

# Creating Safer Work Zones: Improving Operations on Both Sides of the Barrel



## Facts

- During the past 5 years in work zone crashes more than:
  - 4,400 persons died (85 percent of which was the driver or passenger)
  - 200,000 persons were injured
- Drivers are the most frequent fatality in work zone crashes
- Most work zone fatalities involve working-age adults
- Rear-end crashes (running into the rear of a slowing or stopping vehicle) are the most common type of work zone crash.
- Fatal work zone crashes occur most often in summer and fall.
- The majority of fatal work zone crashes occurred on roads with speed limits greater than 50 mph.
- Stopping distance for motor vehicles at 50 mph:
  - Dry roadway—300 ft
  - Wet roadway—400 ft
  - Icy pavement—1250 ft
- A loaded 80,000 lb. tractor-trailer requires almost 50% more stopping distance.
- It takes only an extra 25 seconds to cover 1 mile at 45 mph compared to 65 mph.

## Safety Tips for the Driver

Remember these driving tips to avoid "A Sudden Change in Plans" and perhaps save a life—including your own!

### Stay Alert and Minimize Distractions

- Dedicate your full attention to the roadway
- Avoid changing the radio station, using a mobile phone, eating, or other distractions that can remove your concentration from the road

### Keep Your Headlights On

#### Pay Attention to the Road

- "Listen to the signs"
- Watch brake lights on vehicles ahead
- Watch traffic around you and be prepared to react

### Merge into the Proper Lane

- Merge well before you reach the lane closure
- Be aware that traffic patterns can change daily

### Don't tailgate

- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance

### Obey the Posted Speed Limit

- Workers may be present just feet away
- Fines may be doubled for moving traffic violations
- Be prepared to slow down further if conditions indicate the need

### Change Lanes Safely

- Change lanes only where pavement markings indicate, and only when traffic conditions permit

### Follow Instructions from Flaggers

### Expect the Unexpected

- Workers, work vehicles, or equipment may enter your lane without warning
- Other vehicles may slow, stop, or change lanes unexpectedly

### Be Patient

## Listen to the signs.

