



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Primary seat belt law aimed at saving lives

A primary seat belt law is now in effect in Wisconsin meaning law enforcement officers may now stop and ticket drivers and passengers who are not buckled up. Wisconsin's current safety belt use rate is about 74% - one of the lowest in the nation and well below the national average of 83%. Experience in other states shows that enactment of a primary seat belt law increases seat belt use about 10%. For Wisconsin, the increase in seat belt use is expected to save about 44 lives and prevent some 650 injuries each year. More information on the new law is available at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_1424.html_786229440.html.

35th annual highway safety conference set for August 19 – 20 in Appleton

For over three decades, the annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety has gathered Wisconsin's public safety professionals to discuss the latest trends and develop strategies aimed at enhancing highway safety. This year's 35th annual conference will gather law enforcement, emergency responders, driver educators and others from August 19 – 20 at the Radisson Paper Valley Conference Center in Appleton. Find out more about pre-conference workshops and planned breakout sessions at: www.dot.state.wi.us/news/events/safety/index.htm.

Traffic fatalities down/motorcycle deaths up

The 59 people who died in Wisconsin traffic crashes in June were four more than June of 2008 but still below the five-year average of 66 traffic deaths for the month of June. Although overall traffic fatalities are declining, motorcycle fatalities are on the upswing this year – 46 through the first six months of this year compared to 28 over the same period a year ago. Safety officials say with the popularity of motorcycles continuing to increase, cyclists and motorists in general have an increasing responsibility to watch out for each other. More information is at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_1428.html_786229440.html.

WisDOT distributing over \$131 million to municipalities

Governor Jim Doyle has announced that Wisconsin's 1,922 units of local government will share in over \$131 million in payments from WisDOT. The bulk of the payments, nearly \$128 million, are in the form of General Transportation Aids that help communities build and maintain local roads and bridges. This year, WisDOT will return an estimated \$414 million in motor fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees to assist local governments with transportation-related costs. More information including amounts going to local municipalities can be found at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_1434.html_786229440.html.

Coming up

35th Annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety, August 19 – 20, Appleton.
Joint Minnesota/Wisconsin Public Transit Conference, September 21 – 23, Duluth, MN,
<http://mpta-transit.org/events/conference/>.

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