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Kansas Contractors Association

Senate Transportation Committee
January 27, 2021
Proponent Written Testimony - SB 25

Chairman Petersen and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of The Kansas Contractors Association in support of Senate Bill 25.

The Kansas Contractors Association represents over 200 companies involved in the construction of highways, bridges and heavy infrastructure in Kansas. KCA members manage hundreds of highway/bridge construction zones each day across Kansas. SB 25 would help improve the safety for thousands of construction zone workers.

SB 25 is a narrowly defined "hands free cellphone bill". The bill would prohibit the handheld use of a cell phone for drivers under the age of 18 when they are driving on Kansas roads and all drivers when driving through a construction or school zone.

I have attached to my testimony the last 10 years of work zone statistics tracked by KDOT. Over the last 10 years, Kansas has averaged 1,617 work zone crashes, 6 fatalities, 368 injury crashes and 518 persons injured per year. We know inattentive driving (cell phone use) contributes to some of these statistics. SB 25 is a narrow approach to improving these statistics and the safety of construction zones in Kansas.

Many states have passed similar laws to restrict the use of cell phones particularly for drivers under the age of 18 and for drivers in construction and school zones. SB 25 is consistent with laws passed in 30 states to restrict handheld cell phone use.

We know distracted driving is a major problem, so we applaud the effort outlined in SB 25 to help keep Kansans safe, particularly those working and driving in construction zones.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of SB 25.

Michael White
Executive Director
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2019 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2019

Total Crashes - 1,420	Property Damage Only - 1,110
Fatal Crashes - 7	Persons Killed - 7
Injury Crashes - 303	Persons Injured - 437

Of the 7 people killed in work zone crashes, **all were motorists.**

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in **67** percent of all work zone crashes.

The **top 5 contributing circumstances** were inattention, followed too closely, improper lane change, right of way violations, and too fast for conditions.

There were no adverse weather conditions in **90** percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in **76** percent of the crashes

*The **2019** data are incomplete and unofficial at this time.



2018 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2018

Total Crashes - 1,429	Property Damage Only - 1,123
Fatal Crashes - 4	Persons Killed - 5
Injury Crashes - 302	Persons Injured - 404

Of the 5 people killed in work zone crashes, **all were motorists.**

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in **69** percent of all work zone crashes.

The **top 5 contributing circumstances** were inattention, followed too closely, improper lane change, right of way violations, and too fast for conditions.

There were no adverse weather conditions in **88** percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in **79** percent of the crashes



2017 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2017

Total Crashes - 1,841	Property Damage Only - 1,458
Fatal Crashes - 8	Persons Killed - 12
Injury Crashes - 375	Persons Injured - 509

Of the 12 people killed in work zone crashes, 10 were motorists and 2 were pedestrians.

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in 74 percent of all work zone crashes.

The top 5 contributing circumstances were inattention, followed too closely, right of way violation, improper lane change, and unknown.

There were no adverse weather conditions in 92 percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in 80 percent of the crashes



2016 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2016

Total Crashes - 2,146	Property Damage Only - 1,646
Fatal Crashes - 5	Persons Killed - 5
Injury Crashes - 495	Persons Injured - 706

Of the 5 people killed in work zone crashes, all were motorists.

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in 69 percent of all work zone crashes.

The top 5 contributing circumstances were followed too closely, inattention, too fast for conditions, improper lane change, and right of way violation.

There were no adverse weather conditions in 90 percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in 76 percent of the crashes



2015 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2015

Total Crashes - 1,755	Property Damage Only - 1,391
Fatal Crashes - 4	Persons Killed - 4
Injury Crashes - 360	Persons Injured - 497

Of the 4 people killed in work zone crashes, **all were motorists**.

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in **72** percent of all work zone crashes.

The **top 5 contributing circumstances** were followed too closely, inattention, improper lane change, too fast for conditions, and right of way violation.

There were no adverse weather conditions in **88** percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in **81** percent of the crashes



2014 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2014

Total Crashes - 1,393	Property Damage Only - 1,076
Fatal Crashes - 7	Persons Killed - 7
Injury Crashes - 310	Persons Injured - 427

Of the 7 people killed in work zone crashes, **6 were motorists**.

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in **62** percent of all work zone crashes.

The **top 5 contributing circumstances** were inattention, followed too closely, unknown, too fast for conditions, and improper lane change.

There were no adverse weather conditions in **89** percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in **76** percent of the crashes



2013 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2013

Total Crashes - 1,156	Property Damage Only - 873
Fatal Crashes - 5	Persons Killed - 6
Injury Crashes - 278	Persons Injured - 391

Of the 6 people killed in work zone crashes, **all were motorists.**

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in **76** percent of all work zone crashes.

The **top 5 contributing circumstances** were inattention, followed too closely, too fast for conditions, right of way violation, and disregarded signs-signals-markings.

There were no adverse weather conditions in **88** percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in **75** percent of the crashes



2012 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2012

Total Crashes - 1,810	Property Damage Only - 1,367
Fatal Crashes - 7	Persons Killed - 8
Injury Crashes - 436	Persons Injured - 638

Of the 8 people killed in work zone crashes, **6 were motorists and 2 were pedestrians.**

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in **76** percent of all work zone crashes.

The **top 5 contributing circumstances** were following too closely, inattention, too fast for conditions, right of way violation, and improper lane change.

There were no adverse weather conditions in **93** percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in **80** percent of the crashes



2011 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2011

Total Crashes - 1,649	Property Damage Only - 1,238
Fatal Crashes - 6	Persons Killed - 7
Injury Crashes - 405	Persons Injured - 575

Of the 7 people killed in work zone crashes, 6 were motorists and 1 pedestrian.

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in 81 percent of all work zone crashes.

The top 5 contributing circumstances were inattention, followed too closely, too fast for conditions, right of way violation, and improper lane change.

There were no adverse weather conditions in 89 percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in 75 percent of the crashes



2010 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2010

Total Crashes - 1,580	Property Damage Only - 1,1154
Fatal Crashes - 4	Persons Killed - 4
Injury Crashes - 422	Persons Injured - 597

Of the 4 people killed in work zone crashes, all were motorists.

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in 80 percent of all work zone crashes.

The top 5 contributing circumstances were inattention, followed too closely, too fast for conditions, right of way violation, and improper lane change.

There were no adverse weather conditions in 86 percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in 76 percent of the crashes

