

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Connector June 2017 newsletter

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on Connector June 2017 newsletter [Wis. Stat. Ch. 346, Wis. Stat. Ch. 348, Wis. Stat. Ch. 349, Ch. Trans 305], a proposed guidance document.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Comments may be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 21 days by:

1. Department's website: <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/dot/guidance-docs?guidDocId=OPA20>

2. Mailing written comments to:
Office of Public Affairs
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4822 Madison Yards Way
PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

WEBSITE LOCATION OF FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The final version of this guidance document will be posted at wisconsindot.gov to allow for ongoing comment.

AGENCY CONTACT

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State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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SE Region helping local businesses thrive in midst of road construction

[Joe Starr](#), Wisconsin DOT — Published June 29

The first half of 2017 was busy in Wisconsin DOT's SE Region, as representatives worked closely with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's [Main Street and Connect Communities program](#) to help business located near road construction projects prepare and work with the changes that come with having a business in proximity of a road work project.



SE Region Communication Manager Brian DeNeve leads a discussion at a recent community meeting.

The department's [In This Together program](#) is at the center of this vital effort to help local businesses not only survive but thrive as road construction happens outside their doors. The program offers local businesses and community leaders access to resources that assist with planning, organization and communication before and during the construction process.

In January, dozens of business owners turned out to a community meeting where they received an overview of the upcoming WIS 50 construction. SE Region representatives from Economic Development Planner Liz Callin and Urban and Regional Planner Supervisor Andrew Levy, Construction Project Planner Brad Bowe, and Region Communication

Manager Brian DeNeve teamed up with the Delavan Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, Delavan Downtown Business Association and city of Delavan to share construction information as well as tips for operating effectively during this time. WEDC Main St. Downtown Development Account Manager Errin Welty also attended the meeting, sharing the organization's observations. Participants discussed how to prepare for the upcoming construction and ways businesses could market themselves during construction. This involved a presentation followed with break-out groups.

In April, DeNeve was the keynote speaker for the statewide webinar for the WEDC Community Development Deep Dive Webinar Series. He spoke to representatives from municipalities, chambers of commerce and downtown groups about Wisconsin DOT's life of a highway project, which is the community-focused process that encourages interaction and input from local businesses and property owners at all stages of planning and development of highway construction projects. DeNeve discussed ways to become involved during the design process and how businesses could promote themselves during construction.

In May, Wisconsin DOT Design Project Manager Justin Suydam, DeNeve and Welty teamed up with Absolutely Waterford and the village of Waterford to present on next year's WIS 20/83 reconstruction from Buena Park Road to WIS 36.

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July 4 holiday travelers asked to plan ahead, be patient, alert and safe WisDOT suspends most construction projects to ease expected heavy traffic volumes

[Rob Miller](#), Wisconsin DOT — Published June 28

Construction on most Wisconsin highway projects will be suspended from noon on June 30 to July 5

to open roads for the crush of motorists expected during the July 4 holiday.

While most road construction will be suspended, Wisconsin DOT officials say motorists should still expect to encounter work zones, reduced speeds and potential delays.

"To ease traffic congestion, we're asking our private contractors to halt work on most projects and open up construction zones to the extent possible, but drivers will still need to be patient and alert, allow adequate travel time and following distance," said Wayne Chase, WisDOT's Chief Construction Oversight Engineer.



Of the three major summer holidays, the Independence Day period is typically the most heavily traveled. AAA of Wisconsin forecasts that about 840,000 Wisconsinites will travel 50 miles or more on state roadways over the holiday weekend. Last year, 12 people died in Wisconsin traffic crashes during the July Fourth holiday period.

"The tragic reality is that the summer months tend to be the deadliest months on Wisconsin roadways," said David Pabst, Director of WisDOT's Bureau of Transportation Safety. "We're urging all motorists to buckle up, watch their speed and eliminate all distractions behind the wheel to support our goal of Zero deaths on Wisconsin roads."

Aerial traffic enforcement

Throughout the summer, the Wisconsin State Patrol will use aircraft as part of traffic safety enforcement efforts. The dates, times and locations of many of the aerial enforcement missions are announced in advance on Twitter [@WisconsinDOT](#) and [#WisDOT](#).

