

Governor's Office of Highway Safety

**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 2, 2007**



For more information:
Jim Shuler, GOHS Public Affairs
404-656-6996 or 888-420-0767
jshuler@gohs.ga.gov

TRAFFIC SAFETY CARAVAN ON THE ROAD SAVING LIVES 2007 DESTINATION: ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

(ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY GEORGIA) This year the month of April brings the GOHS **Traffic Safety Caravan** to the citizens of Athens-Clarke County. The **Caravan** sponsored by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety is a traveling road show highlighting a wide variety of lifesaving programs for kids and their parents.

The 2007 **Traffic Safety Caravan** arrives in Athens-Clarke County on April 2nd and continues through April 6, 2007. The Caravan brings together a host of community and safety partners working to help educate local students and residents about the importance of road-related safety subjects. The keyword is **SAFETY**: This year's Caravan includes presentations on safety belt use, child safety seats, traffic safety, pedestrian safety, and bicycle and helmet safety.

Among the many partners working with the **Safety Caravan** this year are:

University of Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute (GTIPI)
Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS)
GOHS Traffic Enforcement Network- Piedmont Area (PATEN)
UGA Campus Police
Safe Campuses Now
Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety (PEDS)
Athens-Clarke County Board of Education and Schools
Athens-Clarke County Cooperative Extension
Athens-Clarke County Chamber of Commerce
Athens-Clarke County Police Department
Athens-Clarke County Sheriff's Office
Athens Community Council on Aging
Athens Pregnancy Center

Why Athens-Clarke County? This site was selected for this year's **Safety Caravan** due to concerns about the area's below average safety belt usage rate. A recent GOHS study revealed that Athens-Clarke County had the second-worse safety belt use rate in Georgia.

"It is of the greatest importance to address potential highway safety issues before they become real problems," said Director Bob Dallas of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

(MORE MORE MORE)

Governor's Office of Highway Safety
34 Peachtree Street—Suite 800—One Park Tower—Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Visit us on the web at www.georgiahighwaysafety.org
Sonny Perdue, Governor Robert F. Dallas, Director

Governor's Office of Highway Safety



(PAGE TWO)

“While there is concern about safety belt usage in Athens-Clarke County, the larger picture is about making sure that safety education is available to everyone and enforcement is there to protect them,” said Director Dallas. “Our **Traffic Safety Caravan** is an exciting way to bring communities and safety professionals together as one high-intensity team for everyone’s benefit.”

This year’s **Safety Caravan** is designed with a wide variety of messages and activities for all ages. Starting on April 2nd, the Caravan will make a stop at schools across Clarke County to spread the safety message of safety belts, pedestrian safety, and bicycle safety.

CHRIS SANDY DUI SPEAKER :

Local reporters and media will have access three times to prison inmate speaker Chris Sandy, who will present his riveting program on the dangers and consequences of DUI. As a young driver, inmate Chris Sandy was convicted of killing an elderly couple in a DUI vehicular homicide and has currently served five of his thirteen-year prison sentence. Inmate Sandy now travels the state telling his cautionary story to civic and youth organizations. To schedule a one-on-one media interview with Inmate Sandy, contact Amy Edwards at 770-846-6371 or Kathryn Keith Sims at 706-354-1115.

- During **Safety Caravan**, Chris Sandy will speak on April 2nd at 12:00 p.m. to the Classic City Rotary Club at the Athens-Clarke County Holiday Inn.
- April 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at the Clarke Alternative Education Program
- April 3rd at 1:30 p.m. at the Navy Supply Corps School
- April 3rd at 3:15 p.m. at the Classic City Performance Learning Center
- April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the UGA Brumby Residential Hall
- And April 4th at 12:00 p.m. at the Athens-Clarke County Rotary at the Holiday Inn on Broad Street.

DAYTIME CHILD SAFETY SEAT ROAD CHECK:

On Wednesday, April 4th, the **Safety Caravan** featuring GTIPI and the Piedmont Area Traffic Enforcement Network will travel around Athens-Clarke County educating the public about proper methods for installing child safety seats. An incorrectly installed child safety seat can be just as deadly as failing to use a child seat at all. Join local law enforcement and safety professionals for a photo shoot and commentary as the **Safety Caravan** makes random stops around the county near high-traffic children areas. To schedule an appointment, contact GOHS Lt. Scarlett Woods at 404-391-0549.

(MORE MORE MORE)

Governor's Office of Highway Safety



(PAGE THREE)

NIGHTTIME DUI ROAD CHECK:

The nighttime DUI Road Check is one of the most visual and potentially dangerous enforcement elements of the **Traffic Safety Caravan**. In an area known for predominantly young motorists, the decision to drink and drive can be deadly. These DUI road checks help educate the motoring public and keep them from drivers' intent on harming themselves and others. The **Safety Caravan** will conduct these road checks on April 5th between 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. Photos and interviews for the DUI Road Check can be scheduled through Lt. Scarlett Woods at 404-391-0549.

CHILD SAFETY SEAT CHECK-IN:

Child Safety Seat Check-ins allow parents to visit specific locations to ensure their child safety seats are properly installed. A limited number of new car seats will also be available as replacements. This popular feature of the **Safety Caravan** will take place on Thursday, April 5th from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Wal-Mart on Lexington Road. Call Amy Edwards at 770-846-6371 if interested in attending this event.

ROLLOVER SIMULATOR:

The eye-opening pick-up truck Rollover Simulator presentation by the Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute will visit schools for crash-force-education-events and for drug and alcohol resistance programs. Students watch our crash dummies eject through the windows of the truck when safety belts aren't buckled, (clearly illustrating why we call them dummies.) Safety belt presentations will be made for business and civic groups. For information about GTIPI programs scheduled in Athens-Clarke County, visit www.ridesafegeorgia.org or call Andrew Turnage at 678-413-4283.

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

Throughout this **Caravan**, law enforcement and safety experts from around Georgia will make presentations to students from elementary school age to high school. The **Safety Caravan** wants to target a cross-section audience from early childhood to young adults with a continuous education process on issues such as bicycle and pedestrian safety, school bus safety, teen driving, and avoiding DUI.

For more information on the **Traffic Safety Caravan**, contact Amy Edwards at 770-846-6371 or Lt. Scarlett Woods at 404-391-0549. More information on the Safety Caravan can be seen at <http://www.ridesafegeorgia.org/>.

(END RELEASE)