**Tennessee Division, *Our Roads Our Safety* Talking Points for Safety Partners**

## What is *Our Roads, Our Safety*?

* The *Our Roads, Our Safety* (Our Roads) campaign provides all road users with information on how to share the road safely with one another. In line with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s mission to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses, this campaign focuses on the responsibility that road users understand the operating differences between different types of vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles (CMVs), and change their behavior accordingly.
* Efforts focusing on safe driving for CMV drivers and the passenger vehicle (or regular car) drivers operating around those large vehicles.

## Why is this effort important for TennesSee?

* FMCSA’s Tennessee Division Office is bringing Our Roads to the state to reduce crashes, particularly along a busy section of the I-24 corridor between Nashville-Davidson County and Murfreesboro-Rutherford County.
* I-24 continues to have heavier travel along the corridor between Nashville and Rutherford County since it is a major route for commuters and freight.
* In 2020, there were 163 fatal crashes involving large trucks, resulting in 195 fatalities statewide.
* The goal for Tennessee’s Our Roads campaign is to eliminate highway fatalities due to CMV collisions.

## Key messages and calls to action

### For CMV drivers:

* The Tennessee’s Our Roads campaign emphasizes the need for all vehicles to share the road safely.
* Always obey all traffic laws: Wear your seatbelt, obey the speed limit, slow for work zones, and don’t drive distracted. Unsafe driving behaviors can lead to crashes or even fatalities.
* Make sure your vehicle is in safe working order, and follow all regulations regarding hours of service, medical certification, and CMV credentialing and driver licensing.
* Additional tips for CMV drivers can be found at FMCSA’s website [here](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-truck-and-bus-drivers).

### For passenger vehicle drivers:

* Obey the speed limit and wear your seatbelt.
* Stay focused; driving distracted is as dangerous as driving impaired.
* Never drive under the influence; there is no safe limit for drinking before driving.
* When driving around large trucks and buses, be patient and leave more space.
* Drivers of large trucks and buses have natural blind spots: Don’t cut off CMVs and don’t drive on the left or right side of those vehicles for a long period of time.
* Large trucks take 40% more space to stop: Don’t follow CMVs too closely or merge or make sudden stops directly in front of them.
* Additional tips for motorists can be found at FMCSA’s *Our Roads, Our Safety* website [here](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-driving-safely-around-large-trucks-or-buses).

## State Data and other Facts & Figures

* In 2020,
  + There were 163 fatal crashes involving large trucks, resulting in 195 fatalities.
  + The number of fatal large truck crashes involving hit and run was small but, proportionally, was higher compared to the previous three years.
  + Crashes resulting in pedestrian fatalities and involving a large truck reached a four-year high (by count and percentage).
  + An intersection crash involving a large truck occurred every 2 hours and 54 minutes.
  + One person was killed in crash involving a large truck every 1 day, 21 hours, and 30 minutes.
* Additional metrics can be found at <https://www.tn.gov/safety/stats/crashdata.html>.