

**Whereas**, the State of Oklahoma is dedicated to providing a strong transportation infrastructure system for travel and commerce on both the local and national levels; and

**Whereas**, the construction and maintenance of Oklahoma highways, interstates and turnpikes must often be done while roads are still under traffic, where both motorists and highway workers must share the road; and

**Whereas**, a work zone can be unexpected and temporary during emergency repairs or crashes, placing crews and responders in direct contact with traffic; and

**Whereas**, in its history, 72 Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Oklahoma Turnpike Authority employees have been killed in the line of duty, more than any other state agency except the military; and

**Whereas**, hundreds of collisions occur in works zones annually, and many of these fatalities and injuries were caused by inattentive driving, following too closely, and speeding in construction zones. Tragically, motorists are far more likely to be injured or killed in work zones annually than highway workers; and

**Whereas**, crashes in highway and turnpike work zones can have significant consequences such as increased congestion; economic impacts for lost time and insurance costs as well as life-changing impacts; and

**Whereas**, by state law the fines for speeding in work zones are doubled and texting while driving is banned; drivers are asked to remain vigilant behind the wheel and buckle up as 50% of crashes potentially would have been less severe for drivers wearing a seat belt; and

**Whereas**, ODOT and OTA are highlighting work zone awareness during a month-long public safety initiative with the theme of Make It Home Safe; Make Oklahoma Safe;

**Pow Therefore,** I, Governor J. Kevin Stitt, do hereby proclaim April 15th – 19th, 2024,

## "Oklahoma Work Zone Awareness Week"

in the State of Oklahoma

In Witness Whereat, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Leal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.

