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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

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New Freeway Service Truck Unveiled

September 3, 2015 – The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDot) and the Dane County Sheriff's Office unveiled the new Dane County Sheriff Freeway Service Team (FST) truck today. Since 2001, Dane County Sheriff's deputies have been operating the Freeway Service Patrol, funded by the WisDOT. The deputies use Traffic Incident Management principles to quickly clear problems on the Madison Beltline to keep traffic moving by working in close cooperation with towing and recovery contractors, and by utilizing the service truck's heavy-duty push bumper, changeable message signs, and various vehicle assistance tools.

The highly visible service truck patrols the corridor of U.S. Highway 12 & 18, also known as the Beltline, from I-39 to the City of Middleton. The service patrol runs Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm, excluding holidays. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), service patrols are universally accepted as the most effective tool for Traffic Incident Management. The presence of the service patrol reduces the overall duration of traffic incidents on the Beltline, as well as reduces secondary incidents and delays.

To reduce program costs, The WisDot and Dane County Sheriff's Office partnered with several private businesses to help fund the valuable program. Major sponsors for the Dane County FST program now include Kayser Ford, American Family Insurance and Applewood Self Storage. Other FST sponsors include Barnes Green Energy, Monroe Truck, Mad Wraps, and Schmidt's Auto.

In 2013, the Freeway Service Team logged 56,787 miles, and responded to over 5,000 calls for service. The current 2008 truck, has logged well over 326,000 miles. With the assistance of Kayser Ford, a 2016 Ford F250 Super Duty truck will be put into service on the beltline starting Labor Day weekend. The new vehicle allows the program to take a more environmentally friendly approach. Sponsor Barnes Green Energy has equipped the vehicle with a compressed natural gas bi-fuel system, which will significantly reduce fuel costs and emissions.

Each motorist assisted by the FST receives a comment card to provide feedback about the program. Between 2013 and 2014, the state received 560 responses, with an overall rating of excellent by 92.9 percent. The Dane County Sheriff's Office in partnership with WisDot plans to continue this high level of service to motorists, while saving tax dollars thanks to our sponsors. As the Labor Day weekend approaches, we want to remind drivers to be patient and "Slow Down and Move Over" for roadside workers and emergency vehicles.

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