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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CELEBRATES
10th ANNIVERSARY OF WORK ZONE SAFETY AWARENESS
WEEK APRIL 6 - 10, 2009: *DRIVE TO SURVIVE***

~Encouraging motorists to make safety a priority when traveling through construction zones~

TALLAHASSEE — April 6 -10, 2009 will mark the 10th anniversary of National Work Zone Awareness Week: *Drive to Survive*. The national campaign is conducted every year at the start of the construction season to attract national attention to drive carefully through highway work zones.

“National Work Zone Awareness Week reminds us to be aware of changing conditions as we approach highway construction,” said Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos. “Over 90 percent of the fatalities in work zone crashes are motorists and pedestrians. When traveling through work zones, drivers should pay special attention to their surroundings, reduce their speed and free themselves from distractions such as eating and talking on a cell phone.”

Approximately 1,000 people are killed in U.S. work zones every year. In 2007, the most recent year for which Florida traffic crash data is available, 11,248 crashes occurred in Florida work zones resulting in 8,288 injuries and 105 fatalities.

Each year during Work Zone Safety Week, the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) and FDOT memorialize those killed in work zones with orange traffic cones donning black ribbons at the Old Capitol in Tallahassee. This year, FDOT and ATSSA will honor 105 people who were killed in work zones in Florida in 2007.

FDOT urges motorists of all ages to drive safely in highway work zones by following these safety tips:

- STAY ALERT. Expect anything to occur when entering a work zone.
- PAY CLOSE ATTENTION. Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
- TURN ON YOUR HEADLIGHTS. Workers and other motorists must see you.
- DO NOT TAILGATE. Unexpected stops frequently occur in work zones.

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- DO NOT SPEED. Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone.
- KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW. Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and those traveling around you.
- DO NOT CHANGE LANES IN THE WORK ZONE. The time saved just is not worth the chance.
- MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS. Avoid changing radio stations and using cell phones while driving, especially when in a work zone.
- EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED. Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
- BE PATIENT. Remember, the work zone crewmembers are working to improve your future ride.
- DRIVE TO SURVIVE.

On May 1, 2009, at the beginning of the busy summer driving season, FDOT will re-launch a statewide public service announcement (PSA) campaign with our partners at Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA) and Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (FICE) to educate motorists on the consequences of reckless driving in work zones. For more information about the 2009 work zone safety campaign or to download the PSA, please visit www.itseveryonesjob.com.

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