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MEDIA CONTACT:

Lisa Shearer-Salim
Strategic Communications
Oklahoma Transportation
200 N.E. 21st St.
Oklahoma City, OK, 73105
405-521-6002
lsalim@odot.org

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
LAUNCH SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

The year-long campaign will focus on seat belt safety

OKLAHOMA — The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) are encouraging drivers and passengers to buckle up every time they get in their vehicle through their seat belt safety campaign themed, “It’s Not Just About You.”

The goal of the campaign, which is supported by Oklahoma Gov. Stitt as one of the state’s Top Ten initiatives, is to increase seat belt usage by 10 percent. If accomplished, Oklahoma would be ranked in the Top Ten nationally. Oklahoma currently ranks No. 43 in seat belt usage, lower than all surrounding states except Arkansas.

“I urge everyone to stop and think about the impact a severe injury or even loss of life would have on those around them,” Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz said. “It affects your family and friends in untold ways by leaving an unfillable void, especially considering so many of these fatalities are preventable simply by buckling up.”

Throughout 2022, the ODOT and OTA are working together to raise awareness and educate Oklahomans on the importance of seat belt usage and how much it could help lower the loss of life. According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#), wearing a seat belt can reduce the risk of fatal injury by 45 percent.

“Seat belts are the most effective safety feature available in vehicles today,” Gatz continued. “The simple act of buckling up takes seconds, but it can make a lifetime of difference for you and your loved ones. Remember, it’s not just about you.”

For more information about the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, visit oklahoma.gov/odot and for more information about the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, visit pikepass.com.