



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Click It or Ticket seat belt campaign results in over 8,000 citations

The recent "Click It or Ticket" seat belt enforcement campaign utilized stepped-up law enforcement combined with media messages to encourage motorists to buckle up. Preliminary reports from the approximately 350 Wisconsin law enforcement agencies that participated indicate that 8,116 safety belt citations and 246 child passenger restraint citations were issued during the two-week campaign which ended June 3rd. State safety officials say the primary goal of the campaign was not to write citations, but rather to encourage more people to consistently wear their safety belt. Seat belt use in Wisconsin stands at about 75 percent – below the national average of 82 percent. It's estimated that every percentage point increase in Wisconsin seat belt use saves six lives per year.

New troopers/inspectors graduate from State Patrol Academy

There are now 36 new Wisconsin state troopers patrolling state highways and another four motor carrier inspectors enforcing truck safety laws. The 40 new recruits recently received their badges at a state capitol ceremony after completing 21 weeks of training at the State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy. Troopers focus their efforts on enforcing traffic laws, responding to emergencies and assisting motorists. Motor carrier inspectors have the same enforcement authority and work to ensure that large trucks using the state's highway system are being safely operated. The State Patrol is currently recruiting for a class that is scheduled to begin training in the summer of 2008 at the Academy. More information about becoming a State Patrol officer can be found on the WisDOT Web site at: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/statepatrol/jobs>.

Milwaukee students prepare to "ACE" aviation internships

For 35 Milwaukee high school students, their summer break will involve working as interns at Milwaukee County's General Mitchell International Airport as part of the Aviation Careers and Education (ACE) program. Midwest Airlines Vice President Carol Skornicka will be the featured speaker at this year's ACE kick-off event on Monday, June 25th at 9 a.m. at the airport. For nearly 20 years, ACE has brought together Milwaukee Public Schools, private employers and WisDOT to provide disadvantaged high school students with meaningful work experience and to spur interest in aviation careers. During the seven-week internships, students may work in aircraft maintenance, baggage handling, ticketing and administrative duties – all under the supervision of seasoned employees. In the past, some ACE graduates have been able to turn their summer internship into a permanent job with their aviation-related employer.

Amtrak Hiawatha ridership continues upward climb.

A total of 48,351 passengers boarded Amtrak Hiawatha Service trains in May - an increase of 4.2% over May of 2006 and setting another ridership record for that particular month. The Hiawatha Service has set monthly ridership records in 30 of the last 31 months. Calendar year-to-date ridership through May stood at 227,347, up 1.5% over the same period in 2006. Also in May, a total of 7,746 Hiawatha passengers got on/off at the Milwaukee Airport Rail station - an average of 250 people every day. Another 5,327 riders utilized the new Sturtevant station in

May - about 168 per day. The Hiawatha makes seven daily round trips between Milwaukee and Chicago (six on Sundays). WisDOT and the state of Illinois help support the popular service.

98th Annual Mississippi Valley Conference July 9 – 11 in Minneapolis

State and national transportation leaders will gather in Minneapolis July 9 – 11 for the 2007 Mississippi Valley Conference. The theme of this year's event is "People, Partners, Programs" and will feature tours of state-of-the-art transportation facilities and a variety of sessions on cutting-edge transportation topics. WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi will address attendees on July 9th to provide a status report regarding his role on the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. Registration information is available on the Minnesota Department of Transportation Web site at:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mississippivalley07/index.html>.

Upcoming events

July 9 – 11:	Mississippi Valley Conference, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Minneapolis
July 27	Wisconsin Day at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh
August 22 - 23:	33 rd Annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point

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