



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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A safe September. Despite the 453 people who tragically lost their lives in Wisconsin traffic crashes through September of this year, if current trends continue, this year could end up as one of the safest on Wisconsin roadways in decades. Preliminary WisDOT data shows 50 motorists died in Wisconsin traffic crashes last month, making it the safest September in over 60 years (82 traffic deaths occurred in September of 2007). Through the first nine months of this year, traffic fatalities in Wisconsin are down about 20% compared to the same period last year. Likely factors behind the significant drop in fatalities include improved driver behavior and coordinated law enforcement efforts.

Peak period for deer/vehicle collisions. Motorists need to be especially vigilant for deer on roadways over the next several weeks as October and November are traditionally peak months for deer/vehicle crashes. The advice for drivers is simple: slow down, be alert and if one deer darts across the road, expect others to follow. Suddenly swerving to avoid a deer can result in a much more serious crash such as striking another vehicle or object along the roadway. Motorcyclists are especially vulnerable. Of the 14 fatal deer/vehicle crashes last year, 10 involved motorcyclists. More information can be found at:

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_0979.html_786229440.html.

A sign of the times. With fall campaign season heating up, WisDOT is reminding political candidates and campaign volunteers that state law prohibits the placement of all signs, including campaign signs, within state highway right-of-way. State highway right-of-way in rural areas generally extends to beyond shoulders, ditches and any adjoining fence line. In urban areas along state highways, signs are prohibited from the roadway area to at least one foot past the sidewalk. In urban areas without sidewalks, signs must be at least 15 feet from the pavement edge. Signs are not allowed on street name marker posts, utility poles, or within highway medians or roundabouts. With the landowner's consent, political signs are allowed on private property without a billboard permit as long as the sign does not exceed 32 square feet and contains no flashing lights or moving parts. More information about the placement of campaign signs can be found on the WisDOT Web site at

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/rules/property-signs-political.htm.

\$17 million in transportation enhancement awards. Governor Jim Doyle has approved nearly \$17 million in federal funds for 47 transportation enhancements projects around the state. The awards will help complete bicycle and pedestrian-related projects, improvements to historic transportation structures, and downtown streetscaping efforts in communities throughout Wisconsin. The awards range from a \$25,600 project to develop a bicycle and pedestrian plan in Rice Lake to \$1.3 million for a bicycle-pedestrian trail in Madison. More information can be found at:

www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal_media_detail.asp?locid=19&prid=3727.

Upcoming events

October 10, National Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

November 12 and 13, TDA of Wisconsin transportation funding symposium, Monona Terrace, Madison www.tdawisconsin.org/events.iml

November 19, WisDOT Annual Fall Rail Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Madison

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