

The Wisconsin Responder



WisDOT's TIME Program Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2024

wisconsindot.gov/time

Crash Responder Safety Week November 18-22, 2024



Mike's Minute



MICHAEL JUNGBLUTH
ETO/TIME Program Manager

Greetings from the ETO/TIME team!

As we close out 2024, there have been 28 emergency responders struck and killed by a vehicle while working a roadway incident scene this year: 15 law enforcement officers, 3 fire/EMS, 7 tow operators, 1 road service technician and 2 DOT/SSP. Let's redouble our responder safety and traffic incident management efforts to prevent any more fatalities this year.

We are approaching our goal of 60 percent of first responders trained in Wisconsin. As of July 2024, we are at 59 percent and growing. We wanted to thank those dedicated volunteer TIM instructors for their commitment to the program and encourage first responder agencies to schedule TIM classes. It's never too late—or too early—to schedule this training in 2025.

A special thank you to the Vilas County Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Joe Fath for sponsoring a TIM Train-the-Trainer (TtT) program on Saturday, May 11. Fifteen new volunteer TIM instructors will be ready to assist the NW/NC/NE WisDOT regions with future TIM classes. For 2025, we are planning a TtT class in the spring at a WisDOT NWR location and in the fall within the WisDOT NE Region. If you are interested in sponsoring a TtT class, please reach out to myself or Naydene.

As we close out the year, the ETO/TIME team wishes you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season. As always, please maintain situational awareness at all times. You must constantly be aware of your surroundings because things can change in a split second!

Thank you for continuing to serve...stay safe, *Mike*

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Speed Management Pages – a Story of Collaboration



Hello first responders. It can be a common question – how are speed limits set throughout the state highway system? There's quite a bit that goes into it, and that's why the WisDOT Bureau of Traffic Operation's (BTO) Traffic Analysis and Safety Unit recently pulled together an [extensive, yet simple to follow, web feature hitting on all the basics](#).

The project began with a goal to develop a unified base of information for frequently asked questions. BTO worked with counterparts in the Division of State Patrol as well as digital content experts within our division to gain clearance for the project through the Office of Public Affairs. The result is a nice service to the public that grew from strong internal collaboration and partnership.

The page includes information on the different types of speed limits, how they're established, how they're enforced and more. It should be particularly useful to our teams in the Region offices who frequently field requests regarding speed limits. To make navigation a little easier, there's also an abbreviated web address – wisconsindot.gov/speedlimits.

Snowplow Safety



BRIAN PORTER
WisDOT BTO TASU

Every year WisDOT promotes travel safety before and during the winter months. Driving in the winter brings a new set of challenges to Wisconsin motorists. Snow, ice and sleet make driving hazardous by limiting control and visibility. According to the Federal Highway Administration, over 21 percent of the nearly 5.9 million crashes that occur in the U.S. each year are weather-related. Of those, over half a million crashes per year are caused by snow, sleet, icy pavement or slushy pavement.

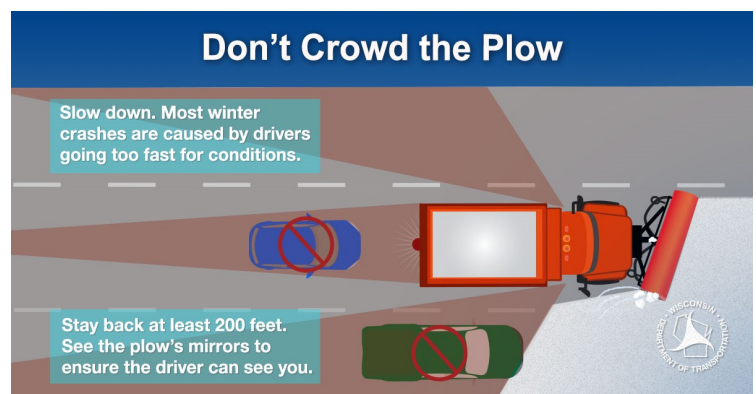
We urge drivers to slow down and be alert on Wisconsin roads, especially when encountering snowplows. Snowplow drivers work long hours to clear nearly 115,000 miles of roads across Wisconsin, and it's important for everyone to give them the space to get the job done.

