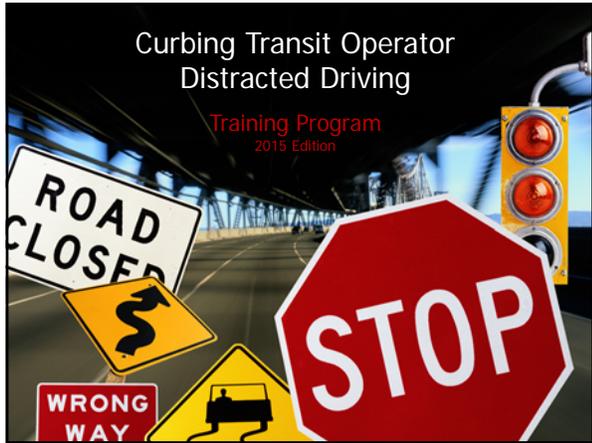




CURBING TRANSIT OPERATOR DISTRACTED DRIVING TRAINING  
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

2015 EDITION





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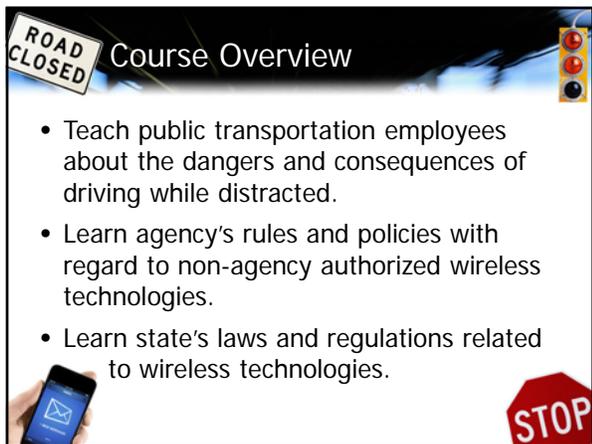
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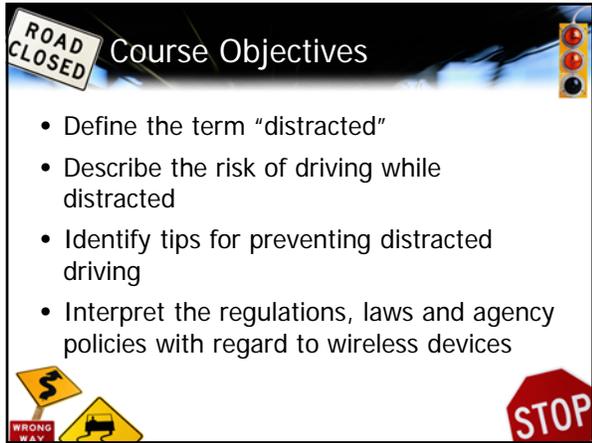
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**ROAD CLOSED** Course Objectives

- Define the term “distracted”
- Describe the risk of driving while distracted
- Identify tips for preventing distracted driving
- Interpret the regulations, laws and agency policies with regard to wireless devices



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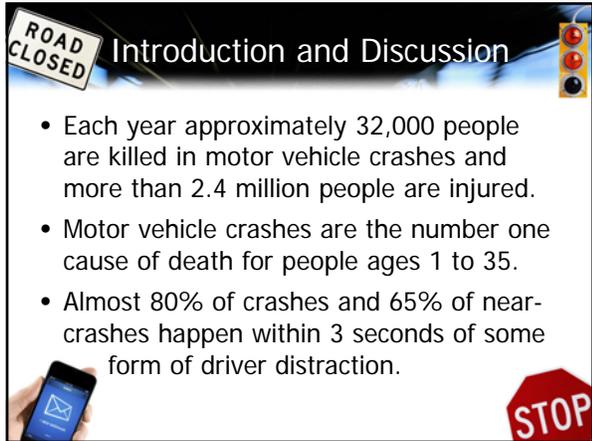
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**ROAD CLOSED** Introduction and Discussion

- Each year approximately 32,000 people are killed in motor vehicle crashes and more than 2.4 million people are injured.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for people ages 1 to 35.
- Almost 80% of crashes and 65% of near-crashes happen within 3 seconds of some form of driver distraction.



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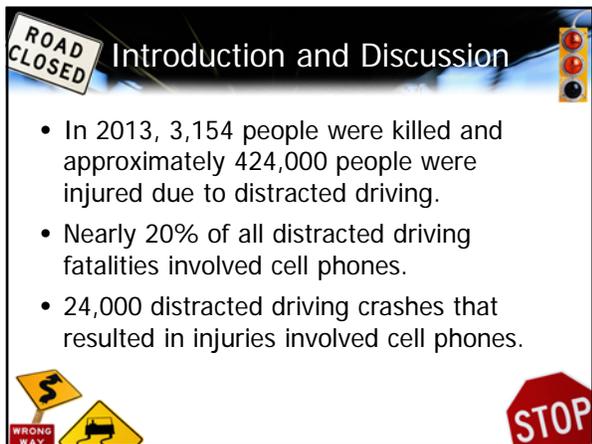
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**ROAD CLOSED** Introduction and Discussion

- In 2013, 3,154 people were killed and approximately 424,000 people were injured due to distracted driving.
- Nearly 20% of all distracted driving fatalities involved cell phones.
- 24,000 distracted driving crashes that resulted in injuries involved cell phones.



