



# The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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## **Trend of lower traffic fatalities continues in 2010**

Last year marked the third consecutive year that Wisconsin traffic-related deaths were under 600. The last time that occurred for three years in a row was between 1942 and 1944. Wisconsin ended 2010 with 564 traffic deaths - 22 more than 2009 - but 112 below the five-year average. Factors behind the decrease include improved driver behavior and seat belt use, law enforcement efforts, safer vehicles and roadways. Still, there's plenty of room for improvement. Both motorcycle and pedestrian fatalities increased last year compared to 2009. More information can be found on the [WisDOT Web site](#).

## **Flashing yellow arrows send a clear signal**

More and more Wisconsin intersections are sending motorists a flashy new signal: yellow arrows that tell drivers it's OK to turn left, but only after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. A decade-long study by the Federal Highway Administration found the flashing yellow arrows are easier for drivers to understand. The study found that the standard circular green signals are sometimes mistaken as a protected left turn, causing driver confusion, and a higher incidence of left-turn collisions. The new signalization is in use in several areas including Milwaukee, Madison, Eau Claire, Appleton and Oshkosh. More information can be found on the [WisDOT Web site](#).

## **Spotlight shines on Wisconsin construction projects and contractors**

The "best of the best" Wisconsin transportation projects completed last year were in the spotlight during the recent Contractor – Engineers Conference held in Madison. During the annual event, WisDOT recognized several of its private-sector partners including: Hoffman Construction Company of Black River Falls for a grading project on US 41 in Winnebago County; American Asphalt of Wisconsin in Mosinee for an asphalt paving project along WIS 29 in Marathon County; Trierweiler Construction and Supply Company, Inc. of Marshfield for concrete paving work along Monona Drive in Dane County; Pheifer Brothers Construction Company, Inc. of Neenah for work on the Grove Street Bridge in Fond du Lac; Lunda Construction Company of Black River Falls for work on the WIS 25 bridge between Nelson, WI and Wabasha, MN; and Michels Paving (a division of Michels Corporation of Brownsville, WI) for improvements to rest areas along I-39/90/94 near Portage. More details can be found on the [WisDOT Web site](#).

## **Passengers board Amtrak Hiawatha Service trains in record numbers**

Ridership aboard Amtrak Hiawatha Service trains between Milwaukee and Chicago set a new record in 2010 with just under 793,000 riders last year – an increase of nearly 7% over calendar year 2009 – and an 85% increase since the year 2000. Hiawatha trains provide seven daily round trips (six on Sundays) between the two cities. A typical one-way Milwaukee-Chicago ride costs \$22 and takes about 90 minutes. More info on fares and special discounts can be found [here](#).

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