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With well-posted signage and clear advance warning of speed cameras, this will not be a matter of "gotcha," because the overriding goal is to slow drivers to a safe and uniform speed, not catch speeders. We hope that there is no need to issue citations at all.

People who excessively speed endanger themselves and everyone around them, particularly in construction zones where workers walk adjacent to the thunder of traffic armored with only vests and plastic helmets. Even when crews are not present, work zones present less than ideal conditions, including narrowed or shifted lanes, concrete barriers, uneven pavement, dust, relocated signs, and stopped traffic. In fact, national statistics indicate that in four out of five work zone crashes it is the driver or passenger who is injured or killed. Studies show that drivers often ignore speed limits in construction areas and police enforcement is nearly impossible inside the constrained space of work zones.

With excessive speed a major factor in fatal crashes and the vulnerability of both motorists and workers, safer work zones mean safer roads for us all. As we start the construction season and with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act transportation projects already underway, you will likely encounter at least one work zone in your travels this summer. When you do, please obey the posted speed limit and remain focused on driving.

The bottom line is that crashes are not "accidents." They can be prevented through the steps outlined in "B-SAFE:" Buckle up; Slow down — speeding kills; Always drive sober; Focus; Everyone share the road.

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