Road construction to note

Significant road construction projects that may affect holiday travelers include:

Zoo Interchange project in Milwaukee County - work continues with a new traffic pattern in place. Closures include the system ramp from I-94 westbound to I-41/894 southbound. Access to I-94 westbound is restricted at 84th Street. The ramp remains open for traffic going to I-41 northbound. Various other on and off ramps remain under construction with detours posted to get motorists around the closures.

WIS 175 in Washington County - full closure from just north of County Q to just south of County F and from just north of WIS 167 (Holy Hill Road) to WIS 60. Detour involves use of I-41, accessing at WIS 60 or County Y (Lannon Road).

US 45 in Kenosha County - full closure from the Illinois-Wisconsin state line to north of County C. Detour involves use of I-41, accessing at WIS 50 or IL 173.

I-39/90/94 north of Madison - traffic reduced to two lanes in each direction and lane shifts at WIS 19 (Exit 131).

I-39/90 in Dane and Rock counties - be alert for lane shifts and crossovers. Reduced speed limit on I-39/90 northbound near Edgerton and Newville. Ramps to/from I-39/90 northbound at US 51 interchange (Exit 156) are closed. Alternate routes are required.

Verona Road (US 18/151) in Dane County

I-41 near US 10 in Winnebago County - northbound and southbound lanes of I-41 have a 55

mph speed reduction and lane shifts throughout the WIS 441 Tri-Project work zone. Eastbound and westbound US 10 also have a 55 mph speed reduction through the work zone.

WIS 22 in Oconto County is closed and detoured between Oconto Falls and US 141

WIS 98 in Clark County - detour in Loyal for an urban reconstruction project. Detour route includes County K, County H and County Y.

WIS 54 in Jackson County – temporary signal in place for single lane traffic at Squaw Creek Bridge.

WIS 22 in Clintonville in Waupaca County is closed between 13th and Autumn streets. Through traffic is detoured via 7th St., N. Lyon St., E. 12th St., SSGT Warren Hansen Dr., WIS 156, Industrial Ave., Winter St., and Commercial Ave.

WIS 54 between Dexterville and Port Edwards in Wood County is closed and detoured via WIS 80, WIS 173 and WIS 73.

US 51 at Marathon County WW will have two lanes open northbound and southbound. Southbound traffic will be on the temporary structure at a reduced speed of 55 MPH, and about one mile of shoulder closures.

US 51 at Weber Creek north of Mercer in Iron County will be open to a single lane under the use of a temporary traffic signal.

WIS 182 is closed at the Flambeau River Bridge in Park Falls in Price County. Traffic is detoured via WIS 13, WIS 70 and WIS 47.

511 Wisconsin has latest travel updates

Wisconsin DOT encourages everyone to know before they go by accessing the state's 511 travel information system to get up-to-the-minute information on work zones and incidents that may affect highway travel. Download the free 511 Wisconsin mobile app or follow [@511WI on Twitter](#). Users can also access the system by dialing 511 on a phone or visiting [511wi.gov on the web](#). To eliminate distractions while behind the wheel, drivers should use mobile communication devices only when their vehicle is completely stopped and safely off the traveled portion of the roadway.

Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicle customer service centers will be open on July 3 and closed on July 4. Citizens are reminded they can conduct DMV business online 24/7 at [wisconsindmv.gov](#).

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New State Farm Safety Patrol unveiled

[Martha Morganstein](#), Wisconsin DOT — Published June 28

Wisconsin DOT Secretary Dave Ross joined State Patrol Maj. Tony Burrell and representatives from State Farm on June 26 to announce the unveiling of the Wisconsin DOT [State Farm Safety Patrol](#), a service that offers free roadside assistance to motorists in need.

These specially equipped vehicles serve high-volume roadways and major work zones through a variety of services to include providing small amounts of fuel, changing flat tires, vehicle jump-starts as well removing roadway debris.

