us

Web site: www.dot.wisconsin.gov

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