



February 13, 2019

Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC/VT) is the trade organization for contractors and construction workers in Vermont. We provide industry specific training, Occupational and Safety Health Administration (OSHA) and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) certifications and are home to nationally recognized safety instruction. Our members employ 15,000-20,000 in Vermont annually with careers offering wages and benefits well above Vermont's livable wage. The association works directly with state agencies including the Agency of Transportation, Building and General Services and Department of Labor to enhance delivery of service to the state.

AGC/VT administers the Project Road Safe program which provides safe driving instruction and training. In addition to providing National Safety Council accredited courses Project Road Safe also has created a new truck driver course and provides ongoing trainings. The program received the 2018 Governors Workplace Safety award at the Vermont Safety and Health Council Expo on behalf of the Department of Labor.

While we work hard to deliver training and best practices to workers, we are conscious that safety in highway work zones is being impacted by drivers at faster speeds, devices that cause distracted driving, more vehicles on the road and we are fast approaching automated systems in vehicles. Our industry also strives to improve our delivery of services to provide safety to both workers and the public. Below you will find some policy recommendations that we believe would improve safety on our roads.

Work Zone Traffic Violations:

- Triple the fines and points assessed to motorists who are speeding, driving recklessly, distracted by handheld devices or violating other motorist laws.
- Impose a zero-tolerance policy for accidents caused by motorists involving workers with a penalty of \$10,000 and 3-years license suspension.
- Required traffic education for any work zone violation to maintain license.

Enforcement:

- Require work zones to post variable speed signs that show a motorist's speed that turn red if travelling faster than the posted limit.
- Amend Vermont Standard Specifications rule to include enforcement of traffic laws as a 4th contracted duty by performed Uniformed Traffic Officers at work zones.

Prevention:

- Require driver education courses and other required education to expand curriculum on work zone safety.
- Produce more public service announcements coordinated by Agency of Transportation.

Thank you,

AGC/VT