

MDOT, MDA offer travel tips for navigating state this summer

Special to The Clinton Courier

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) recently joined the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) and Visit Mississippi to recognize National Travel and Tourism Week. During this week, MDOT encouraged all Mississippians to get out and see all the state has to offer. Some travel ideas encouraged by the state organizations include exploring the Windsor Ruins in Port Gibson, connecting with “The King” at Elvis’ birthplace in Tupelo, and dining across the Mississippi Seafood Trail on the Gulf Coast.

“Many of our estimated 23.15 million visitors arrive on Mississippi’s roads and highways,” said Visit Mississippi Director Craig Ray. “We encourage visitors to get out and explore our state’s incredible attractions and culture.”

Travel and tourism are vital to Mississippi’s economy. In 2016, there were approximately 87,000 jobs travel and tourism-related jobs. Additionally, travel and tourism generated approximately \$6.3 billion in 2017.

“As you get out and explore some of Mississippi’s unique travel destinations, MDOT has free resources available to help you get where you’re going faster and safer,” said Melinda McGrath, P.E., MDOT executive director.

MDOTtraffic.com offers tools like live camera feeds from across the state, allowing drivers to check the traffic before hitting the road. MDOTtraffic.com also has alerts for construction zones, closed roads, weather-related events and incident alerts. The map even shows the locations of rest areas and welcome centers throughout the state. The public can create a free account and customize at MDOTtraffic.com.

The MDOT Traffic app is available free in the App Store and Google Play store, and serves as a companion to MDOTtraffic.com. The app, just like the website, has access to real-time traffic alert information and cameras across the state. The app will synchronize with an account on MDOTtraffic.com and only send alerts on preferred driving routes. The app will send alerts in a text message, email or push notification.



A common sight on Mississippi roads, particularly as moving toward the heart of summer, is highway construction. MDOT warns motorists to be aware of these work zones.

Highway work zones can present unfamiliar traffic patterns. In addition to understanding how to navigate highway work zones safely, motorists can help protect highway workers by avoiding distracted driving and obeying all advance warning and posted speed limit signs. Examples of common work zones found on Mississippi highways and a complete list of tips can be found at GoMDOT.com/drivesmartms.

Regardless of the amount of training, how well a work zone is set up or the amount of advance warning, MDOT maintenance crews have no control over how vehicles move through work zones.

“MDOT wants everyone to see the beauty that Mississippi has,” McGrath said. “We also want you to get there safely and to help keep our highway workers safe, so plan your route and check all these resources out before set out on your trip.”

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