

## **THE NTTA HELPS NATIONWIDE SAFETY CAMPAIGN WARN TO WATCH OUT FOR WORKERS**

**PLANO, Texas – April 23, 2012** – The North Texas Tollway Authority is joining the Federal Highway Administration to draw attention to National Work Zone Awareness Week April 23-27.

The awareness week reminds drivers that motorists and workers in safety zones are endangered by distractions such as texting, talking on a cellphone, and intoxicated or impaired driving which can trigger life-threatening crashes. Contrary to common belief, four out of five victims in a work zone crash are motorists, not highway workers.

Increased attention to driver behavior in work areas may already be working. Fatalities and injuries in work zones have fallen by 17 percent over the last 10 years according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

NTTA maintenance staff recently designed, built and implemented a new safety innovation that will better protect employees setting up work zones and will decrease traffic backups at the same time.

The NTTA uses large traffic barrels to mark work zones because they are easily visible to motorists. Staff searched for a single truck that would allow workers to both deploy and retrieve the barrels, but none existed. This spurred NTTA maintenance staff to create a safety truck that enables workers to efficiently place and pick up traffic control devices while also protecting them from passing vehicles.

The NTTA also employs two mobile barrier trucks that position a steel wall between workers and passing traffic in a work zone as well as a fleet of roadside customer service workers who assist stranded motorists along the NTTA System.

To see a video of the NTTA's safety truck in action, go to [NTTA.org](http://NTTA.org)

### **About the NTTA**

The North Texas Tollway Authority, a political subdivision of the state of Texas, is authorized to acquire, construct, maintain, repair and operate turnpike projects in the north Texas region. The [nine member board](#) is comprised of Chairman Kenneth Barr; Vice Chairman Bill Moore; and Directors David Denison, William D. Elliott, Matrice Ellis-Kirk, Michael Nowels, George "Tex" Quesada, Victor Vandergriff and Jane Willard.

The NTTA serves Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant counties and is responsible for the NTTA System, consisting of the Dallas North Tollway, President George Bush Turnpike, Sam Rayburn Tollway, Addison Airport Toll Tunnel, Lewisville Lake Toll Bridge and the Mountain Creek Lake Bridge. The NTTA is also responsible for the NTTA's Special Projects System, which consists of the President George Bush Turnpike Western Extension and the Chisholm Trail Parkway. The NTTA is able to raise capital for construction projects through the issuance of turnpike revenue bonds. NTTA toll projects are not a part of the state highway system and receive no direct tax funding. Tolls are collected to repay debt and to operate and maintain the roadways.

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