



# THE VEHICLE

## Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

July 2008

Vol. 3

### New Child Restraint Law Effective July 1, 2008

Michigan is joining 38 other states in adopting legislation to expand booster seat requirements. In an effort to improve child safety in vehicles, new legislation going into effect July 1 will require that children who are both under eight years old, and under four feet nine inches tall, to ride in an approved booster seat. The new law expands on the previous requirement that children under the age of four ride in a booster seat.

Crash fatalities are the leading cause of death for children in Michigan. More than ninety percent of children 4-8 injured in crashes were not riding in a booster seat. With vehicle safety systems designed for the proportions of adults, the use of a booster seat is found to reduce the risk of injury by 59 percent. For these reasons, enforcement will commence as a primary enforcement law, beginning July 1, 2008. After July 1, police officers will be able to stop a vehicle to issue a ticket if a child between the ages of 4 and 8 is not in an approved booster seat.



For more information on child safety and booster seats, visit:

- [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)
- [www.usa.safekids.org](http://www.usa.safekids.org)
- [www.nhsta.gov](http://www.nhsta.gov)

Assistance acquiring a booster seat can be found at the website below.:

- [www.med.umich.edu/mott/pvguide/trans\\_car.html](http://www.med.umich.edu/mott/pvguide/trans_car.html)



### Ann Arbor Art Fair Shuttle Schedule

Ann Arbor Transit Authority (AATA) will provide clean, climate-controlled shuttle bus service to the 2008 Ann Arbor Art Fairs, which will be held July 16-19. This service will be provided from two convenient locations.

Free parking for the shuttles is available at:

- Sears store at Briarwood Mall, located off State Street and Eisenhower Parkway - dropping passengers off at State and South University Streets
- Pioneer High School, on Main Street near Stadium Boulevard - dropping passengers off at Main and William Streets

AATA Art Fair Shuttles will run every 10 to 15 minutes from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Full and half-fare tickets will be sold at ticket booths at Briarwood and Pioneer High School during shuttle hours.

Tickets will be

- \$1.00 each way for adults; and \$.50 each way for K-12 students and AATA Fare Deal cardholders.
- AATA Senior and A-Ride cardholders can pay a fare of \$.25 cash each way. Children ages five and younger ride free.



University Area Art Fair and the State Street Area Art Fair, and close to the original Street Art Fair, the University of Michigan central campus and the Michigan Union.



*AATA Press Release*

## Washtenaw County 2007 Traffic Crash Report and Facts

The Traffic Crash Program report is completed annually to examine the crashes in Washtenaw County. In 2007, WATS received a full year of crash data from all participating agencies which include; Ann Arbor Police, Ypsilanti Police, Northfield Twp Police, Pittsfield Twp Police, Saline Police, Chelsea Police, University of Michigan Public Safety, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff Department. WATS scanned 7,721 of Washtenaw County's crash reports which made up nearly 72% of all Washtenaw County crashes. The data that WATS does not receive directly was added to the report using Michigan State Police data. Some highlights of the report are listed below:

- The most frequent type of crash in Washtenaw County was the single motor vehicle crash. There were 3,636 crashes of single motor vehicles representing 34% of all crashes.
- Injury crashes, which include fatalities, incapacitating injuries, and non-incapacitating injuries, and possible injuries, have the highest percent of occurrence in head on crashes. Over 40% of all head on crashes caused an injury, and head on-left turn crash type had the second highest occurrence of injury at nearly 35% of all angle crashes.
- Rear end and angle crashes most frequently occurred within urban areas, while single motor vehicle crashes occurred more frequently within rural areas.
- There were a total of 31 fatal crashes reported in Washtenaw County in 2007. Most of the fatal crashes occurred in the rural areas of the county, however, fatal crashes involving pedestrians occurred most often in the urban area.
- The total percent of fatal crashes involving driver alcohol use was 32%, while alcohol use by drivers involved in crashes represented only 2% of all crashes in Washtenaw County. There was an alcohol use of 6.5% for drivers involved in an injury crash.
- Most reported bicycle and pedestrian crashes result in injury; 88.7% of bicycle crashes and 95.7% of pedestrian crashes resulted in injury.



The entire report is available at  
<http://www.miwats.org/crash/docs/2007/07%20Year%20End%20Crash%20Report.pdf>

If you have any questions about the 2007 Traffic Crash Report please contact Eric Bombery at [bomberye@miwats.org](mailto:bomberye@miwats.org) or by phone at 734-994-3127.

