



Association of Oklahoma General Contractors urges road safety this Fourth of July weekend

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The Association of Oklahoma General Contractors is emphasizing work zone safety over the four-day weekend that began on the Fourth of July Oklahoma City -- The **Association of Oklahoma General Contractors (AOGC)** held a press conference this week to urge travelers to prioritize road safety.

Held in advance of July 4 holiday weekend, AOGC Executive Director Bobby Stem's call to action, "Respect the Cone Zone," emphasized the importance of cautious driving to protect both heavy highway construction workers and the traveling public during one of the busiest travel times of the year.

"A study from TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit shows that every other week somebody in Oklahoma dies in a work zone," Stem said.

"That means someone died last week, and someone's gonna die next week, so when you're traveling through a work zone, decrease your speed and drop your phone, make sure your seatbelt is fastened. This ensures that both you and the workers get home safely. Anytime you're approaching work, and you see the cones, respect the zone."

The TRIP report, released July 2, supported Stem's remarks by showing a 15% increase in fatalities due to failure to adhere to safety measures such as seatbelt use and speed control.

According to the report, the economic and quality-of-life costs of traffic crashes in Oklahoma amounted to \$17.9 billion in 2023 alone.

"Everybody's in a hurry to get to the Fourth of July day celebrations," Stem said.

"The last thing you want is to be late because you've been hurt or killed in an accident. Each statistic represents a life, a family affected by what often could have been a preventable incident. This Fourth of July, let's celebrate responsibly by ensuring we all make it home safely."

The press conference also addressed broader traffic fatality trends. Despite a slight decline in fatalities following the peak

during the COVID-19 pandemic, traffic deaths remain significantly higher than a decade ago.



Bobby Stem, executive director at the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors (AOGC), speaking at a Rotary event in June 2024. Facebook Photo.

The TRIP report underscores the persistent need for comprehensive safety measures and conscientious driving behavior.

For further details on the TRIP study and its findings, visit <https://tripnet.org/reports/addressing-americas-traffic-safety-crisis-oklahoma-news-release-07-02-2024/>.

According to promotional materials, Stem's group, the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors (AOGC) "serves its members through three core activities. First, AOGC engages in proactive and unapologetic lobbying to emphasize the importance of infrastructure spending, which is crucial for the state's future. This includes influencing key governmental agencies and local governments such as the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the city governments, ensuring that our members' interests are represented wherever they operate."

Continuing, "Second, AOGC prioritizes the collection and dissemination of accurate and timely business information, utilizing extensive contacts within the state and federal government to support members' operational and planning needs. Last, the association facilitates extensive networking opportunities, organizing member meetings and connecting with governmental bodies and political figures to enhance business prospects and collaborations for its members. AOGC also assists in road and bridge construction employment and safety throughout the state."

To check for more background, visit: <https://www.webuildoklahoma.com>