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Press Release

April 23, 2012

[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

### National Work Zone Awareness Week April 23rd-27th Urges Drivers To Obey Laws And Don't Barrel Through Work Zones

With the start of National Work Zone Awareness Week today (Monday, April 23), MTA Bridges and Tunnels is urging drivers to pay attention to work zone laws and drive with care when traveling through these areas.

Drivers using MTA crossings will likely notice the bright orange posters at its toll plazas and electronic messages urging them: "Don't Barrel Through Work Zones" and "Drive Smart to Arrive Alive."

"We want drivers to be aware of workers and to slow down as they approach and pass work sites," said MTA Bridges and Tunnels Chief Maintenance Officer Patrick Parisi. "That awareness will save lives."

It is particularly important for drivers to pay attention as they cross through roadway construction zones within confined spaces such as toll plazas, bridges, tunnels, and exit and entrance ramps. Speed and inattention, including illegal use of hand-held communication devices while driving, are the leading causes of work zone motor vehicle crashes.

In 2010, the most recent year of data given, there were a total of 87,606 motor vehicle crashes in work zones across the country, resulting in 576 fatalities.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, with support from transportation agencies across the country, a new theme is highlighted each year at the start of the spring construction season to bring national attention to work zone safety issues.