“When there’s a crash or a motorist is having



Wisconsin State Patrol Major Tony Burrell speaks with a reporter as part of Monday's media event in Milwaukee announcing creation of the Wisconsin DOT State Farm Safety Patrols.

vehicle trouble on the highway, it can create problems for everyone," Ross said. "As driver safety is core to the Wisconsin DOT mission, we're excited about the potential to effectively manage incidents to keep traffic flowing with as few interruptions as possible."

This corporate sponsorship is a new chapter for Wisconsin's Freeway Service Teams, which have aided law enforcement in incident management for nearly 20 years.

Burrell explained that due to the safety patrols' abilities to efficiently help motorists with their basic vehicle malfunctions, they reduce traffic delays and allow law enforcement officials to respond to more serious calls.

In 2016, Wisconsin's Freeway Service Teams patrolled for nearly 27,000 hours and made 13,000 stops to aid motorists, according to Burrell. This group of trained professionals patrol areas throughout the state including Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Manitowoc, and Appleton.

Burrell urged motorists to give the red and green vehicles the same courtesy as they would to any other law enforcement vehicle.

"Every second counts, especially in a work zone," he said. "If drivers come across the patrol vehicles, it is important they obey Wisconsin's [Move Over Law](#) and slow down." It is also important for drivers to know [what to do if their vehicle breaks down](#) on the freeway and especially within construction zones.

Wisconsin is the eighteenth state to receive a State Farm sponsorship for their Freeway Service Team. Other states that benefit from the State Farm patrol sponsorship include Colorado, Illinois, Kansas and Nevada.

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What you should know if your vehicle breaks down in a work zone

[Martha Morganstein](#), Wisconsin DOT — Published June 22

Unfortunately, when and where our vehicles break down is out of our control.

Breaking down in a construction zone can be an intimidating situation, as these areas often have narrow, shifting lanes and limited pull-off space.

"You need to be aware that work zones may not have a shoulder, but try looking for a ramp or an emergency road," says Wisconsin DOT Traffic Engineer Jack Keiffer. "You just need to move your car away from the traffic lane as much as possible."

The Wisconsin [Steer It, Clear It law](#) requires motorists to move their vehicles

out of the way of traffic to the best of their ability.

After the vehicle is moved to a safe location, Keiffer explains motorists should stay inside the vehicle with their seatbelts fastened as they contact a roadside assistance service. If the vehicle is fully disabled and blocking a lane of traffic, the driver should call 911.



For non-emergency breakdowns in some of Wisconsin's larger work zones, Wisconsin DOT manages safety patrols to help motorists with their disabled vehicles free of charge in the interest of keeping traffic moving safely and efficiently. The teams of trained professionals regularly patrol highways and major work zones throughout Wisconsin looking for vehicles in need of assistance.

The teams provide many services including relocating disabled vehicles, supplying small amounts of fuel as well as helping motorists with basic repairs.

Because the safety patrols only cover certain portions of the state, Keiffer urges motorists to keep the contact information of their insurance company if they find themselves with a disabled vehicle outside of the service teams' routes or hours of operation.

Keiffer says when drivers call for help, it is important that they have "situational awareness."



"You should have a general idea of where you are in a work zone by looking out for mile markers or road signs," he says.

For other motorists who see another vehicle with its emergency lights flashing in a construction zone, Keiffer says to go slowly and be patient. The Wisconsin [Move Over law](#) requires motorists to move over or slow down for stopped law

enforcement, emergency and maintenance vehicles. These service teams should arrive shortly and work efficiently in order to protect the lives of those who work on or use the roadways.

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Registration open for Governor's Conference on Highway Safety, Aug. 22-24

[Ian Wright](#), Wisconsin DOT — Published June 21

Registration is now open for the 43rd annual [Governor's Conference on Highway Safety](#) being held Aug. 22 through 24 at the [Radisson Paper Valley Hotel](#) in Appleton, Wis.



This year's conference, themed "Driving Change in Traffic Safety Culture," will cover current evidence-based best practices in education, enforcement and partnerships. Attendees will have access to a diverse range of traffic safety workshop topics, including drugged driving enforcement, future of automation on our roadways, human trafficking and using social media for safety efforts.

