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**NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor**

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**FLORISSANT MAYOR SCHNEIDER & JEFFERSON CITY MAYOR TERGIN URGE
DRIVERS TO 'BUCKLE UP, PHONE DOWN' DURING THE HOLIDAYS AND ALWAYS**



Pictured is Mayor Carrie Tergin of Jefferson City and Mayor Schneider at MO Mayors United for Progress Mtg.

Florissant Mayor Thomas Schneider and Jefferson City Mayor Carrie Tergin urge their citizens to “buckle up, phone down” while driving. Testimony by Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) representatives during a recent work session of the Missouri 21st Century Transportation Task Force, which Mayor Schneider serves on, revealed that texting is now the leading cause of death among teenagers and a leading cause of death for all ages.

MoDOT last month designated October 20, 2017 as part of its effort to raise awareness of its Buckle Up/Phone Down initiative. The initiative is designed to highlight the two most impactful actions a driver can take to prevent crashes or survive if one occurs. MoDOT has banned all cell phone use in agency vehicles as well as making safety belt use mandatory.

Central Bank, Jefferson City and Cole County have been among the local partners in MoDOT's campaign and participated in the October 20 event. At that news conference the speakers were Mayor Tergin, MoDOT Central District engineers, Missouri State Highway Patrol Officers, Central Bank representatives and a Columbia College student and a survivor of a car crash in 2007 in which she was not wearing a seat belt and was seriously injured.

Buckle Up/Phone Down was launched in January 2017 in an attempt to lower the number of fatalities on Missouri roadways. Since then, more than 1,200 people as well as 262 businesses have accepted the challenge as well as 262 businesses and organizations.

“Using a seat belt and not handling a cell phone while driving are two common-sense measures that all of us can undertake in our effort to decrease the number of accidents on our roadways,” said Mayor Schneider. “I welcome the challenge from Mayor Tergin to help spread the word about ‘Buckle Up/Phone Down’ and encourage all of Florissant’s drivers to do the same, especially during the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday and weekend.”

You can take the challenge at <http://www.modot.org/BuckleUpPhoneDown/>.