



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

295 Police Memorial Drive, Savannah, GA , 31405

(912) 652-6920 FAX: (912)650-6130

Chief Jeffrey M. Hadley

Assistant Chief Terry Shoop

Assistant Chief Julie Tolbert

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Chatham County Police Department Finds 76 Percent of Drivers Speeding Through Busy Work Zone

Chatham County, GA (April 10, 2019) – The Chatham County Police Department recently conducted a traffic survey that found more than 76 percent of drivers sped through the eastbound President Street work zone where new bridge construction is taking place, despite posted warnings urging drivers to slow down for the safety of themselves and those working along the roadway.

April 8 – April 12 is National Work Zone Awareness Week, and Chatham County Commission Chair Al Scott also proclaimed this week Work Zone Awareness Week in Chatham County. The week is designed to highlight the responsibilities that drivers have as they travel through a work zone.

“Speeding in a work zone puts the workers there in grave danger,” said Chatham County Police Department Captain Nick Ojanovac. “Changing traffic patterns, uneven pavement, and workers trying to get their job done can make navigating a construction zone a challenge. When you speed through those zones, you put everyone at risk.”

The traffic survey found that 54,356 eastbound vehicles passed through the eastbound President Street work zone between March 18 and March 23, 2019. Out of those vehicles, 41,190 drivers - or 76 percent – were speeding. While the average speed was 44 miles per hour in a 40 mile per hour zone, some vehicles reached speeds as high as 95 miles per hour.

CCPD conducted the traffic survey using a Smart Sign, which records the speed of drivers, while also showing drivers their speed on a lighted display that flashes when a vehicle is going over the posted speed limit. The Smart Sign was purchased through funds awarded as part of a Highway Safety High Visibility Enforcement Grant from the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) in Atlanta.

“We don’t want to write tickets for speeding in work zones,” Ojanovac said. “What we want is for people to pay attention to the signs letting them know they are entering a work zone, and

immediately slow down so they are going the posted speed limit. The fact that 76 percent of drivers sped through one zone in one week, shows people don't realize how serious of a violation this is. We want to change that."

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Contact:

Betsy Nolen

Public Information Officer

Chatham County Police Department

Cell: (912) 675-2949

Email: bnolen@chathamcounty.org