

Safety and Heroism



DARRYL JOHNSON

Department of Transportation

Darryl Johnson works with the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT), serving as an Incident Management Assistance Patrol (IMAP) Driver. When Johnson joined the DOT, he not only brought a host of mechanical skills with him, but also an immense desire to help others. This is displayed daily as he assists motorists on North Carolina roadways, but he is being honored for demonstrating selfless heroism by preventing harm to an at-risk individual.

On April 30, 2020, during the evening rush hour, Johnson received a radio call describing a man standing in traffic on Interstate 40 near Cary. As he approached to check on the man, the man ran into the middle of the five-lane highway and began yelling at the oncoming vehicles. Vehicles began swerving to avoid hitting the man, resulting in multiple collisions. Johnson quickly assessed the situation, carefully entered the roadway and guided the individual to safety. The man became increasingly agitated – to the point of charging at Johnson and striking him. Johnson was able to restrain the man until the N.C. State Highway Patrol arrived to assist.

Johnson selflessly and without hesitation intervened to protect both the man and the motoring public. His courageous act saved this man's life and, given the high volume of traffic, he likely prevented additional incidents involving innocent motorists.

