



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Enjoy the turkey, but watch for deer and deer hunters

Thanksgiving holiday travelers combined with deer hunters are expected to keep roadways busy through the end of this week. Peak travel times are expected to occur on Wednesday November 21st and especially on Sunday, November 25th as hunters and holiday travelers head back home. The Wisconsin State Patrol and local law enforcement agencies will participate in the annual Combined Accident Reduction Effort (CARE) to keep a sharp eye out for impaired and aggressive drivers along with assisting stranded motorists.

WisDOT announces draft plans for I-94 North/South corridor

With a draft environmental impact statement now completed, WisDOT has announced its plans to reconstruct the [I-94 North/South corridor](#) between Milwaukee's Mitchell Interchange and the Illinois state line. The draft plan calls for enhancing safety and addressing growing traffic needs along the 35-mile corridor by expanding it from six to eight lanes and reconstructing 17 interchanges. WisDOT is sponsoring several public hearings in December to allow interested citizens an opportunity to comment on the plan. More information can be found on the WisDOT Web site.

26 new State Patrol officers sworn in at State Capitol ceremony

After five months of intensive training, 26 new State Patrol officers were sworn in Friday (11/16) at the State Capitol. Eight of the graduates are military veterans - three of those are Iraq War vets. Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Louis Butler administered the oath of office to the new officers who will be assigned to posts across the state.

Wisconsin public transit systems earn high marks

A recently completed performance analysis shows that over 95% of Wisconsin's public transit systems meet or exceed state-mandated cost efficiency standards. Wisconsin's 69 public transit systems include 26 bus and 43 shared-ride taxi services that provide over 83 million rides each year. The transit analysis considers the ratio of passengers to the service area population; cost per passenger; expenses per revenue hour; passengers per revenue hour; revenue hours per capita; and the ratio of revenues to operating expenses. Public and specialized transit services support some 8,250 jobs and generate over \$360 million in economic output in Wisconsin each year. More information on the [performance analysis](#) can be found on the WisDOT Web site.

\$9 million in state loans support freight rail projects

Governor Jim Doyle has announced six state loans totaling nearly \$9 million that will help construct freight rail-related facilities in Arena, Superior, Darien, Avalon, Kenosha and Boscobel. WisDOT's Freight Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program (FRIIP) provides loans to private industries, railroads and local governments to improve rail infrastructure and construct new rail-served facilities - with the overall goal to boost economic development. As FRIIP loans are repaid, the dollars are used to help fund additional projects. More information on the [loans and the projects](#) they will help complete can be found on the WisDOT Web site.

Road condition reports now available

To help motorists make informed decisions before heading out on the highway, the Wisconsin State Patrol has resumed providing [road condition reports](#) on a toll-free telephone line (1-800-ROAD WIS) and on the Internet. The popular road condition reports review current driving conditions on the state's main highways.

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