October 22, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

August 2010 Crash Report Card

The Springfield Public Works Department’s August 2010 Crash Report Card shows there have been 10 fatal crashes (resulting in 12 total fatalities) from January 1 through July 31 of this year, compared to five fatal crashes (resulting in five total fatalities) in the same time period in 2009. The number of injury crashes is approximately the same number as last year, while the number of total crashes has decreased by 2 percent compared to the same period in 2009.

October Safety Message

National “Walk to School Day” was held Oct. 6 and is set aside as a day to promote safe walking and bicycling for school children throughout the year. Springfield Safe Kids, in cooperation with other community partners, will hold its annual “Walk This Way” event on Oct. 26 at Delaware Elementary School. Encouraging kids to walk and bike to school in a safe manner not only creates a safer route to school but also provides health benefits, increases their ability to concentrate in class, forms social ties with children and adults, improves air quality, and relieves traffic congestion near schools. Overall, this enhances the quality of life in our community.

All parents of elementary school-aged children are encouraged to obtain a Walking Route Map and walk with their child to school, teaching them safe behavior while walking along and crossing the streets on their route to school. Walking Route Maps are available at: http://mo-springfield.civicplus.com/382/School-Safety or upon request at each school office. For more information about the “Walk to School Day” program, go to www.walktoschool-usa.org or www.safekidsspringfield.org.

Halloween is an exciting holiday for young and old, yet during the typical Halloween weekend children are especially vulnerable to traffic related injuries. Trick-or-treaters ought to be accompanied by adults until at least age 10. This offers parents a prime opportunity to practice safe walking habits with their children. Make a point to only cross at corners using traffic signals or crosswalks if available and check all directions for traffic. It’s important to recognize that some drivers or pedestrians have limited vision due to their costumes, the darkness, or even intoxication. Carrying flashlights, glow sticks or reflective tape when trick-or-treating is strongly encouraged and the whole community is challenged to drive and walk carefully to ensure everyone’s safety during the Halloween weekend.

For questions or more information, contact: Mandy Buettgen, in the Public Works Traffic Engineering Office, (417) 864-1801.