



# The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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## **Nationwide crackdown on drunken driving set for Aug. 21 – Sept. 7**

Over 300 law enforcement agencies throughout Wisconsin will be stepping up patrols to arrest impaired motorists as part of the nationwide “Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest” crackdown from Aug. 21 through Labor Day Sept. 7. Last year, alcohol-related crashes in Wisconsin killed 234 people and injured over 4,300. Research has shown Wisconsin has the highest rate of drunken driving in the nation. About 37,000 drivers were convicted of drunken driving in Wisconsin in 2008. The federally-funded initiative will include enhanced law enforcement patrols combined with targeted media messages.

## **July sets record low for traffic fatalities**

Preliminary data shows the 44 people who died in Wisconsin traffic crashes last month makes it the safest July for the state since World War II. This compares to the 62 people who lost their lives in Wisconsin traffic crashes in July of last year. Through the first seven months of this year, Wisconsin recorded 296 traffic fatalities – well below the five-year average of 401. Highway safety officials say several factors may be behind the drop in traffic deaths including coordinated media and law enforcement highway safety efforts, a drop in overall travel, and adoption of a primary seat belt law on June 30<sup>th</sup>. More info can be found at:

[www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news\\_1525.html\\_786229440.html](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_1525.html_786229440.html).

## **Annual conference on highway safety August 19 – 20 in Appleton**

For over three decades, the annual Governor’s Conference on Highway Safety has gathered law enforcement, emergency responders, driver educators and others to discuss the latest trends and develop strategies aimed at enhancing highway safety. This year’s 35th annual conference will take place August 19 – 20 at the Radisson Paper Valley Conference Center in Appleton. More info about pre-conference workshops and planned breakout sessions can be found at:

[www.dot.state.wi.us/news/events/safety/index.htm](http://www.dot.state.wi.us/news/events/safety/index.htm).

## **National motorcycle safety conference coming to Madison Aug. 21 – 23**

About 350 motorcycle safety experts from around the country will gather in Madison this month to share ideas and discuss strategies for reducing motorcycle crashes. The State Motorcycle Safety Administrators Conference is set for August 21 – 23 at the Concourse in Madison. Topics will include rider education and safety, and countermeasures to prevent motorcycle crashes.

Attendees will hear about Wisconsin’s “Five equals Zero” motorcycle safety campaign which encourages motorcyclists to ride sober, wear proper safety gear, get trained and licensed, follow safe riding practices, and keep motorcycles properly maintained. Preliminary data shows 58 motorcyclists have died in Wisconsin traffic crashes so far this year compared to 49 at this same point a year ago.

## **Coming up**

July 24 – August 31, final public comment period on Connections 2030 transportation plan.

August 19 – 20, Annual Governor’s Conference on Highway Safety, Appleton.

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