

# Kansas Department of Transportation

Bureau of Traffic Safety  
700 SW Harrison  
Topeka, KS 66603-3754



## NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:

Chris Bortz  
KDOT Bureau of Traffic Safety  
(785) 296-3756  
or  
Neal Thurman  
Corporate Communications Group  
(913) 451-2990

### Aggressive traffic enforcement to be conducted in Reno County

All law enforcement agencies in Reno County will join with the Kansas Highway Patrol to mount a special traffic enforcement mobilization on various roadways throughout the county July 24 through July 29.

Law enforcement will be looking for speeders, impaired drivers and violators of the state's seat belt laws. The mobilization effort was organized by the Kansas Department of Transportation.

"In 2005, 428 people lost their lives on Kansas roadways as the result of many contributing factors, including impaired driving, speeding and not using seatbelts," said Pete Bodyk, chief of KDOT's Bureau of Traffic Safety. "To reduce death and injury associated with these behaviors, several law enforcement agencies will be conducting increased enforcement throughout Reno County."

Reno County was chosen as the location for the mobilization because of relatively low seat belt compliance rates. According to KDOT's Bureau of Traffic Safety, the seat belt use rate in Reno County is 64 percent, compared to 69 percent statewide. Kansas law requires all vehicle drivers and front seat passengers to be buckled up. All children under 14 must be properly restrained. Children under four must be properly secured in an approved child safety seat. Children ages four through seven must be in a booster seat unless they weigh more than 80 pounds or are taller than 4'9".

*(more)*

The following corridors will be targeted during the week of July 24 through July 29:

- KS-96 Highway
- KS-61 Highway
- US-50 Highway

Reducing traffic-related deaths and injuries is KDOT's top priority. Seventy percent of people killed in car crashes were not wearing seatbelts. Experts estimate that fatal and injury traffic crashes cost every Kansan approximately \$1,015 a year.

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