



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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WisDOT Web site has new look

People viewing WisDOT's [Web site](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov) (www.dot.wisconsin.gov) will notice it has a newer, cleaner look. One new feature is a direct link to any significant traffic incident reported to the State Traffic Operations Center. One click on the link provides travelers with information about any major incidents that may impact their travel plans. Along with keeping the site customer-friendly, a key goal of the home-page re-design is the ability to make updates easier and faster. The layout is the same size as the previous design but includes more information and photographs.

Fox Valley conference to focus on managing traffic incidents

A statewide conference in Appleton October 30-31 will focus on the latest techniques to enhance safety for emergency responders at traffic crashes and similar incidents. The Statewide Traffic Incident Management Conference will gather fire, law enforcement, transportation officials and others to discuss challenges and strategies for handling highway incidents. To kick-off the two-day conference, a media event is planned to highlight the dangers emergency responders can face when responding to traffic crashes.

Fall a perfect season to enjoy Rustic Roads

Fall is an especially good time to consider a visit to any of Wisconsin's Rustic Roads. Hikers, bikers and motorists can now explore four new additions to the Rustic Roads network: R-104 near the French Creek Wildlife area in Marquette and Columbia counties; R-105 in Price County through the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest; R-106 near the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County; and R-107 along the Chippewa River in Dunn County. Wisconsin's 107 Rustic Roads span over 600 miles, are locally nominated and remain under local government jurisdiction. They range from two to 37 miles long, and have speed limits of no more than 45 miles per hour. More information on Wisconsin's newest Rustic Roads can be found on the WisDOT [Web site](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_0466.html) (www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_0466.html [786229440.html](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_786229440.html)).

Rail ridership remains robust

A total of 48,193 passengers boarded Amtrak Hiawatha Service trains in September - an increase of 1.7% over September of last year and a new ridership record for that particular month. The Hiawatha Service has seen record ridership levels in 33 out of the past 35 months. Calendar year-to-date ridership through September stands at 441,498 - a 1.7% increase through the same period last year. In September, a total of 8,391 Hiawatha passengers got on/off at the Milwaukee Airport Rail station - an average of 280 people every day. Another 4,788 riders utilized the new Sturtevant station in July - about 160 per day. The Hiawatha makes seven daily round trips between Milwaukee and Chicago (six on Sundays) and currently boasts the best on-time performance of any Amtrak route in the nation.

Upcoming events

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|-----------------|--|
| October 30 – 31 | 2007 Statewide Traffic Incident Management Conference, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton |
| November 14 | 2007 WisDOT Annual Freight Railroad Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Madison, WI. |
| November 16 | Wisconsin State Patrol 56 th Recruit Class Graduation, State Capitol |

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