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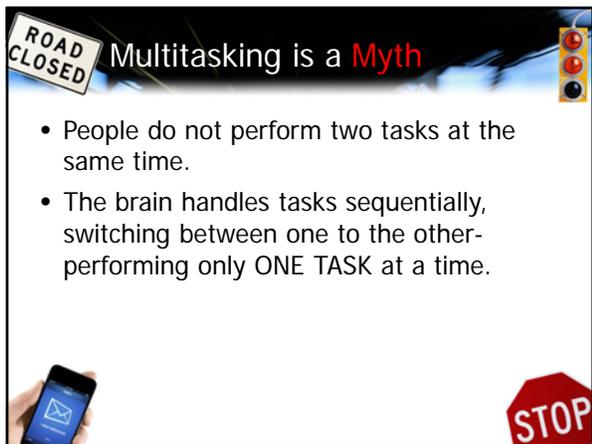
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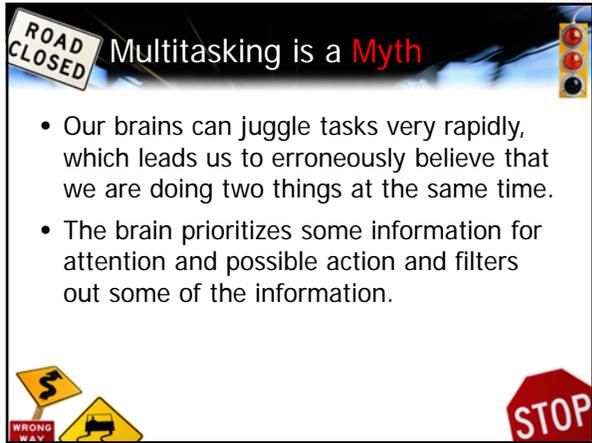
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### Multitasking is a Myth

- Our brains can juggle tasks very rapidly, which leads us to erroneously believe that we are doing two things at the same time.
- The brain prioritizes some information for attention and possible action and filters out some of the information.

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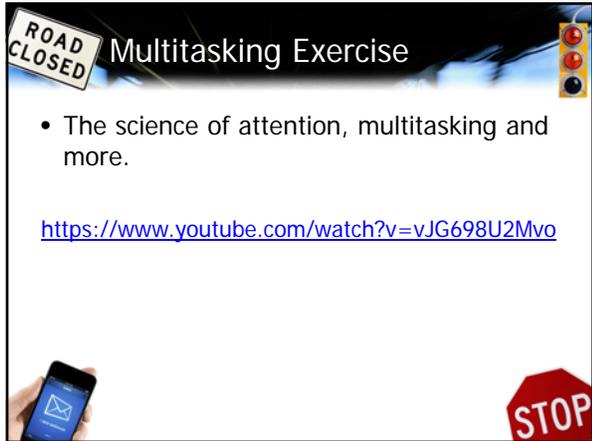
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### Multitasking Exercise

- The science of attention, multitasking and more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJG698U2Mvo>

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### What is a Distraction?

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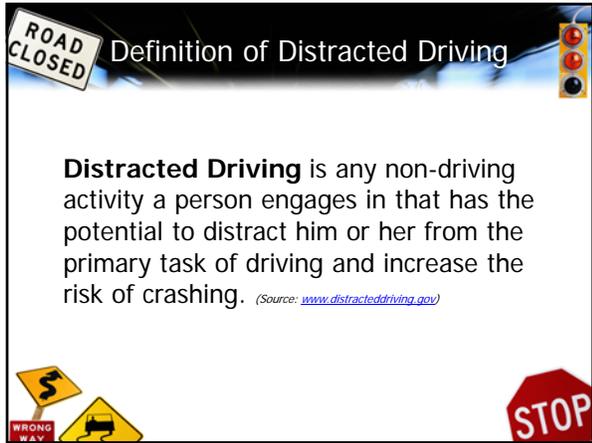
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**ROAD CLOSED** Definition of Distracted Driving

**Distracted Driving** is any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing. (Source: [www.distracteddriving.gov](http://www.distracteddriving.gov))



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**ROAD CLOSED** Three Types of Distracted Driving

1. **Visual** – Taking your eyes off the road
2. **Manual** – Taking your hands off the wheel
3. **Cognitive** – Taking your mind off what you are doing



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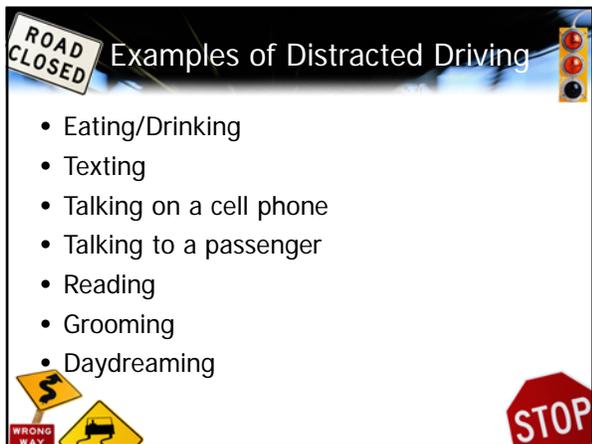
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**ROAD CLOSED** Examples of Distracted Driving

- Eating/Drinking
- Texting
- Talking on a cell phone
- Talking to a passenger
- Reading
- Grooming
- Daydreaming



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**ROAD CLOSED** Just the Facts

- Distracted driving is the number one killer of American teenagers.
- More than 80% of drivers admit to blatantly hazardous behavior  
(Source: Nationwide Mutual Insurance Survey)
- Drivers on mobile phones are more "impaired" than drivers at .08 BAC  
(Source: University of Utah Study)





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**ROAD CLOSED** Just the Facts

- 69% of drivers in the United States between the ages of 18 – 64 report that they talk on their cell phones while driving, while 31% admit to texting while driving.  
(Source: CDC, