



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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July traffic fatalities drop to record levels

The 63 people killed in Wisconsin traffic crashes last month represents the second safest July on state roadways since World War II. Last month's preliminary fatality total is 21 less than the 84 traffic deaths that occurred in 2007 and well below the five-year average of 83 deaths for July. Overall, Wisconsin traffic fatalities are down about 25% compared to the same seven-month period last year. Likely factors behind the decrease: more motorists heeding the message to slow down, buckle-up and drive sober; statewide law enforcement initiatives; higher fuel prices, reduced traffic speeds and volumes.

Nationwide drunken driving crackdown begins August 15th

The Wisconsin State Patrol along with local law enforcement agencies throughout the state will participate in a nationwide crackdown on drunken driving from August 15th through Labor Day (September 1). The "Drunk Driving, Over the Limit, Under Arrest" initiative will combine intensified law enforcement with a federally-funded media campaign to deter impaired driving. Last year, alcohol-related crashes in Wisconsin killed 337 people and injured over 5,500.

New WisDOT Web site details lane closures

A new addition to the WisDOT Web site can help travelers plan ahead by showing where lane closures are occurring along the state highway system. Updated hourly, the Web site (www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/road/laneclosures/closures.htm) lists current lane closures on state highways, US and Interstate highways, but not county or local roads. It also can provide information on special events and emergency closures due to flooding or bridge hits.

38 communities receive "Safe Routes to School" awards

Governor Jim Doyle has announced that 38 Wisconsin communities will be reimbursed for projects aimed at making streets and intersections safer for children to walk or bike to school. The federally-funded Safe Routes to School program offers public health and environmental benefits by encouraging more children to walk or use bicycles. Funds totaling nearly \$3 million will help complete a variety of projects such as multi-use trails, bike racks, curb ramps, sidewalk improvements, bike and pedestrian education and enforcement. More information can be found on the WisDOT Web site at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_0867.html [786229440.html](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_786229440.html).

Upcoming events

August 13 - 14, State Pedestrian and Bicycle Conference, Eau Claire,

www.dot.state.wi.us/news/events/bikeped08-welcome.htm

August 17 - 20, Standing Committee on Rail Transportation (SCORT) Conference, Milwaukee,

www.dot.state.wi.us/news/events/scort-index.htm

August 20 - 21, Annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety, Baraboo,

www.dot.state.wi.us/news/events/safety/index.htm

September 8 - 10, Wisconsin Transit Conference, Waukesha, www.wurta.com/wurta/

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