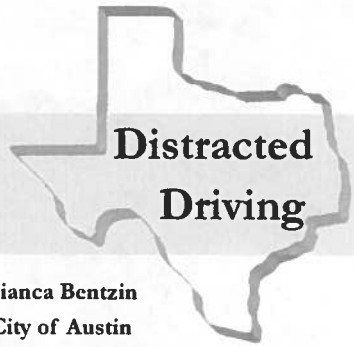

Distracted Driving

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Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Study

Drivers who text while driving are 23 times more likely to be involved in an accident than another driver who is not distracted.

A driver's eyes can leave the road for five seconds out of a six-second window while texting--enough time for a vehicle to travel the length of a football field at 55 mph.

2009

NHTSA Study (150 page report)

Drivers who engage in cell phone conversations while driving demonstrated significant delay in response times to lead vehicle speed changes.

Drivers also showed an increase in steering errors and failed to adequately plan for merging.

Increase in unsafe driving maneuvers during dialing and answering.

2005

University of Utah Study

Hands-free cell phones are just as distracting as handheld cell phones.

The problem is "in attention blindness". Drivers look directly at road conditions but don't really see them because they are distracted by a cell phone conversation.

Reaction times are delayed during cell phone use while driving.

2001 - 2005

Distracted driving . . .

NOT Texting while Driving

Common Sense

Sense of Entitlement

OTHER STATE/CITY LAWS

Have detailed definition sections

Address the issue of "distracted driving" not "texting while driving"

Anticipate future issues (ie. device on the lap)

Address young drivers

Limit exceptions to those which are true emergencies

Recommended Changes for current Austin City Code

Expand ordinance to address electronic devices – as opposed to limiting to wireless communication devices.

Have more detailed definitions regarding the unsafe and illegal conduct.

Consider passing a "hands-free" law.