



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2009

Contact: Troy Gros, Communications Director
Phone: 1.866.TIMED LA

Louisiana's TIMED Program Encourages Safe Driving in Construction Zones

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 6-10

BATON ROUGE – April 6-10 marks the 10th anniversary of the National Work Zone Awareness Week, the national campaign conducted every year to attract attention to maintaining safety in highway construction and repair sites.

Louisiana's TIMED Program is commemorating the week by distributing posters encouraging safe driving habits to high schools, libraries and businesses located on and near TIMED routes. The posters feature the slogan, "We can't repeat it enough... drive to survive."

"The TIMED Program is committed to reminding motorists to slow down, stay alert and follow all roadway signs and worker signals and instructions," said TIMED Spokesman Troy Gros. "Our participation and support of this significant week each year is one way we do that."

According to the Federal Highway Administration, each year approximately 1,000 people are killed in roadway work zones. Nearly 200 miles of TIMED highways are currently under construction. In addition, the recent enactment of \$308 million in funding for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development from the President's economic recovery package could make 2009 one of the most active highway repair seasons in recent memory.

Tips for Motorists to Remember for Safer Driving in Work Zones:

- Slow down – obey posted speed limits which are often reduced
- Pay attention to signs
- Minimize distractions, such as phones, eating, the radio or interacting with others
- Keep up with the traffic flow – avoid "rubbernecking" at construction work
- Plan ahead and allow extra time for lane closures and other traffic delays
- Do not tailgate other vehicles or construction equipment
- Be patient and stay calm – the workers are improving the highways for you

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The TIMED Program (www.timedla.com) is the single largest transportation program in state history. The Program is designed to enhance economic development in Louisiana through an investment in transportation projects and is funded by a dedicated \$0.04 per gallon gasoline and motor fuels tax. It was created by Act 16 of the 1989 Louisiana Legislature and was approved by a vote of the people. For additional information, please contact Troy Gros, TIMED spokesman, at 1-866-TIMED LA or visit www.timedla.com.

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