



# NEWS RELEASE

*Trust, Fairness and Commitment*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **“Law enforcement cautions motorists using Hampstead Bypass”**

**Hampstead, Carroll County, Maryland, August 14, 2009** ---- Law enforcement officers from the Town of Hampstead, the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, and Maryland State Police Westminster Barrack are sharing resources to protect motorists from aggressive and unsafe drivers along Hampstead's Bypass.

Designed to increase the safe and efficient flow of traffic through North Carroll, the recently completed Hampstead Bypass relieves the hazards of traffic congestion while increasing the opportunity for driver complacency. A strait roadway free of traffic signals, law enforcement officers have already cited at least one motorist for speeds in excess of 85mph, and made an arrest for DUI and another for possession of illicit drugs. Both arrests were initiated after officers stopped vehicles for traveling in excess of the posted 55mph speed limit.

With the exception of a single collision with a deer, the new roadway has remained collision free. However, law enforcement officials want to keep it that way and are concerned that as motorists become comfortable with the new roadway, speeds will climb - and serious collisions increase. Aggressive driving and speeding remain a leading cause behind fatal automobile collisions. According to the National Highway Transportation and Safety Association (NHTSA), speeding-related crashes were responsible for more than 13,000 fatalities nationwide during 2007.

Motorists are encouraged to obey the posted speed limit, as speeding reduces driver ability to steer safely around hazards and extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle. As a reminder, Carroll County's law enforcement team will be coordinating saturation patrols to identify aggressive and speeding motorists along the Hampstead Bypass for the next several weeks.