



NEWS RELEASE

DRIVERS URGED TO SLOW DOWN AS CONSTRUCTION SEASON BEGINS

May 12, 2026 (Winnipeg) – For Winnipeg's construction workers, the hazards of the job are well known. But as crews spread out across the city this season, safety advocates say one of the biggest threats to workers isn't the work itself. It's the traffic.

The City of Winnipeg has committed nearly \$157 million in its 2026 budget to regional and local road construction. This investment means an increased number of construction crews, heavy equipment and work zones across the city.

That level of activity on city streets has safety advocates urging the public to take notice. The SAFE Roads committee, drawing on data from the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba, recorded 62 transportation-related injuries in the construction sector in 2025, a significant increase from 40 the year prior. Across the construction, manufacturing and transportation sectors combined, that number rises to 240. These are workers doing their jobs near moving traffic every day, including flaggers, utility workers, truck drivers and tow truck operators.

"Each incident represents a workday that didn't end as expected," said Dave Kramer, Vice President of the WCB's SAFE Work Manitoba division. "In the most serious cases, the consequences are catastrophic."

Those stakes are what prompted the launch of the SAFE Roads campaign, reminding drivers that *They're Not In Your Way, They're At Work*.

Chris Lorenc, President and CEO of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association and Chair of the SAFE Roads committee, says nothing less than zero is acceptable. "Our goal isn't just to reduce incidents, it's to eliminate them entirely," he said. "Every worker deserves a workplace where safety is never a question."

Councillor Janice Lukes is echoing that call. "I'm asking Manitobans to be patient and attentive this construction season," she said. "This investment will benefit our communities for years to come, but we need everyone to get home safely in the process."

Current road closure information is available on the [City of Winnipeg's website](#).

SAFE Roads urges media partners to help raise awareness about worker safety by sharing this message with their audiences. Media assets are available, and interviews can be arranged upon request.

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News assets are available for media use:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17Qt3l_AxKuJTldGvoNccEEP1XitWifk2?usp=sharing

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact:

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About SAFE Roads

Established in 2004, the SAFE Roads vision is to educate motorists and the public to practice respectful and safe driving practices to protect the safety of construction, utility, emergency services personnel, equipment operators and all those who work in or adjacent to our province's roadways.

SAFE Roads Committee

Manitoba Heavy Construction Association & WORKSAFELY™ Program

Chris Lorenc (Chair)
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Adriana Mingo
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Andrea Perrin
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Manitoba Public Insurance

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Construction Association of Rural Manitoba

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