

# Kansas Department of Transportation

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Aggressive traffic enforcement to be conducted nationwide along I-35 corridor on Aug. 31

On Thursday, Aug. 31, Kansas law enforcement agencies will partner with law enforcement across the nation, as the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) kicks off the Labor Day travel period on Thursday August 31<sup>st</sup>, with the I-35 corridor enforcement mobilization.

As a major north-south travel route from Kansas City to the Oklahoma border, motorists will see a significant number of law enforcement officers patrolling for speeders and impaired or aggressive drivers on more than 250 miles of I-35 in Kansas. As always, motorists should obey all traffic laws, including driving the posted speed limit and wearing a safety belt.

“It is an all-out, one-day, border-to-border enforcement effort,” said Pete Bodyk, chief of KDOT’s Bureau of Traffic Safety. “This aggressive enforcement will place special emphasis on those drivers speeding, failing to use seat belts and driving while impaired.”

Labor Day is the last holiday wrapping up the summer travel season, and many people will take to the road to enjoy one last weekend before fall activities and back to school time. To bring attention to a safe holiday travel period, Kansas law enforcement agencies along the I-35 corridor will be looking for those who exceed the speed limit, fail to buckle up or drive while impaired.

“It’s our mission as law enforcement to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities on our roadways,” said Colonel William Seck of the Kansas Highway Patrol. “If we can get people to slow down, buckle up and stop drinking and driving, we’ll have accomplished our goal with this enforcement effort.”

Reducing traffic-related deaths and injuries is KDOT’s top priority. On Kansas roadways last year, 428 people lost their lives. Seventy percent of people killed in car crashes were not wearing

seatbelts. Kansas's seat belt usage rate is 69 percent – the seventh worst in the nation. The National average is currently above 80 percent. Experts estimate that fatal and injury traffic crashes costs every Kansan approximately \$1,015 a year.

The enforcement will run along I-35 from Duluth, Minn. to Laredo, Texas. States participating in the nationwide I-35 corridor enforcement effort include Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

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