



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Legislative audit reviews state bridge inspection program.

A report (<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lab/>) from Wisconsin's Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) focused on the state's bridge inspection program notes that WisDOT completed 98% of routine state bridge inspections on-time over the last five years. State and federal laws require bridges to be inspected at least once every 24 months. The report also concludes the overall condition of state-owned bridges has improved in recent years with the percentage of those deemed "structurally deficient" declining from 7.4% in 2002 to 4.2% in 2007. The LAB audit noted that WisDOT's bridge inspection program "is among the best in the nation." The audit made one recommendation, calling for enhanced oversight of counties performing bridge maintenance.

White to give way to orange

When the snow finally melts this spring, motorists can expect to see plenty of orange construction barrels. To help meet the ongoing needs of Wisconsin's transportation system, WisDOT is planning some 450 state highway improvement projects during the 2008 construction season. Among the projects Wisconsin travelers will notice: ongoing improvements to US 51/WIS 29 in Wausau; bridge improvement and maintenance work along I-90/94 between Wisconsin Dells and Osseo; rail, bike and pedestrian bridge construction and pavement reconditioning along US 41 near Fond du Lac. In southeast Wisconsin, the four-year, \$810 million Marquette Interchange project will wrap up this fall.

2008 Hiawatha ridership off to a strong start. Ridership aboard Amtrak's Hiawatha Service trains totaled 47,815 in January, a 13% increase over the same month a year ago and setting a new ridership record for the month of January. Setting records is nothing new for the Hiawatha Service which has set monthly ridership records in 37 of the last 39 months and totaled a record 617,799 riders for 2007. Also in January: an average of 1,074 Hiawatha passengers got on/off each day at the newly remodeled downtown Milwaukee Intermodal Station; the Milwaukee Airport Rail station averaged 306 daily departures/arrivals; a daily average of 170 riders used the new Sturtevant station.

Wanted: candidates for State Patrol trooper or vehicle inspector

The Wisconsin State Patrol is looking for motivated men and women interested in a career as a trooper or commercial motor vehicle inspector. An examination for candidates will take place in early April, however, applicants must register no later than March 26th. Applicants can register for the exam at the Wiscjobs Web site (www.wiscjobs.state.wi.us). The recruitment will be used to fill approximately 20 to 25 trooper and inspector vacancies throughout the state. Successful applicants will begin 21 weeks of training at the State Patrol Academy beginning July 20th.

Upcoming events

April 7 – 11, National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week

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