Last year in Wisconsin there was a 6.3 percent increase in traffic fatalities. Research suggests that more than 90 percent of vehicular crashes are due to driver error. Drivers who make poor decisions and operate a vehicle while unbelted, impaired by drugs or alcohol, or distracted by a cellphone or other activities are directly responsible for the loss of lives devastating Wisconsin families.

Conference presenters

This year's conference presenters include Dr. Nicholas Ward and David Perlman.



Professor Ward received his Ph.D. in human factors psychology from Queen's University and is currently a professor of mechanical and industrial engineering at Montana State University. Ward is the director of the Center for Health and Safety Culture (CHSC) in the Western Transportation Institute. The mission of this interdisciplinary center is to reduce harm in communities and organizations from behavior resulting in domestic violence, substance abuse and traffic crashes. To support his mission, CHSC has developed the Positive Culture Framework, which is a process to create effective and sustainable community-based partnerships.



Perlman was an honors graduate of Northwestern University and received his law degree from the Indiana University Law School. As an assistant attorney general with the Training and Standards Bureau, Perlman coordinates training programs for police and prosecutors. His areas of expertise include constitutional law, use of force, public records and management liability. His duties at the Wisconsin Department of Justice include training police and prosecutors on constitutional issues as well as litigating appellate cases dealing with search and seizure, and confessions.

Conference registrations, reservations

Registration is available on the conference's [Eventbrite registration page](#). General admission is \$125 until July 15 and \$150 after July 15. No refunds after Aug. 1. Room reservations are separate from conference reservations and must be made by [visiting the Radisson website](#) or calling (920) 733-8000.

For questions, [email Governor's Conference on Highway Safety](#) or call (608) 709-0099.

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Award winning I-794 Lakefront Gateway project connecting Milwaukee

Improved lakefront access opens prior to summer festival season

Dan Sellers, Wisconsin DOT SE Region — Published June 19

The [I-794 Lakefront Gateway project](#) is connecting Milwaukee's downtown while opening access to developable land along the city's Lake Michigan coastline.



Wisconsin DOT Secretary Dave Ross, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee County Exec Chris Abele, and Summerfest CEO Don Smiley recently attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the completion of the state's investment in realigning the Lincoln Memorial Drive ramps while making improvements to associated streets within the Lake Interchange.

"I think this gateway project adds another important piece to this beautiful waterfront," said Wisconsin DOT Secretary Dave Ross, speaking at the

ceremony. These improvements streamline travel for weekday commuters, and anyone converging on the city for Summerfest or the myriad attractions and events happening year round.

The Wisconsin DOT partnered with the city on this project, which encompasses multiple ramp realignments linking Milwaukee's downtown, lakefront and Third Ward district. Realignments moved I-794's eastbound exit and westbound entrance ramps farther south from North Lincoln Memorial Drive and East Clybourn Street. North Lincoln Memorial Drive was connected with Chicago Street, opening access to the Third Ward. East Clybourn Street from Van Buren Street to North Memorial Drive was converted to a four-lane, divided boulevard. A two-and-a-half acre site opened by the ramp realignments made room for the planned construction of a high-rise building and adjacent pedestrian access to downtown.

Top project of 2016 winner

The Daily Reporter, a publication covering Wisconsin construction news, recognized I-794 Lakefront Gateway as well as three additional Wisconsin DOT projects in its Top Projects of 2016 edition. The [diverging diamond interchange](#), located at I-39/90 and WIS 11 (Avalon Road) just south of Janesville, Zoo Interchange Phase 1 and the [Milwaukee Intermodal Station Train Shed and Platform Renovation](#) were also recognized.



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Son follows father into State Patrol, continues family tradition of helping others

Joe Starr, Wisconsin DOT — Published June 15

When Wisconsin State Patrol Cadet Austn Wanless was commissioned as Trooper Austn Wanless at the [State Patrol's April 7 graduation ceremony](#) in La Crosse, Wis., Lieutenant Travis Wanless was there watching as a proud father.



The Wanless family from left: Kyrstn, Austn, Dawn, Travis and Cody.

