



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Update on National Study Commission

It's becoming "crunch time" for the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi is one of 12 members of the Commission that is holding the last of 10 public "field hearings" this week in Minneapolis and Chicago. Upon completion of the field hearings, the Commission will move on to the larger task of processing the large volume of information and testimony that has been provided into specific recommendations to Congress. SAFETEA-LU, the last federal transportation reauthorization bill, established the Commission and charged it with developing a comprehensive, long-term vision addressing the country's surface transportation needs including options for financing those needs. The group's recommendations to Congress are due at the end of this year. More information on the Commission can be found at: www.transportationfortomorrow.org/.

Building partnerships is focus of first ever tribal transportation conference

Wisconsin's first Tribal Transportation Conference set for April 23 – 25 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay is about more than just building roads – it's about building long-term partnerships to strengthen the state and local economies. The conference will gather local, state, tribal and federal officials, along with industry contractors, consultants and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms. Entitled "We're Building More Than Roads," the conference will feature workshops on historic preservation, Indian business development and collaborative transportation efforts. WisDOT and Wisconsin's 11 Tribal governments signed a formal partnership agreement in 2005 that outlined an ongoing government-to-government relationship. More information on the conference can be found at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/tribal-affairs.htm.

Moving over can save lives and TIME

WisDOT oversees a Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) initiative that combines technologies like variable message signs with the resources of the public safety and transportation communities. The goal is to respond quickly and efficiently to traffic incidents to enhance public safety and traffic flow. A priority of the TIME program is to increase public awareness of the state's Move Over Law that requires motorists to move out of the lane closest to an emergency vehicle that has its lights flashing, or slow down, until completely past the emergency vehicle. Enacted in 2001, the law helps protect police officers, emergency responders, tow operators and highway maintenance personnel who are conducting business on Wisconsin's roadways. Bumper stickers and brochures promoting the Move Over Law are being distributed to agencies throughout the state and are available by contacting WisDOT's Anne Reshadi at anne.reshadi-nezhad@dot.state.wi.us or (414) 227-2141.

Watch for volunteers cleaning roadsides

Along with spring flowers, motorists are being asked to keep an eye out for Adopt-a-Highway crews sprouting up along Wisconsin roadsides. The state has over 3,000 active Adopt-a-Highway groups that last year collected some 585 tons of litter along roadways. WisDOT provides the volunteers with safety vests, trash bags and a training video. Adopt-a-Highway crews are assigned a two-mile stretch of highway and are asked to clean it at least three times per year. County highway crews pick up and dispose of the collected trash. There are still over 2,000 miles of state highway available for adoption. More information can be found at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/adopt-a-highway.htm.

The gift that keeps on giving

April is National Organ Donor Awareness Month and an opportunity for motorists to consider becoming an organ donor. The need for donated organs and tissues for transplant far exceeds the availability, and it's estimated that 17 patients die every day waiting for a transplant.

Becoming an organ and tissue donor is as simple as signing the Anatomical Gift Statement on the back of your driver's license. Donors should also tell family members of their intentions.

More information is on the WisDOT Web site at:

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/donor.htm.

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