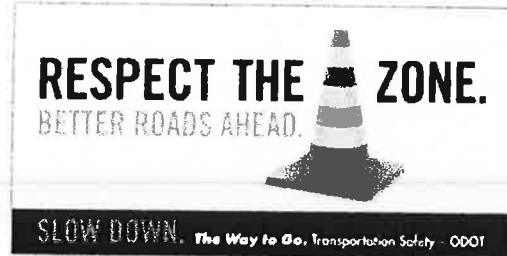## Nature of the problem

- National studies show that **driver inattention** is the biggest factor in work zone crashes.
- Excessive vehicle speed is also a serious problem.
- Some 40 percent of work zone crashes occur in the transition zone prior to the work area.

RESPECT THE ZONE.
BETTER ROADS AHEAD.
SLOW DOWN. *The Way to Go.* Transportation Safety - ODOT

Magnitude of the problem

- In Oregon during the last 10 years, there's been an average of 510 work zone related crashes each year, which included an average of 19 serious injury crashes and an average of nine fatal crashes.
- For 2013, preliminary estimates confirm four work zone fatalities in Oregon. In 2012, the number of fatalities was six, while in 2011, there were eleven.
- Nationally, in 2012 there were 609 fatalities in work zones. In 2011, there were 590 fatalities in work zones, and in 2010 there were 586 work zone fatalities.
- Work zone safety is a growing roadway safety concern. In 2012 Oregon work zone fatalities represented 2 percent of all roadway fatalities for the year.
- The situation is serious for drivers, other roadway users and workers. Both nationally and in Oregon **there are more drivers and their passengers killed and injured in roadway work zone crashes in comparison to workers.** Four out of five work zone fatalities are drivers and their passengers.
- Work zone crashes tend to be more severe than other types of crashes.

What ODOT is doing

- Administering approximately $3.8 million in federal funds for special work zone traffic patrols from July 2013 – June 2015 on state highways; part of these funds are also used for public information and education.
- Continually reviewing projects, policies, procedures, training, contract specifications and work zone evaluations, as well as legislative and educational efforts, to improve upon the safety and quality of work zones.

- Using rigid barrier systems in work zones, when practical, to separate work areas from traffic.
- Closing roadway segments to traffic to reduce exposure to workers and drivers, and expedite project schedules.