

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Connector February 2018 newsletter

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on Connector February 2018 newsletter [Ch. TRANS 102, Ch. TRANS 940], 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=OPA161>

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

DOTOPAGuidanceDocs@DOT.WI.GOV



State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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The Connector

- DMS more than traffic updates, works with state, local partners on critical campaigns
- Wisconsin State Patrol currently recruiting for troopers, inspectors
- Steer It, Clear It' celebrates 20 years relieving traffic congestion, making travel
- Deicing with brine decreases need for costly rock salt, reduces environmental impact

Digital signs shine light on Amber Alert, Human Trafficking, other vital programs

Brian DeNeve - February 16

We've all seen dynamic message signs, those giant electronic boards along highways that help keep highway travelers safe and moving with important messages about traffic and weather conditions.

But did you know they also work



with fellow state agencies and local governments to assist with some very important programs and campaigns?

Silver Alert program

Ever since the inception of [Wisconsin Silver Alert program](#) in August 2014, Wisconsin DOT has worked with the Wisconsin Department of Justice to notify the public of missing persons older than age 60 with Alzheimer's Disease, other types of dementia or permanent

cognitive impairments.

Wisconsin DOT uses the signs to broadcast Silver Alert messages when it's believed the missing person is traveling in a motor vehicle. In the beginning, those messages instructed people to call 511 or tune into a local radio station for more information. But in late 2016, messaging began to include a description of the vehicle and its license plate, giving passing motorists immediate information they could use to help. Having this information in real time assisted in the successful location of Silver Alert subjects in [May](#) and [November](#) 2017. DOJ Silver/Amber Alert Coordinator Kari Orn expressed her appreciation for the partnership with Wisconsin DOT saying, "DMS are and will continue to be a huge resource, especially as the public sees them more often, learns what they are and then multiplies the chance of a successful recovery."

Human trafficking awareness

During Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Wisconsin DOT partnered with Wisconsin Department of Children and Families and DOJ to raise awareness about human trafficking. The campaign included outreach through DMS and social media as well as [awareness training for Wisconsin DMV staff](#).

Drug, Alcohol awareness

Most recently, the Bureau of Traffic Operations worked with Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division on its [Light and Unite Red](#), a county campaign highlighting National Drug and Alcohol Fact Week. Anti-drugged driving DMS messages ran statewide January 25 and 26. Nzinga Khalid, the prevention coordinator at Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division, called it an, "amazing collaboration," and expressed many thanks to all who helped.

Super Bowl safe, sober driving message

This year's Super Bowl was played at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. With the city's close proximity to Wisconsin, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Wisconsin DOT coordinated efforts to create a safe, sober driving message for both states' DMS and social media to run throughout Super Bowl weekend.

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Wisconsin State Patrol currently recruiting for troopers, inspectors
Applications due March 25

[Wisconsin DOT](#) - February 15

The Wisconsin State Patrol is currently recruiting people ready to begin a career as a trooper or inspector.

Recruits who successfully complete the paid, 26-week training period can work towards many different jobs within the State Patrol such as commercial motor vehicle inspector, crash reconstruction expert, motorcycle patrol officer, airplane pilot, and traffic or K-9 officers. The State Patrol's 64th recruit class is set to begin training on September 16 at Fort McCoy's State Patrol Academy. The application deadline is March 25, 2018, and interested candidates can learn more at the Wisc.jobs.



"At the Wisconsin State Patrol, we're always looking for dedicated men and women who embrace challenge and feel strongly about public service," said State Patrol Superintendent J.D. Lind.

Successful candidates will receive a salary plus meals and lodging while training Monday to Friday at the State Patrol Academy. After completing training, troopers and inspectors typically work out of one of the State Patrol's five regional headquarters.

