



# The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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## **Preparing for winter driving conditions**

Governor Jim Doyle has proclaimed this week (November 10 – 14) as Winter Awareness Week in Wisconsin as a reminder for motorists to reacquaint themselves with safe winter driving habits and ensure their vehicles are properly equipped to navigate another winter season. Also, the Governor proclaimed Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> as Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day, noting that Wisconsin's economy depends on thousands of snowplow operators working long hours during difficult conditions to ensure that motorists can safely reach their destinations. More information can be found at: <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/category.asp?linkcatid=84&linkid=33&locid=18>.

## **Downward traffic fatality trend continues**

If current trends hold over the final two months of the year, Wisconsin could end 2008 with the lowest traffic death total in decades. Preliminary data shows 48 people died in traffic-related crashes in Wisconsin last month, the third safest October recorded since World War II. In October of last year, Wisconsin traffic fatalities totaled 66, and the five-year average is 69. Still, transportation safety officials caution that travelers will face several challenges over the coming months including holidays, deer and hunter activity, and getting re-acclimated to winter driving conditions.

## **New St. Croix County bridge features pre-cast abutments**

WisDOT is experimenting with a new way of constructing bridges that holds potential to enhance quality, reduce maintenance costs and minimize inconvenience to motorists. The two-lane US 63 bridge over the Rush River near Baldwin is being built using pre-cast abutments made at a separate location and delivered to the bridge site (typically, concrete abutments are poured on site). The pre-casting reduces the amount of time a bridge is out of service and allows for better quality management. Pending a final assessment of the pre-cast process, future bridges could be built utilizing the new technique.

## **More honors for downtown Milwaukee Intermodal Station**

The Wisconsin Commercial Real Estate Women (WCREW) organization has bestowed its "Leading Edge Award" to the downtown Milwaukee Intermodal Station calling it "a pioneering development resulting in sustained community impact." Each year, WCREW announces Showcase Awards that recognize "significant contributions to the real estate industry." Earlier this year, the Milwaukee Business Journal provided its highest "Project of the Year" real estate award to the downtown station. WisDOT purchased the station in the year 2000 and oversaw a \$16.9 million public/private effort to transform the 35-year-old building into a modern transportation facility that currently serves as a hub for Amtrak and Greyhound bus service and houses the State Traffic Operations Center.

## **Upcoming events**

November 12 - 13, TDA of Wisconsin transportation funding symposium, Monona Terrace, Madison.

[www.tdawisconsin.org/events.html](http://www.tdawisconsin.org/events.html)

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

December 11, Wisconsin Earth Movers Association annual meeting, Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells

December 12, Annual DBE Workshop, County Springs Hotel, Pewaukee

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