STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, road construction and road maintenance, performed by construction workers, utility personnel, and maintenance workers, play an essential role in our ability to be a mobile and free nation; and

WHEREAS, work zones present a challenge and potential danger to all motorists, and improvements in safety, education and driver behavior will benefit drivers of all ages; and

WHEREAS, 1,033 traffic fatalities occurred on Tennessee's roads and highways in 2010; and

WHEREAS, there were 2,704 traffic crashes in Tennessee work zones in 2010; and

WHEREAS, 7 people lost their lives in work zone crashes in Tennessee in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the most frequently occurring contributing factors to motor vehicle wrecks in construction zones are careless driving, speeding, and failure to obey signs and traffic controls; and

WHEREAS, according to NETS, The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety, one teenager is killed and seven are injured in a work zone crash in this country every three days, and studies show young drivers are more likely to be involved in work zone crashes than others, as they are more likely to take risks, be distracted, or be nervous while driving; and

WHEREAS, teen fatalities in Tennessee have dropped 52% over the last five years thanks to the many educational efforts to encourage safer teen driving; and

WHEREAS, 81 teen drivers still died in traffic crashes in Tennessee in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Whereas, the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Department of Safety make consistent and numerous efforts to improve safety in work zones and all roadways in Tennessee through programs such as Between The Barrels, a teen work zone education program, and the use of communications tools such as Tennessee 511, TDOT SmartWay and TDOT SmartWay Mobile; and

WHEREAS, these services provide the citizens of Tennessee with the knowledge they need to safely travel through work zones, protecting themselves as well as the men and women who put their lives at risk each day in work zones across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of April 4-8, 2011 as

WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 1st day of April, 2011.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Tre Hargett

Secretary of State