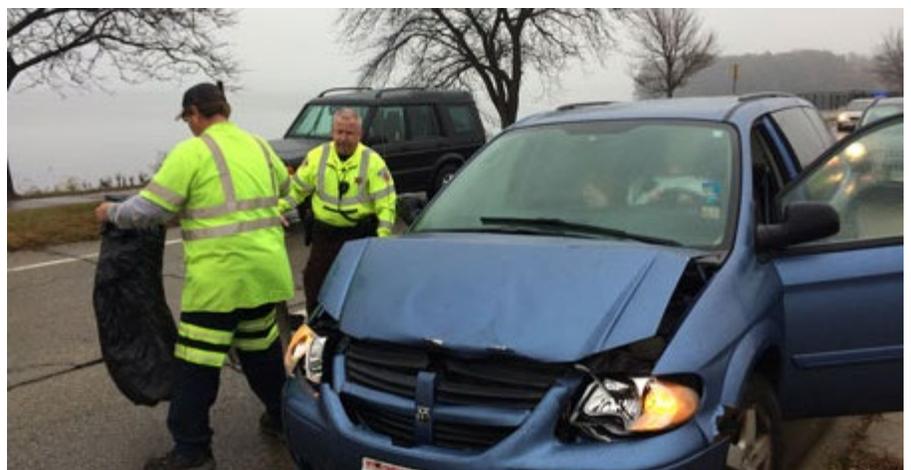
More information about careers with the Wisconsin State Patrol can be found at Wisconsin DOT. The State Patrol is an equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

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'Steer It, Clear It' celebrates 20 years relieving traffic congestion, making travel safer along Wisconsin highways

Wisconsin DOT - February 15

Having a plan is important. Everything from making lunches and dropping the kids off at school to meeting the carpool group for the ride home falls into that plan. But what about an auto crash? Now that is something we never plan into our day and when it happens we are flung into navigating this foreign terrain.



Fortunately, motorists do have a plan for crash response in the form of Wisconsin's incident clearance law – better known as "Steer It, Clear It."

What's 'Steer It, Clear It?'

The Steer It, Clear It law generally states that if you and your passengers are uninjured and the vehicle is drivable, you must move it to the safest location possible away from traffic. The law has been around for 20 years but there are still people unaware of its existence and how it works.

"There is a misconception people in crashes have that they need to keep their vehicles where they come to rest following a crash so police can make an accurate report for legal and insurance purposes," says Wisconsin State Patrol Captain David Fish, adding that motorists involved in a crash should first remain calm and follow the steps of Steer It, Clear It.

"The first thing a person in a traffic crash should do is check themselves and others in the vehicle for injuries. If there are no injuries and the vehicle is drivable, the law states that it must be moved to a location where it is safely away from traffic. Responding officers can and will be able to assess a crash scene after the vehicles are steered and cleared to a safe place away from traffic." Fish went on to say that if there are injuries or the vehicle is undrivable, it is generally best to stay inside with seat belts fastened, turn on the vehicle's hazard lights, call 911 and wait for first responders to arrive.

When calling 911, provide the following information:

- Incident location
 - Road name
 - Nearest cross street or mile marker
 - Direction traveling
- Number of lanes blocked
- Incident description
- Severity of any injuries

Why Steer It, Clear it?

According the Federal Highway Administration, just one minute of interstate lane blockage translates into at least four minutes of traffic delays. And if these incidents are near or even within eyeshot of motorists, they can continue to pose as hazardous obstacles and distractions. Of the secondary crashes caused by drivers distracted by a roadside incident, FHWA statistics show that 18 percent resulted in fatalities. This is why Steer It Clear It is so important. The law:

- lowers potential for secondary crashes, injuries and deaths,
- minimizes traffic backups and delays, and
- allows law enforcement and other first responders to quickly clear the highway of:
 - vehicles,
 - crash debris,
 - spilled materials, and
 - other obstructions while minimizing traffic backups.

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**Liquid application for deicing
decreases need for costly rock
salt, reduces environmental
impact**

Wisconsin DOT - February 5

Liquid applications such as brine increasingly prove to be cost-effective and safe solutions for keeping Wisconsin roads clear of ice and snow.



Many Wisconsin county highway maintenance departments are using liquid applications with brine, resulting in reduced need for rock salt. Less rock salt applied to roads reduces material costs while mitigating environmental impact as less road salt finds its way into waterways.

Jefferson County began incorporating brine into its road deicing applications three years ago and has seen its positive effects in reduced rock salt usage rates up to 25 percent.

“[There are] a lot of positive comments coming from the public,” said Jefferson County Highway Department Commissioners Bill Kern, adding that they are also hearing from municipalities interested in implementing the process.

Wisconsin’s to-date success with liquid applications is similar to best practices and overall cost effectiveness seen in other states.

Wisconsin DOT has a longstanding partnership with Wisconsin’s 72 county highway road maintenance departments to ensure that roads are clear so drivers can get to their destinations safely. [Learn more](#)

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