Travis talks with great pride of all his children – oldest son Cody works in health care IT and Austn's twin sister Kyrstn is a juvenile probation officer in Illinois. But it was son Austn who followed dad into law enforcement. The whole family, including mom Dawn, came together to help celebrate this life milestone as Austn and 40 other cadets joined the State Patrol ranks.

"Seeing the pride in my dad's face was definitely a great feeling," said Austn, adding that he was so happy to have his family together for the event.

Everyone, and especially dad, was beaming with pride as Austn crossed the graduation stage. But if you were to have talked to dad a year prior to that day about his son entering the State Patrol Academy, you would have likely heard hesitation in his voice.

Decisions

"Quite honestly, I was all for him staying in school but as all kids do they chart their own paths," said Travis, describing the conversation with his son and his concern about Austn finishing his college studies at UW-Oshkosh.

"We had a very serious conversation. I told him that if he decided to go with the academy that it was a paramilitary academy, and I shared what he could expect when he got there. I don't know if you can truly express what it is really like, but I tried."

While he preferred that Austn continue on to earn his college degree, Travis wanted to ensure that he had every option available. At the time, Austn was following in his mother's footsteps working toward a nursing degree. Certainly a career that would fulfill his desire to help people, but he questioned the path choice as he struggled with the degree's demanding science curriculum. These challenges and the discussion with dad about the academy, and details of the tough training he would face as a State Patrol cadet, were all there for Austn to consider, but details of the academy's demanding environment failed to sway his newly found desire to attend.

"Both of my parents are in professions where they help people and both of them are role models to me," said Austn. In addition to being a registered nurse in pulmonary medicine, Austn's mother served with the Wisconsin Army National Guard and dad served two years as a Wisconsin Department of Corrections officer before joining the State Patrol. "I've grown up seeing them serve others, and I wanted to do that myself."

Father-trooper

Travis entered the State Patrol in 1998 and has held several positions throughout the state since. One of the most satisfying times in his career so far he says was working with troopers as a field sergeant in Wausau.

"Being in that supervisory role and being able to mentor the troopers was part of my role as a sergeant. It continues in this role where I am now up a step, mentoring the supervisors and sergeants."

While serving on security detail for the governor, Travis says he did plenty of traveling, and this was while the kids were young making it one of the tougher times during his career.

"I was traveling with the governor and trying to make the work-home life relationship work. My schedule was definitely dictated by his comings and goings and security needs."

Growing up in a home with a dad as a police officer gave young Austn a unique perspective on life and it kept him honest. He remembered being concerned, not necessarily just for his father's wellbeing but for his own.

"I remember thinking that if I did anything that was even remotely considered bad in any way that he had connections so he would always find out somehow," said Austn, laughing as he explained how ever since he could remember he had looked up to his father and that he was always a role model.

"I always knew that I wanted to be like him growing up."

Father & son or twins?

Entering the academy, Austn faced an additional challenge of having a father in the State Patrol. While most cadets would do everything possible to avoid their classmates making the father-son connection and the inevitable teasing that would ensue, Austn opted for the opposite and grew a mustache just like dad's.

"I knew people would get a kick out of it," said Austn, with a bit of laughter, explaining that they already looked "incredibly alike." Soon after Travis arrived as an instructor, cadets began to notice the name tags, the likeness and the matching mustaches.

"Some of them were like, are you guys related? And I was like, yeah that's my dad."

Pictures from graduation posted on dad's Facebook page sharing the proud moment were followed with comments asking whether they were father and son or twins.

Bonding with zombies

Another thing father and son share is a love of the outdoors, and hunting and fishing have been recreational staples since before Austn says he can remember. But when you ask Austn his most special memory of time with dad, post-apocalyptic horror comes to mind. It was when *The Walking Dead* television drama had first started and the Wanless men were hooked. Austn was away at college at Oshkosh and looked forward to coming home on weekends and holidays to spend time with his parents.

"Dad would TiVo a few episodes of *The Walking Dead* and wait for me to get home. We'd watch them together during every visit."

Staying in touch

Father-son time these days is tough to come by, with Travis assigned to the Northwest's Spooner Post and Austn attached to the Northeast Fond du Lac Post. While they haven't worked together, aside from the academy, Austn says that he on occasion will call his dad.

