



# The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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## **Local governments have additional opportunity to submit recovery projects**

WisDOT has announced a "Stage 2 Local Project Solicitation" that provides local governments another opportunity to submit local road and bridge projects for possible funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The federal act will provide Wisconsin about \$529 million for transportation-related improvements. About 30% of the funds (about \$158 million) could be made available to improve local roads and bridges if sufficient eligible projects are identified and can be ready for construction. Additional information about project eligibility, the application process and associated deadlines can be found on the WisDOT Web site at:

[www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/recovery/index.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/recovery/index.htm).

## **Downward traffic fatality trend continues**

In terms of traffic fatalities, last month will go down as one of the safest Februaries on record. Preliminary data shows 29 people died in Wisconsin traffic crashes last month, making it the safest February since 2001 when 25 lives were lost and ranking it among the safest Februaries over the last 65 years. Through the first two months of this year, traffic crashes have claimed 64 lives in Wisconsin, down 16 compared to the same period last year and down 30 from the five-year average. Traffic deaths in Wisconsin have been on a general decline since the fall of 2007.

## **Conducting DMV business online can be cheaper, faster**

When it comes to doing business with the Division of Motor Vehicles, more and more people are finding it faster, cheaper and more convenient to simply go online. DMV business that can be conducted via the WisDOT Web site ([www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/online.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/online.htm)) includes: renewing vehicle registration; noting an address change; scheduling a road test; and checking on the status of a vehicle title.

## **A lot could be riding on your old roof**

Using recycled roofing shingles in asphalt paving mixes holds several possible benefits – from helping reduce the cost of asphalt to saving space in landfills. Just in time for 2009 highway projects, WisDOT has implemented a rule change allowing use of recycled shingles as part of state road projects. Several other states, including Minnesota, allow up to 5% recycled shingles in their asphalt mixtures. It's expected there will be no difference in quality between asphalt mixes with recycled material and those without.

## **Upcoming events**

March 9 and 10, WisDOT/American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin Transportation Improvement Conference, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point.  
May 21, Wisconsin Transpo Expo Conference for middle school students, Midwest Airlines Center, Milwaukee, [www.dot.state.wi.us/news/events/expo.htm](http://www.dot.state.wi.us/news/events/expo.htm).

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