### Additions to WATS' Library

- MDOT - Five-Year Transportation Program 2008-2012
- Washtenaw County Access Management Plan - 2008
- Parsons Brinkerhoff - Congestion Management - 1998
- National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission - 2007 Report
- SEMCOG - Economic and Demographic Outlook for Southeast Michigan Through 2035 - March 2007
- AAA - Traffic Safety At The Crossroads: A Municipal Toolkit for Intersection Safety - 2006
- SEMCOG - 2035 Forecast for Southeast Michigan: Population, Households, and Jobs for Counties, Cities, Villages, and Townships 2005-2035 - April 2008



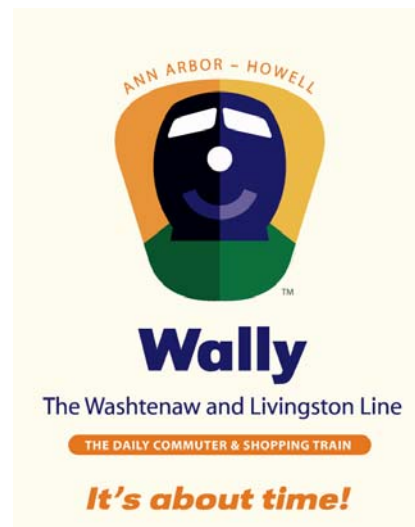
## Wally Update

The WALLY Coalition hired R.L. Banks and Associates to review the work completed by the coalition for the development of a commuter rail service between the City of Howell and the City of Ann Arbor with interim stops at Chilson and Brighton Roads, Hamburg, Whitmore Lake at Eight mile, Plymouth and Barton in Ann Arbor, Downtown Ann Arbor and at the South Campus of University of Michigan.

The consultant has reported that the service is viable based on projected ridership but is recommending significant investment in the rail infrastructure to increase the speed to 59 mph. The consultant estimates that the service would carry more than 650,000 riders the first year and up to nearly 850,000 by the 10th year of service excluding special trips such as service to UM sports activities.

The estimated initial capital costs are \$32.5 million for improvements to the track, crossings and the provision of a signal system to increase safety and speeds. The report does identify numerous agreements that will need to be executed for the service to begin. Operating expenses are estimated at \$7.0 M for the first year.

Copies of the final reports are available at [www.ewashtenaw.org/wally](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/wally).



## GREENRIDE into Town

The University of Michigan and Ann Arbor Transportation Authority have linked with GREENRIDE commuting software. GREENRIDE provides a forum to connect commuters with common destinations. Some of the benefits of reducing single auto trips include: reduced congestion on roadways, more available parking spaces in crowded university and city lots, and improved air quality.

Signing up to share a ride is simple:

- 1) Log into [www.greenride.com](http://www.greenride.com) to identify people with similar commutes
- 2) Join a carpool, or contact other members to start a new one



## WATS Travel Demand Model Nearing Completion

The WATS Travel Demand Model is a tool used to help evaluate the existing transportation system, as well as the potential impacts different growth patterns and transportation improvements will have on the transportation system.

The model will be of critical importance as WATS develops and analyzes prospective improvements to the transportation system for the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. The model forecasts the number and type of trips by mode based on the trip making characteristics from a survey of the population.

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) produces future estimates on population, households and employment by five year period out to 2035. This information will be input to the model as well as potential transportation improvements to forecast how the system will operate and analyze how well the proposed improvements handle the changing travel demands of Washtenaw County.

If you would like to receive periodic updates on the development of the WATS Long Range Transportation Plan please fill out and mail the post card in this newsletter.

## Ozone Action season begins; SEMCOG Urges Good Habits Everyday



Nine counties in Michigan are exceeding the maximum allowable ozone values, and three are at or near their limit. Max value is determined using the 4th highest 8 hour values from 2 previous years on a site by site basis.

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments is working to keep the air clean with the Ozone Action day program. Ozone Action days are called when weather conditions combine with pollution to create elevated amounts of ground-level ozone, a threat to human health and the environment.

On March 12, 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a lowering of the ozone standard, from 80 parts per billion (ppb) to 75 ppb. As Southeast Michigan's lead planning agency for air quality, SEMCOG has long been a champion of continuing to improve air quality in the region. Regardless of any change in the standard, however, emissions will continue to decline significantly for several years as newly enacted control programs are phased in. Therefore, SEMCOG opposed this change, but realizes that lowering the standard could result in more Ozone Action days this summer. In 2007, there were three Ozone Action days; in 2006, there were two.

*SEMCOG Press Release from [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org)*

Southeast Michigan residents can also help keep the air cleaner by doing the following:

- ◆ Try not to refuel on Ozone Action days. On other days when you need to refuel, fill up in the evening when the weather is cooler, and don't "top off" the tank.
- ◆ Keep your vehicle well maintained. It will use less gas (and save you money!) and emit fewer emissions. Be sure your tires are properly inflated too.
- ◆ Reduce automobile use whenever possible. Plan to carpool, use public transit, bike, walk, or work at home.

