



Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020, 2:27 PM
Subject: Commissioner's Weekly Coronavirus Update – May 11, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

To all the remarkable mothers at CTDOT and in your life, I hope you were able to find time this Mother's Day to celebrate in your own special way. I know for all our moms, dads, and caregivers with school-aged children, the recent news that [schools in Connecticut will remain closed for the rest of the academic year](#) presents a unique set of challenges and concerns. Please be assured, CTDOT will continue to be as flexible as possible to address issues with work schedules during these extraordinary times - be sure to talk to your supervisor about any concerns you may have.

As the Governor begins to phase-in the slow reopening of the state, I know employees want to know what that means for them. Our transition at CTDOT will continue to be thoughtful and slow. We will not jeopardize the health and safety of our workforce by moving too quickly to return to "normal." As we await feedback and recommendations from the CTDOT COVID Steering Committee on reentry into the workplace, I can tell you that we will continue to follow state guidance on **telework** - **all CTDOT employees who are able to work from home will continue to work from home.**

Please know as employees, your feedback and input matters. This week, we will be distributing an anonymous **employee survey** to get a sense of the COVID issues and concerns you have in both office and field environments. When you receive the survey, be sure to complete it and have your voice be part of the conversation shaping our next steps here at CTDOT. We want and need to hear from you, so please keep an eye out for that survey coming soon.

In the meantime, I want to continue to thank everyone for keeping the work going at CTDOT. Your work ensures Connecticut can properly respond to and recover from COVID-19. We cannot do this without you.

Remember, you can find our COVID-related digital library of announcements and information on our website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info>. And another reminder - please keep sharing stories and pictures of members of your team that continue to go above and beyond. Just send me an [email](#).

Keep up the great work – it is appreciated!

Sincerely,

Joe Giulietti
Commissioner

DOT in the News

[DOT: Vehicles traveling 80 mph - or more - increased 94 percent](#)—*CT Post* [May 11, 2020]

With fewer vehicles on Connecticut highways, more drivers are pushing the pedal to the metal. Statewide data currently show that during the month of April, at many locations the percentage of drivers traveling faster than 80 mph has doubled... **Transportation Commissioner Joe Giulietti** said, “with the coronavirus pandemic impacting every aspect of our lives, now is not the time for dangerous, reckless driver behavior that endangers the public, our maintenance and construction crews, and the critical workers we are all relying on to provide medical care and essential services necessary for the state to recover.”

[State Urging Drivers To Slow Down](#)—*NBC News30* [May 8, 2020]

Noticing an alarming trend of increased speeds on Connecticut roadways, the lieutenant governor was among those urging motorists to obey speed limits at an event Friday.... In a news conference held in New Britain, the **Department of Transportation**, Connecticut State Police, AAA and Bysiewicz addressed the growing issue of speeding, something that has become more problematic since the governor’s stay at home orders went into effect.... “Any crash that requires first responders means that those first responders are not available for other emergencies and further taxes our hospitals and our health care facilities,” explained **Joseph Giulietti, Commissioner of CTDOT**.

[The drivers traveling at high speeds concerning Connecticut State Police](#)—*Fox61* [May 8, 2020]

There has been a concerning development on our state highways during this pandemic. We’ve all noticed there’s far less traffic on the roads since the advent of COVID-19, but that doesn’t mean our roads are safer when you take a look at April’s driving statistics... With the reduced traffic flow, the **Connecticut DOT** sees an opportunity. “Since we’re taking advantage of the lower volumes and doing more construction, this puts all of our employees and contractors at a greater safety risk,” said **Joseph Giulietti Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation**.

[CSP, CTDOT launch stop speeding campaign with powerful PSA](#) – *WTNH News8* [May 8, 2020]

Connecticut State Police and the **Connecticut Department of Transportation** are launching a “stop speeding” campaign...At a news conference in New Britain on Friday, AAA joined the Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, state police, Mayor Erin Stewart and the CT Department of Transportation Commissioner to urge people to slow down. “Help our heroes, and please, don’t speed,” **Commissioner Joseph Giulietti** said.

[Serving up gratitude: Truck drivers receive free food-truck lunch on I-95](#) – *The Day* [May 6, 2020]

Truck drivers were treated to free lunches Wednesday afternoon at the Interstate 95 south rest stop, as a thank you for their tireless efforts to supply health care workers with protective equipment and keep store shelves stocked with food, toilet paper and other essential products during the COVID-19 pandemic...In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, though, a program was put together to allow permits for food trucks so that they can provide food for essential travelers and truckers, **[Paul Rizzo, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Highway Operations] Rizzo said**. “The program helps both the truckers and, of course, food trucks, most of which weren’t working at the time,” he said. “This provides another place for them (truck drivers) to find food while they’re on the road.”

[Southeastern CT businesses find unique ways to thank essential workers](#)- *WTNH News8* [May 6,2020]

Many people are finding unique ways to say thanks to those on the frontline of this pandemic. It wasn’t until this pandemic hit and federal rules were eased that the state decided to allow food trucks to set up

shop at highway rest stops... “Getting food and facilities to our truckers who are essential to our economy has become a real need,” said **Mark Rolfe, Deputy Commissioner of the CT Department of Transportation.**