

By Craig Shuey, COO, Pennsylvania Turnpike



Roadway Safety Initiatives Demonstrates the PA Turnpike's Commitment to 'Safety Always' and our Workforce



Work Zone Speed Safety Camera Notice

Safety is at the heart of everything we do at the Pennsylvania Turnpike and is foundational to our operations. This dedication is made visible by the employees who work around the clock and in all weather conditions to maintain and support our roadway.

While roadway incidents can occur unexpectedly, we are tirelessly working on various initiatives to enhance safety. Beyond improving safety for the half a million customers who choose to drive on the PA Turnpike each day, we are committed to increasing safety for all those who labor on our behalf. Our efforts are reflected in initiatives such as the "National Move Over Day" event and ongoing work zone safety investments.

As drivers are more connected than ever, the slightest distraction can lead to serious consequences. This is why

drivers need to remain aware of work zone safety and national and state laws that are vital to our efforts.

Improving Roadway Worker Safety

Construction and maintenance crews are integral to the upkeep and improvement of the PA Turnpike's infrastructure. Reducing crashes within work zones and protecting highway workers from the traveling public is critical. Thanks to efforts from various departments across our organization, as well as outside agencies, we've reduced the work zone crash rate more than 20%.

As much as we are focused on improving work zones, it is crucial for drivers to commit to safe driving habits as well. This is why we are working to improve driver behavior through work zones within several initiatives, including our Go Orange safety campaign and Operation Orange Squeeze.

In the latter, troopers are posted in construction vehicles – rather than cruisers – monitoring mainline work zones for motorists not adhering to speed limits.

Several recent laws have supported more protection for employees.

Maintenance vehicles can now use green warning lights to signal worker presence and provide improved visibility.

Pennsylvania's Work Zone Speed Safety Camera program, a partnership with PSP and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), uses vehicle-mounted, electronic speed timing devices to detect and record motorists exceeding posted work zone speed limits by 11 miles per hour or more.

JOIN US FOR THE CAUSE

WHAT

National Move Over Day

WHEN

Noon – 3:00 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025

WHERE

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Central Administration Building, 700 S. Eisenhower Blvd., Middletown, PA 17057

WHAT'S HAPPENING

This free event features food trucks, special guests, touch-a-truck and activities for the whole family.

TAKE ACTION TODAY

Sign the Go Orange pledge (<https://www.paturnpike.com/go-orange-pa/sign-the-pledge>) to drive safely in all work zones.

During the five-year pilot program, participating work zones saw a 38% reduction in speeding (1 mph or more over the speed limit) and a 47% reduction in excessive speeding (11 mph or more over the speed limit.) Work zone crashes declined by up to 50% when a speed enforcement vehicle was present.

To build good habits early and improve new driver safety, the PA Turnpike also teamed up with PennDOT for a statewide training program. The New Driver Work Zone Safety Program, which is available on our website, uses engaging videos, infographics, knowledge checks, and powerful testimonials to teach new drivers work zone laws, signage and key facts, in addition to offering real-life scenarios that enhance understanding.

Supporting the National Move Over Law

Just like in work zones, slowing down or changing lanes to provide a buffer between moving traffic and emergency vehicles, tow trucks and road maintenance crews can save lives.

That's why we're honored to again partner with TIM Heroes and the Tyler Laudenslager Memorial Foundation to host the second annual "National Move Over Day"

celebration at our Middletown Central Administration Building.

The family-friendly event features free activities and informational tables that drive home the message, "Slow Down, Move Over," and support Pennsylvania's Move Over law, which was signed into law in 2020.

The law directs drivers to move into an adjacent lane if it is safe to do so or slow down at least 20 mph under the posted speed limit when approaching an emergency response area – signaled by flashing lights, flares, caution signs or other control devices indicating the presence of police, fire, ambulance, tow trucks, utility workers or disabled motorists.

Beyond this annual event, we also work with TIM Heroes throughout the year for activities such as "Light Up the Night" at the Penn State Health Children's Hospital.

The PA Turnpike's advanced traffic management systems also provide real-time updates and alerts to give drivers a head's up about these emergency response areas.

Furthering our commitment to keeping customers informed, we launched a new texting service in March. Customers that find themselves at a complete stop in an unexpected backlog can text "info" to 47676 to receive automated, location-specific information about the incident, anticipated clearance times and roadway updates.



Slow Down Move Over Day 2024

continued on page 52

TRANSPORTATION

continued from page 51

This service is designed to address unexpected incidents that cause delays and provide customers with timely information. The service is for when customers are at a complete stop in a location where it is safe to remain stationary, through hands-free devices and voice command or through a passenger in the car and is not for traffic.

The 511PA app also provides information on incidents, construction, traffic and weather conditions.

Remaining Focused Saves Lives

Distracted driving poses a significant risk to everyone on the roadway and has long been an educational focus at the PA Turnpike. What's more, it undermines statewide efforts to create safe driving experiences for our travelers.

This past June, Paul Miller's Law went into effect, prohibiting the use of hand-held mobile devices while driving. This law holds individuals accountable for their poor decision-making and emphasizes the cost of unsafe driving habits.

The stakes couldn't be higher. Reckless or distracted driving has an impact far beyond license points or financial penalties; the consequences are nothing short of life and death for the men and women working to improve the PA Turnpike. **B**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Craig Shuey was appointed Chief Operating Officer of the Turnpike Commission in January 2011; in that role, he is responsible for oversight, management and strategic planning for daily operations of the 565 miles of the Turnpike. He is currently a member of the board of directors for the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) and previously served two terms as the Chair of the E-ZPass Group.



Slow Down in Work Zones



Craig Shuey at New Driver Program Kickoff Event October 2024