

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan	2026-06
DATE: April 20, 2026	CONTACT: Bret Witkowski, Managing Director Van Buren County Road Commission 325 W. James St., Post Office Box 156 Lawrence, Michigan 49064 PHONE: (269) 674-8011
RELEASE: Immediately	

WORK ZONE SAFETY REMAINS A TOP PRIORITY AS CONSTRUCTION SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

As spring arrives, orange barrels, cones, and construction signs are once again appearing on Michigan roadways signaling the start of another busy road construction season. From April 20–24, 2026, transportation agencies across the country are recognizing National Work Zone Awareness Week, encouraging drivers to slow down, stay alert, and help keep everyone safe.

For the Van Buren County Road Commission, work zone safety remains a top priority. Road construction zones present changing traffic patterns, reduced speeds, and workers operating close to live traffic. A moment of inattention or impatience can have life-altering consequences.

“It only takes a split second of distraction to change lives forever,” said Bret Witkowski, Managing Director of the Van Buren County Road Commission. “When approaching a work zone, motorists should slow down, follow posted signage, remain alert, and be patient. Safe driving decisions protect not only our workers, but fellow drivers and their families.”

“Our crews are committed to making our roads safer and more reliable,” Witkowski added. “We can repair and improve our infrastructure safely if everyone does their part. Working together, zero work zone deaths is an achievable goal.”

Even small mistakes can be deadly in work zones. The Van Buren County Road Commission urges motorists to follow these simple but critical work zone safety tips:

Expect the Unexpected – Speed limits are often reduced, lanes may shift, and workers or equipment may enter traffic areas without warning.

Eliminate Distractions – Avoid cell phone use and other distractions. Lives are at stake.

Obey Signs and Flaggers – Construction crews and traffic control devices are there for everyone’s safety—follow their directions.

Slow Down and Keep Your Distance – Speeding fines are doubled in Michigan work zones. Maintain a safe following distance.

Stay Alert – Watch for sudden stops, lane changes, and brake lights from other vehicles.

Be Patient and Calm – Work zones are temporary and necessary to improve the safety and condition of our roads.

Work zones require everyone’s undivided attention. Please watch for Van Buren County Road Commission crews as well as contractors working throughout the county this construction season. **“Safe Actions Save Lives.”**

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

BW/jb