



# The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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## **Click it or Ticket campaign seeks to boost seat belt usage**

The "Click It or Ticket" campaign underway now through May 31<sup>st</sup> represents the largest coordinated law enforcement effort in state history. Some 360 law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin will work together to enhance motorist safety through enforcement of the state's mandatory safety belt law. The goal is not necessarily to write more tickets, but to encourage more motorists to wear safety belts. Currently, about 74% of Wisconsin motorists buckle up, compared to the national average of 83%. Federal funds administered by WisDOT will be used to pay for the campaign's overtime enforcement and statewide media messages. More info can be found at:

[www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news\\_1335.html\\_786229440.html](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_1335.html_786229440.html).

## **Advice for motorists stopped by State Patrol**

What are a motorist's rights and responsibilities when pulled over by a state trooper? To enhance public safety and educate citizens, the Wisconsin's State Patrol has produced "[guidelines for motorists stopped by the state patrol](#)." The guidelines address such issues as video cameras in police vehicles and steps motorists can take if they decide to contest a citation. The bottom line: motorists who remain calm and cooperative will find a traffic stop less stressful and less time-consuming.

## **Motorists: be watchful for deer**

Highway safety officials are asking motorists to be on the lookout for deer along roadways. Fall is typically the peak period for vehicle/deer crashes, but the months of May and June rank second. Last year, about 39% of vehicle/deer crashes reported in Wisconsin occurred in October and November. Nearly 19% occurred in the months of May and June.

## **Report summarizes Local Roads Improvement Program**

Over the last two state fiscal years, WisDOT's Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) distributed nearly \$49 million to local communities across Wisconsin. A recently-prepared LRIP biennial report ([www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/docs/lrip-biennial2008.pdf](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/docs/lrip-biennial2008.pdf)) shows the program funded 931 local roadway improvements over the two-year period. Since 1991, LRIP has provided \$327 million in state funds to help improve seriously deteriorating county highways, municipal streets and town roads.

## **May 27<sup>th</sup> is Operation Lifesaver Awareness Day**

Governor Jim Doyle has signed a [proclamation](#) declaring Wednesday, May 27 as Operation Lifesaver Awareness Day in Wisconsin. Last year in Wisconsin, 68 highway/rail grade crossing crashes resulted in 14 injuries and two fatalities. Another six people were killed while trespassing on railroad property. Wisconsin Operation Lifesaver works with private railroads to educate students and other groups about safety at highway/rail grade crossings and the dangers of trespassing on railroad tracks and right-of-way.

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