August 11, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

June '10 Crash Report Card

The Springfield Public Works Department’s June 2010 Crash Report Card shows there have been six fatal crashes (resulting in eight total fatalities) from January 1 through June 30 of this year compared to four fatal crashes (resulting in four fatalities) in the same time period in 2009. The number of total crashes has decreased by 3 percent, while the number of injury crashes has increased 4 percent, respectively, compared to the same period last year.

Monthly Safety Message

Classes will begin this week at many area schools, colleges and universities. Variable message signs have been placed on major streets in the city to help alert motorists to the start of the Springfield Public Schools academic year, which will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 24. Motorists are reminded to expect an increase in the number of children and young adults walking to and around schools.

The City of Springfield has taken a number of steps to assist students on their way to school. The School Walking Route Maps for all elementary schools in the R-12 School District have been updated and placed on the City of Springfield website at http://mo-springfield.civicplus.com/360/Traffic-Engineering.

These maps make use of existing traffic signals, stop signs, sidewalks, overpasses and assigned school crossing guards to help parents to know what protections are provided for students as they walk to and from school and which streets should not be crossed by children without the help of an adult. Further, the maps show streets that are designated as barrier streets with busing available for students who would otherwise have to walk across a barrier street.

Flashing yellow beacons have been added to all 20 mph school speed zones to alert drivers that the school zone speed limit is in effect when the lights are flashing. All school-related traffic signs have received a supplemental highly reflective yellow post sleeves for more visibility. School crosswalks have been repainted.

The City will have contractors working into the fall to construct three miles of additional sidewalks using funding from the ¼ Cent Sales Tax for Capital Improvements.

Just as important as children’s safety when walking to school is their safety within a vehicle when riding. All kids up to 12 years should be properly restrained in the back seat. Elementary school children should be secured in a belt-positioning booster seat or other child restraints until they are 4’9” tall. For local car-seat check-up events, seat recalls and child safety information, please go to www.safekidsspringfield.org.

Please drive alertly and responsibly as children are back in school. With your help, we can make Springfield a safer community.

For more information, contact: Mandy Buettgen, Public Works Traffic Engineering, (417) 864-1801.