MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Mayor Jacobs Urges County to Observe National Work Zone Awareness Week

Knoxville, Tennessee—Knox County will recognize National Work Zone Awareness Week April 11-15. This year's theme is *Work Zones Are a Sign to Slow Down*.

NWZAW is an annual event that has been observed for more than 20 years and was launched as a national public awareness campaign to help everyone understand the role they play in keeping motorists and roadway workers safe.

"Knox County is growing at a rapid pace, so folks will see a lot of work zone signs on our roads," Mayor Glenn Jacobs said. "When you see one, please buckle up, slow down and avoid distractions. Remember, our work crews have families as well."

Knox County Engineering and Public Works Director Jim Snowden agreed.

"Everyday Highway Maintenance crews are in the streets of Knox County, paving roads, directing traffic, filling potholes, and more," he said. "This work is hazardous, and we encourage all motorists to be aware of their surroundings and on the lookout for our crews. I'm grateful for everyone's efforts to raise awareness of work zone safety and allow our guys to go home to their families safely at the end of each day."

There were 762 fatal crashes that killed 135 roadway workers and 842 motorists, passengers, or pedestrians in work zones nationwide in 2019 according to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearing House.

These startling numbers demonstrate the importance of promoting work zone safety, and the American Traffic Safety Services Association believes that everyone plays a role in work zone safety. Companies are encouraged to offer safety demonstrations and hold discussions about safety policies.

On April 13, dubbed *Go Orange Day*, join Engineering and Public Works and all roadway safety professionals across the country and wear orange to proudly show your support of work zone safety.

Everyone is encouraged to storm social media on April 14 by sharing messages and photos using #NWZAW, #WorkZoneSafety, and #GoOrange4Safety. Then to close the week, on April 15, officials are asking the community to observe a moment of silence for everyone lost because of a work zone incident.

Learn more about National Work Zone Awareness Week by visiting nwzaw.org.

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