



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Oshkosh Police Department

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Date: March 27, 2012  
Time: 11:00 AM  
Contact: Officer Joseph Nichols  
(920) 236-5742

Subject: STH 21 Closure and Traffic Back-ups

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

The Oshkosh Police Department is alerting citizens that motorists using Witzel Avenue and W. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the roundabouts on Koeller St. and Washburn St. have been and will continue to experience traffic back-ups until the construction of STH 21 is complete. The STH 21 overpass and roundabouts are scheduled to be completed in November 2012.

Oshkosh Police are asking citizens to use patience when using these intersections or find an alternative route to avoid these areas. Motorists that have used STH 21 prior to the construction have started using Witzel Avenue or W. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. to cross the U.S. 41 corridor which is causing the increase in traffic.

Since March 19, 2012, when the STH 21 exits closed, there have been numerous crashes at the roundabouts on Witzel Ave. and W. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave at Koeller St. and Washburn St. A total of 12 crashes have been reported since construction started, with 6 of the 12 crashes being reported at Witzel Ave. and N. Washburn St. Four additional traffic crashes have been reported at the Westhaven Drive and Witzel Avenue intersection where traffic congestion is present since the construction began.

The major contributing factors to the crashes in the roundabouts are motorists not following the traffic direction signs and markings on the roadway. Motorists that are in the right lane waiting to enter the roundabout have two options: turn right or go straight. There is NOT a third option for those in the right lane to go around the equivalent of a left turn. Speeding through the roundabouts and failing to yield when entering the roundabout are also contributing factors.

The Oshkosh Police Department is reminding citizens that crashes take longer than courteous and patient driving. Those not wishing to drive in this area may also use W. 20<sup>th</sup> Ave, STH 44, or STH 26 to cross over US 41 and/or use Oakwood Road, Knapp St. or Ohio St. for a north or south detour.

If you have any questions in regards to this media release, please call me at 236-5742.

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