

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

### **Law enforcement agencies to focus on rail safety September 24**

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on a news release for the **Rail Safety law enforcement initiative (Chapter 346.444)**, 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://trust.dot.state.wi.us/act369/?id=OPA276&uri=file:RailSafetyDay9-24&division=OPA>
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](http://wisconsindot.gov) to allow for ongoing comment.

### **AGENCY CONTACT**

[DOTOPAGuidanceDocs@DOT.WI.GOV](mailto:DOTOPAGuidanceDocs@DOT.WI.GOV)

September 23, 2019

**For more information, contact:**

WisDOT Office of Public Affairs  
608/266-3581, [opa.exec@dot.wi.gov](mailto:opa.exec@dot.wi.gov)

**Law enforcement agencies to focus on railroad safety Sept. 24**

*Third annual "Operation Clear Track" emphasizes public education and enforcement related to rail crossing safety and dangers of trespassing on rail property*

On Tuesday, September 24, the Wisconsin State Patrol will partner with law enforcement agencies across the state to enforce laws and help educate travelers on the dangers associated with disregarding rail crossing signs/gates and trespassing on railroad property.

Sponsored by Operation Lifesaver and Amtrak Police, "Operation Clear Track" is now in its third year and represents the single largest railroad safety law enforcement initiative in the U.S. and Canada. On Tuesday, law enforcement agencies will target rail crossings with higher levels of motorist and train traffic watching for people trespassing on rail property and for drivers who disobey rail crossing signs and signals.

"Like all of our enforcement efforts, the goal is public safety – not to simply stop and cite people," said Wisconsin State Patrol Major Adrian Logan. "Officers will take enforcement action when warranted, but the primary focus is to educate people on laws designed to keep everyone safe."

Officers are being provided railroad safety cards that will be distributed to motorists and pedestrians. The cards offer tips and information about rail crossing safety and ways to avoid trespassing on railroad property. Wisconsin has about 3,300 miles of active train tracks and more than 4,000 public railroad crossings. In 2018 in Wisconsin, there were 33 train-related crashes that resulted in 13 injuries and one fatality - in addition, six fatalities resulted from people trespassing on rail property. Rail safety tips for motorists and pedestrians:

- Cross train tracks only at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings. Obey all warning signs and signals. Never drive or walk around lowered crossing gates;
- Trains can take a mile or more to stop. Freight trains don't have fixed schedules and can be seen any time of day.
- As you carefully cross railroad tracks, make sure you have enough room to get safely across. Being stuck within a crossing in a traffic queue is dangerous. Remember that trains overhang tracks by at least three feet on both sides;
- Train tracks and rail yards are private property, so it is illegal and dangerous to trespass on rail property.

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