"I call him when I can," says Austn, the pride in his voice evident as he talks about sharing news of a first arrest and other experiences. Austn says that they talk about what's going on and he occasionally floats scenarios to dad looking for advice, but professional conversations are always kept in the appropriate parameters of a lieutenant-trooper relationship.



"I'll ask questions, and he'll give me the answers, like in the academy," says Austn.

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DMV driver manual now available in eBook format

[Terry Walsh](#), Wisconsin DOT — Published June 15

The Wisconsin DOT Division of Motor Vehicle [Motorists' Handbook](#) is available online as an eBook in PDF, EPUB and MOBI formats, which can be read on a desktop computer or handheld device.

EPUB eBooks automatically adjust to fit your screen and allow you to change display options like the font size, number of columns and more. These online manuals have the most up-to-date information and reflect the latest changes in state and federal regulation.



"We are excited to offer the Motorists' Handbook in a more efficient format," said Wisconsin DOT Secretary Dave Ross.

While some paper copies of manuals and forms are still available on request, offering a green alternative to the paper versions is expected to save money. The Commercial Driver's Manual, which outlines the requirements and practices for safe operation of a commercial motor vehicle with Class A, B or C driver license, is also available in digital formats. A complete list of driver handbooks, publications and forms and their links are available online.

"We're reaching a new generation," said Debbie Kraemer, Driver Training and Records Unit supervisor. "We see younger drivers accessing the world through their phones. It's now even easier to find answers to driving questions, like who has the right of way or how to park on a hill. A motorist's phone or tablet is a convenient tool to find these answers but never while operating a vehicle."

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Amtrak Hiawatha easy choice for travel between Milwaukee, Chicago

Summertime specials make trips to Summerfest, other events, attractions fun, stress-free

[Mae Knowles](#), Wisconsin DOT — Published June 14

For more than 807,000 passengers last year, [Amtrak Hiawatha](#) was the economical and convenient transportation mode of choice for travel between Milwaukee and Chicago.

It's a great way to travel from Milwaukee to Chicago and back, said Cecilia Danlin in a recent Amtrak Hiawatha Facebook review.

"No stress, plenty of leg room and the trip felt so much quicker than it does when we drive. Also, there was plenty of overhead storage for our baggage."

Helpful staff was another plus that Danlin said she enjoyed – a comment echoed by many others describing their Hiawatha travel experiences.

"I take the Hiawatha several times a year and have been for about seven years," said Kim Pearson. "The staff both on the train and at the stations are always very nice and helpful."

With service seven times daily between the two cities and three stops in between at General Mitchell International Airport, Sturtevant, Wis. and Glenview, Ill. there is plenty of options for weekday commuters and weekend adventurers alike. Several deals happening throughout the summer make getting to Milwaukee's Summerfest and the myriad other festivals, events and attractions that both cities offer easier and more convenient than ever. Late night Saturday departures, buy one get one half off on Saturdays and kids ride free on weekends are a few reasons why taking the train is the way to travel this summer.

Summertime deals

Late Night Saturday Train departures allow you to make evening plans for dinner, shopping and sporting events without having to worry about having enough time to get to the station.

The Buy One Get One Half Off on Saturdays is a fun way for you and a family member or friend to keep some money in your pocket while enjoying all the shopping, food and culture of Chicago.

The Kids Ride Free Weekends deal is excellent for a fun family getaway to the Windy City.

Regular student and senior discounts are other great reasons to consider Amtrak for your next trip. And if you want to continue your destination travel with your bicycle, reserve a spot with Amtrak Hiawatha's Train-side Checked Bike Service. It only costs \$5 and doesn't require you to pack your bike in a box.

New responsive website

[Amtrak Hiawatha's new website](#) is the perfect complement of the train service itself, offering visitors an easily navigable and completely responsive experience that allows access to all the information they need from any device. Easy-to-use menus and navigation help you find and sort travel options by time, date, departure and destination.

This site triggers the travel bug within, offering options for passage on other Midwest routes or to destinations far and wide. Big comfortable seats, free Wi-Fi, and access to power outlets certainly make Amtrak Hiawatha a great way to experience the great cities of Milwaukee and Chicago.