When approaching a snowplow that's clearing ice or snow, or laying salt or sand, state law requires drivers to stay at least:

- 200 feet back on a highway with a speed limit more than 35 miles per hour
- 75 feet back on a road with a slower speed limit

Road conditions ahead of a plow are likely worse, so drivers should use extra caution if passing a snowplow. Plow drivers have limited visibility and the vehicles often create a cloud of snow that can obscure visibility for all. As part of this annual awareness campaign, we have provided you some images that can be used in promoting safe travel in your communities. The images can be found at the following link: [Winter Driving Graphics](#).

Thank you, *Brian*



Peer Support Resources

From Wisconsin Law Enforcement Death Response Team [website](#)...

We are excited to announce a tremendous new resource that will help every law enforcement professional in Wisconsin—the creation of a mobile app that will provide free mental health services to every officer in the state, anytime and anywhere.

The app has information and resources specifically meant to support police personnel, and it will continue to grow into a resource for anyone currently in the law enforcement field, retired law enforcement and family members of law enforcement. It provides ways to connect directly to peer support resources, chaplains and mental health professionals.



Wisconsin Air Medical Council (wiamc.org)

The Wisconsin Air Medical Council, a founding member of the WisDOT TIME Coalition, consists of air medical transport providers that utilize rotor-wing and/or fixed-wing as a mode of transportation and operate based within the State of Wisconsin. The council's purpose is to promote and enhance air medical transport safety within the state, provide a forum for the exchange of information and to facilitate cooperative and collaborative problem solving, promote appropriate utilization of air medical services, work with government and regulatory agencies to affect change in aviation regulations pertaining to air medical transportation, interface with the state and regional trauma advisory committees and interface with like organizations in neighboring states. Please explore their website for addition information.

Aspirus MedEvac

Communications: 800-888-8056

Program Director: Bob Kirkley

[Website](#)

Eagle III

Communications: 877-332-4533

Program Director: Shaun Stamnes

[Website](#)

Flight For Life

Communications: 800-344-1000

Program Director: Leif Erickson

[Website](#)

Life Link III

Communications: 800-328-1377

Program Director: Josh Howell

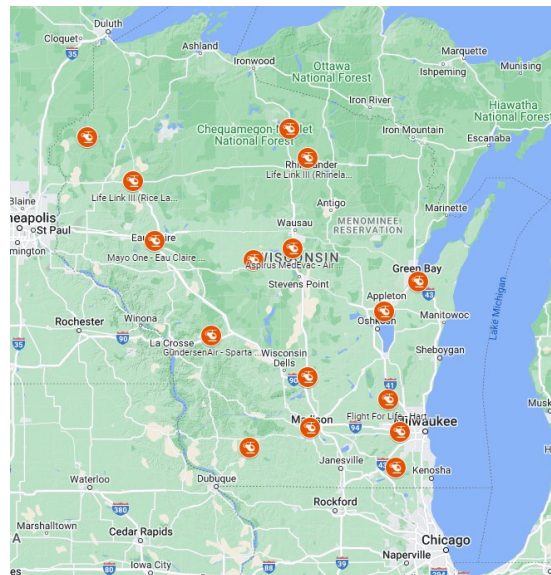
[Website](#)

Gunderson Air

Communications: 800-527-1200

Program Director: Janelle Weaver

[Website](#)



North Memorial Air Care

Communications: 800-247-0229

Program Director: Shimon Cohen

[Website](#)

Mayo One

Communications: 800-237-6822

Program Director: Lyle Groves

[Website](#)

ThedaStar

Communications: 800-236-2066

Interim Program Director: Jeff Grimm

[Website](#)

UW MedFlight

Communications: 800-472-0111

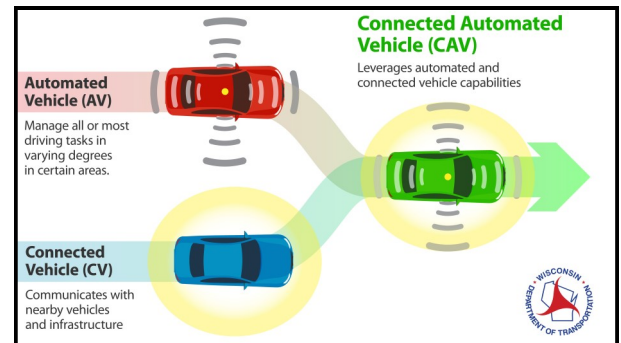
Program Director: Anne Ridders

[Website](#)

WisDOT Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV) Update — Marketplace Expansion of Automated Vehicles

By: WisDOT iCAV Subcommittee

The volatile markets that come with new technology are no different when it comes to vehicle automation or self-driving cars. Numerous companies testing passenger cars or trucks have ceased operations and many component suppliers or data suppliers have as well. Although there will always be churn and consolidation in the marketplace, several companies continue to move forward.



