

Thank you Chairman & committee,
I'm Michael Messier, I work for
ADA Traffic Control. My company employs
about 200 people yearly.
And I am a proud member of the A.G.C.
18 seconds... it takes a minimum
of 5 seconds to send or read a text message.
It takes your brain 13 additional seconds
to refocus after using a cell phone. That's
18 seconds. At 55 mph you travel the
length of a football field in 5 seconds.
Add reaction time to that scenario and
you will have traveled just over 3 tenths
of a mile distracted. Placing those in
~~distracted driving~~ in that area
in immediate danger.

Road construction is rated #16
on the list of the ~~most~~ 25 most
deadly jobs in America. First
line workers (flaggers) is rated #12.
Drivers are 57% more likely to use
electronic devices while driving than
they were 6 years ago.

I could spend hours giving you
statistics and numbers on this
subject but I am not here to



Bore you or waste your valuable time, I'm here to try and convince you of the urgency of passing Bill H-715 for the safety of not only the public, but of my co-workers and myself.

The construction industry is held to a very high standard when it comes to safety by law. we are held accountable for properly setting up signs, cones, barrels, barricades and such on a daily basis. when we don't strictly adhere to those laws we are heavily fined for it. we go above and beyond to assure the public's safety. Yet we would like to see further efforts put in place to assure our safety as well.

On any given day I can count at least 100+ cars that go by me on jobsites where the drivers are on their phone or looking for something in between the seats. I've seen people reading a newspaper while driving ~~and not driving~~. we get drivers who speed thru with road rage because we held them up for 5 or 10 minutes.



I have had more near misses and close calls while logging in the last 5 years than I have collectively in my 20+ years of traffic control.

all due to distracted driving.
new laws are passed every year to stop these issues. BUT unless they are enforced, they are just a bunch of words on paper. I suggest, that in addition to the U.T.O. program you implement local law enforcement to patrol work zones and school zones ~~where~~ more diligently. Add camera enforcement that not only records the speed of each vehicle but also records the driver so they can be properly ticketed for using electronic devices while driving.
Without enforcement, the risk to those in work zones and school zones will continue to rise. Stricter fines & penalties, stricter enforcement and camera enforcement will work if properly established. once word gets around that the state of Vermont isn't playing around anymore



People will start paying attention,

I have people ask me all the time why don't you just do that at night? when i explain that not only is the risk factor 5 times greater and the costs of construction is higher due to shift differentials and added equipment with forces you here to come up with extra funds ~~they get it~~. They get it.

when you here have to impose a new or higher tax to cover rising costs to an already over taxed state that puts you in a tight spot having to explain yourself to your constituents and none of us want that.

But more importantly than taxes and costs, wouldn't you like to be the leaders that know their policy saved lives?

For these reasons im here to ask that you include in your transportation bill three policies to help keep us safer



1: Pass Bill H-1115

Its no secret that distracted driving and the use of electronic devices by motor vehiclists is Alarmingly on the rise. Life moves much faster than it did 20 short years Ago. I see it every day. A driver looking at their lap, eyes off the road. looking at their cell phone. Endangering everyone, not just construction workers or school children.

Every driver is required by LAW to assure the safety not only of themselves but all others while operating a motor vehicle. Its time they were held Accountable for their Actions.

2: Increase penalties to tripple fines in work zones and school zones:

Bottom line is, money talks. A person is less likely to commit a crime if they know the penalties are steep.

I say crime because vehicular manslaughter is just that, a crime. whether its a construction worker or a 9 year old kid hitting someone with a car is not an oversight.



Distracted driving or speeding thru a work zone or school zone is 100% A choice and they should be held 100% Accountable for their ACTIONS.

Arguments can be made that tripple lines will impact those who ARE financially vulnerable. Humans ARE physically vulnerable and not replaceable like lost money due to poor choices.

3: establish variable speed sign camera enforcement.

you may not be aware of this but the first two policies i read to you are practically unenforceable. The current rules that govern uniformed traffic officers in work zones does not allow them to leave a side to detain violators.

when Available, they could radio another police officer to do so but with as thin as our police force already stretched ~~too thin~~. ~~Being~~ ^{it just} ^{happen} ~~handcuffed by regulations~~ so the violation ends up going unattended like it never happened.

not Because we don't have good police But because they are handcuffed by their regulations.

To solve this problem, this proposal will allow for variable speed sign camera enforcement. with a new category of moving violations that works similar to a parking ticket which is attached to the license plate. Eliminating the need for more officers and allowing existing ones to better do their job.

to put in simpler terms:

Those signs would post the work zone or ~~school zone~~ speed limit, show the driver their speed, and if they go over the speed limit it photographs their license plate. This system is already established in other states and its working.

once the public is aware that they are being watched and being held accountable you will see improvement in behavior.

Thank you

Chairman & committee
for your time