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Taking the train is a special experience, especially for kids, and the Kids Ride Free deal make it easier and more affordable than ever.

Roadcheck initiative stresses importance of commercial motor vehicle, driver safety

Joe Starr, Wisconsin DOT — Published June 13

A driver on I-94 near Johnson Creek, Wis., died last month after he was hit by a piece of debris.

According to the Wisconsin State Patrol, the man was killed after being struck by a piece from a semi's brake system that had come loose and gone through his windshield.



During last year's three-day International Roadcheck period, Wisconsin State Patrol inspectors conducted 1,240 commercial motor vehicle inspections and detected nearly 4,400 safety violations. As a result, 351 vehicles and 80 drivers were ordered out of service until the violations were corrected.

This is a tragic example of why adherence to commercial vehicle and driver safety requirements is vital, and it emphasizes why the annual International Roadcheck initiative, held this year from June 3 through 6, is so important.

During the initiative, Wisconsin State Patrol joined law enforcement officials throughout North America to conduct enhanced inspections of commercial motor vehicles and drivers.

"During Roadcheck and throughout the year, our highly trained commercial motor vehicle inspectors are patrolling highways and working at our safety and weight enforcement facilities to help ensure that all safety equipment on commercial vehicles is in good operating condition and that drivers are

properly licensed and within their hours of service," said Wisconsin State Patrol Captain Brian Ausloos. "Along with checking a commercial vehicle's tires, brakes and lights, we also look at drivers' logbooks and credentials as part of overall efforts to prevent large-truck crashes and improve highway safety for everyone."

"Secure Your Load" is 2017 theme

Each year's Roadcheck initiative typically involves a special emphasis area, with this year's focus on securing cargo. June 6 was "Secure Your Load Day" a national day designated to draw attention to the importance of having equipment and other cargo properly secured to vehicles. Electronic signs along key Wisconsin travel corridors displayed messages on the topic.

Unsecured cargo, even heavy objects, can bounce out of the vehicle as it hits bumps, makes turns or stops suddenly. Once out of the vehicle, objects may hit other vehicles or end up in the roadway where they are hit by vehicles, potentially causing damage or injury. Drivers may also see these objects in the road and swerve to miss them, possibly leading to a crash. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety estimates that improperly secured loads and roadway debris contributed to some 39,000 traffic injuries and 500 deaths in the U.S. between 2011 and 2014.

The 30th annual Roadcheck was sponsored by the [Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance \(CVSA\)](#). During the 72-hour event, about 10,000 CVSA-certified commercial motor vehicle inspectors throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico intensified efforts to increase compliance with commercial motor vehicle driver and equipment regulations.

A [Wisconsin DOT video highlighting SWEFs](#) shows State Patrol inspectors at work and explains the benefits to all motorists of commercial motor vehicle safety.

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High temperatures bring rising risk of pavement buckling

Drivers are asked to go slow, be alert for potential uneven roadways

[Martha Morganstein](#), Wisconsin DOT — Published June 12

With the recent rise in temperatures, Wisconsin DOT asks motorists to take extra caution for the chance of encountering pavement buckling during commutes.

The chance for pavement buckles increases when the weather shifts from cold to hot temperatures. This move to warmer conditions causes the concrete slabs that make up roadways to expand and push against each other leading to a buckle that form unevenness and breaks that can be hazardous to drivers.

Wisconsin is a little more susceptible than southern states might be to pavement buckling because of the state's radical temperature changes between seasons, says Wisconsin DOT Chief Materials Engineer Barry Paye. Though Paye explained that specifically predicting when and where pavement buckling might occur is difficult to do.



Wisconsin State Patrol NW Region Trooper Robert Unruh handles a chunk of concrete displaced by road buckling.

"Sometimes it'll happen on a new pavement; sometimes it'll happen before it gets to 90 [degrees], so it's not an exact science," he said.

Drivers should be on the lookout for buckled pavement throughout the summer months.