Operations

Waymo's self-driving taxi service is now operating in four cities after expanding to limited areas of [Los Angeles](#) and Austin, Texas. Waymo currently operates commercial robotaxi services in Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Austin.

GM's Cruise has resumed its operations in Phoenix and is now working with California regulators to resume testing and operations in [San Francisco](#). Cruise had suspended operations last October after a pedestrian in San Francisco hit by another car was dragged by one of its robotaxis.

Safety

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a [Standing General Order](#) in 2021 requiring identified manufacturers and operators to report to the agency certain crashes involving vehicles equipped with automated driving systems or SAE Level 2 advanced driver assistance systems. NHTSA monitors these vehicles for safety defects and will take vehicles off the road if appropriate.

Waymo and Cruise have logged more than [20 million miles](#) of **completely driverless** taxi services in the areas they operate. [An independent study](#) led by Swiss Re comparing Waymo vehicles to human drivers in the same geographical area of Phoenix showed that, over 3.8 million miles, the Waymo Driver reduced the frequency of property damage insurance claims by 76 percent and eliminated bodily injury claims 100 percent compared to human drivers.

Trucking

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Cavnue are developing a 21-mile "[smart freight corridor](#)" on State Highway 130 outside Austin to improve the safety and efficiency of the roadway for self-driving trucks. After years of testing, driverless trucking companies Aurora and Kodiak, plan to deploy driverless trucks on Texas' smart freight corridor in late 2024.

The companies developing autonomous truck systems say their vehicles, equipped with laser and radar sensors that are superior to the human eye, will be safer than manually driven trucks. "They drive defensively. They drive cautiously," Kodiak Director of External Affairs Daniel Goff [said](#) about the company's trucks, which have 18 scanners that monitor all parts of the vehicle 10 times per second.






An [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study](#) showed that rear-end crashes had been reduced by 56 percent if a vehicle was equipped with automatic emergency braking.

WisDOT CAV website - <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/multimodal/cav.aspx>

If you have feedback on the website, please reach out to Brad Basten, who is listed as the contact on the site.

2024 Fall Regional TIME Meeting Schedule

Construction Projects * Connected and Automated Vehicle Workgroup Updates *
Review of Traffic Crashes * Specialized Training Topics

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| NWR Counties | NCR Counties | NER Counties | SWR Counties | SER Counties |
| Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Taylor, Pepin, Eau Claire, Clark, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson & Pierce | Iron, Vilas, Florence, Price, Oneida, Forest, Lincoln, Langlade, Marathon, Shawano, Menominee, Wood, Portage, Waupaca, Adams, Waushara, Marquette & Green Lake | Marinette, Oconto, Door, Outagamie, Kewaunee, Brown, Manitowoc, Winnebago, Calumet, Sheboygan & Fond du Lac | La Crosse, Monroe, Juneau, Vernon, Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Crawford, Richland, Grant, Iowa, Dane, Jefferson, Lafayette, Green & Rock | Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine & Kenosha |
| Northeast Region: November 12, 2024 from 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | | | | |
| Northwest Region: November 14, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | | | | |
| Southwest Region: November 14, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | | | | |
| North Central Region: November 19, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Southeast Region: November 21, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | | | | |

The meeting agendas will be sent out a week in advance. If you are unable to attend the meeting in your region, please feel free to join another region's TIME meeting.

We look forward to your participation!

SPECIAL EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



October 2024

National Move Over Day (10/19)

November 2024

Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day (TBD)

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (11/17)

Crash Responder Safety Week (11/18-11/22)

Winter Awareness Week (11/18-11/22)

December 2024

Impaired Driving Prevention Month

Older Driver Safety Awareness Week (12/2-12/6)

January 2025

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

National Passenger Safety Week (TBD)

WI EMS Association Conference (1/21-1/24)

February 2025

WI Police Leadership Foundation Conference (2/9-2/12)

WI Sheriffs & Deputy Sheriffs Association Conference (2/9-2/12)

Flood Safety Awareness Week (2/25-3/1)

March 2025

WI State Firefighters Association Conference (3/6-3/8)

Governor's Conference on Emergency Management & Homeland Security (3/10-3/12)

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