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July 30, 2024

Health Department, Springfield Schools Partner on Safety Awareness Campaign

As the new school year approaches, the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department's Traffic Safety program is teaming up with Springfield Local Schools and the Lucas County Engineer's Office to educate and raise awareness about roundabout safety.

Roundabouts are designed to improve traffic flow, and they require careful attention, especially near school zones where children frequently walk or bike. School district leaders are urging drivers to pay more attention in these busy areas, especially at the roundabout at McCord and N. Mall Dr. near Springfield High School. According to data from the Ohio Department of Transportation, there have been 120 crashes within that particular roundabout in the past five years. Most of these crashes occurred in clear weather, on weekdays, and during the school year, with September seeing the highest number of incidents.

In a united effort to educate the public, the health department, Holland Police, the Lucas County Engineer, and leaders from Springfield Local Schools have teamed up to produce a series of informational videos that focus on the dangers pedestrians face at the roundabout and provide clear guidance on how drivers can enhance safety. The videos will be launched on social media in the weeks leading up to the first day of school.

"Ensuring the safety of our students is our top priority," says James Piotrowski, Holland Police Chief. "As we prepare for the new school year, it's critical that everyone remains alert when navigating roundabouts and crosswalks."

With more roundabouts planned for Lucas County, the health department is also working with the Engineer's Office to host training sessions for drivers who may be nervous about navigating roundabouts. One was held in July, and more will be announced in the coming months.

"We are committed to promoting safe driving behaviors and reducing crashes near school zones," says Karim Baroudi, Health Commissioner of the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department. "By emphasizing the importance of focused driving and pedestrian awareness, we hope to reduce potential hazards in these high-traffic areas."

In addition to driver education, the Engineer's Office and the Village of Holland plan to make adjustments to signage and pavement markings near and within the roundabout, as well as changing the TARTA bus stop location nearby.

For more information on safe commuting, please visit the [Toledo-Lucas County Health Department's Traffic Safety website](#).

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