"If you see a buckle, slow down and take your time," said Paye. "If you can drive on the shoulder to go around, then great. If you can't, just drive slowly through it,"

Motorists are asked to call 911 to report any pavement buckles in roadways and they should be prepared to report their location as specifically as possible. Drivers should also be ready to give way to any emergency responders and highway maintenance crews completing needed repairs.

The Wisconsin [Move Over Law](#) requires motorists to shift lanes, if possible, or slow down for law enforcement, emergency and maintenance vehicles.

Before heading out on the roadways, motorists should check the [511 travel information system](#) to anticipate any incidents or delays.

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June's deer-vehicle crash rates second only to fall months

Increase in deer activity creates hazards for all motorists - especially motorcyclists

[Rob Miller](#), Wisconsin DOT — Published June 7

Deer-vehicle collisions in June? Yes, it happens, and

next to fall months, June has the highest rate of deer-vehicle crashes.

Deer activity typically increases in June as females search for places to give birth and young deer separate from their mothers. June typically ranks high as a month when motorists are most likely to be injured in deer-vehicle crashes. In each of the last five years, June ranked as the worst or second worst month for motorists' injuries from deer crashes.

"This time of year, we tend to see increases in traffic volumes, vehicle speeds and deer activity - and that's a dangerous combination for all

motorists, but especially for motorcyclists," said David Pabst, director of Wisconsin DOT's Bureau of Transportation Safety. "The best way to avoid deer crashes and injuries is to slow down, buckle-up, and if you're motorcycling - always wear a helmet and other protective gear."



Photo courtesy of United States Air Force Academy

Motorcyclists at higher risk

Last year, 11 people were killed in deer-related crashes in Wisconsin - all were motorcyclists.

Wisconsin law enforcement agencies reported 20,413 deer-motor vehicle crashes in 2016. A [2016 by-county breakdown](#) shows Dane County had the most with 1,006, followed by Waukesha County with 871 and Washington County with 766. In Green Lake, Kewaunee, Shawano, Vernon and Waupaca counties, more than half of all reported crashes in 2016 involved deer. A county-by-county breakdown of deer/vehicle crashes in Wisconsin last year is available on the Wisconsin DOT website.

How to avoid deer crashes

- Be especially vigilant in early morning and evening hours when deer are most active.
- Slow down and eliminate distractions.
- Always wear your safety belt -- there are fewer severe injuries in crashes when all vehicle occupants wear safety belts.
- If you see a deer along the road, slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the animal away.
- When one deer appears, look for more. Deer seldom run alone.
- If you find a deer looming in your headlights, don't expect it to move away.
 - Headlights can confuse a deer and cause the animal to freeze.
 - Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path.
- Do not swerve.
 - Swerving can confuse the deer as to where to run, and can also cause you to lose control of your vehicle and result in a much more serious crash.
 - The one exception is if you are operating a motorcycle, in which case you should slow down, brake firmly and swerve if necessary to avoid hitting the deer. Try to stay within your lane if at all possible to avoid hitting other objects.

If you hit a deer

Get your vehicle safely off the road, if possible and call law enforcement. It's generally safest to stay buckled up inside your vehicle. Walking along the highway is very dangerous, as you could be struck by another vehicle.

Don't attempt to move an injured deer.

Deer carcass removal

Deer, and other wild and domestic animals hit and killed by motor vehicles become potential

hazards when left on the roadway, shoulder or in clear zones. Removal options include pickup with offsite disposal or in rural conditions roadside abandonment, which is when the carcass is left in the right of way and pulled far off on to the roadside.

As of March 1, 2016, the car-killed deer removal and disposal process requires:

Counties to manage their respective county highways

Municipalities to manage their local roads

DNR to manage interstates, and U.S. and state highways

Who to contact for disposal/removal

Deer carcasses on county roads should be reported to the county, for local roads contact the municipality, and for interstate, U.S. and state highways, contact the local sheriff.

More information on carcass removal is available in the [Wisconsin DOT Highway Maintenance Manual](#).

Deer-vehicle crash statistics

Learn more about deer-vehicle crash information at the [Deer Vehicle Crash Information Clearinghouse](#) and on the [Wisconsin DOT crash facts page](#). Information is also available on the Wisconsin DNR website's [car killed deer page](#).

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