

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Motorists asked to look-twice, share the road with motorcycles

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on a news release announcing May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, a proposed guidance document.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

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

1. <https://trust.dot.state.wi.us/act369/?id=OPA564&uri=file:W/Releases/Rel20/DSP/MayMotorcycle.docx&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 to allow for ongoing comment.

AGENCY CONTACT

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April 30, 2020

For more information, contact:

WisDOT Office of Public Affairs
608/266-3581, opa.exec@dot.wi.gov

Motorists asked to look-twice, share the road with motorcycles

May is “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month” and traffic safety officials with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are asking all motor vehicle operators to share the road, be alert and safe. About 550,000 Wisconsin residents hold a motorcycle license - and with the return of warmer weather - motorists should expect to see more motorcyclists on roadways.

“Because of their smaller profile, it’s easy to misjudge the speed and distance of an approaching motorcycle,” said David Pabst, Director of WisDOT’s Bureau of Transportation Safety. “That’s why we ask car and truck drivers to look twice at motorcycles before pulling out from a stop sign, turning left at an intersection or changing lanes.”

There were 1,799 motorcycle crashes in Wisconsin last year in which 1,532 motorcyclists were injured and 81 were killed. WisDOT recommends these safety tips for motorcyclists:

- Wear all the gear, all the time, including visible and protective equipment;
- Anticipate potential problems by focusing on the road ahead. Gravel or other debris on roadways present special challenges for motorcyclists;
- Get properly licensed. Consider taking a motorcycle safety course in your area.

Motorcyclists have two options to get the required Class M license: pass a motorcycle driving skills test after making an [appointment](#) at a [Division of Motor Vehicles service center](#) or successfully complete a [WisDOT-approved rider education course](#). After successfully completing an approved education course, motorcyclists earn a skills test waiver to obtain their Class M license.

“There are courses designed for all types of riders - beginners, experienced or returning riders,” Pabst said. “One trend we see is middle-aged people who drove a motorcycle many years ago, then resume riding on a cycle that’s larger and more powerful. A safety refresher course would be a wise investment, and what you learn could save your life.”

As a group, the motorcycling community is aging. The average age of a motorcyclist involved in a fatal crash increased from 30 years old in 1992 to 45 in 2019.

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NOTE: View this document in the [WisDOT Newsroom](#).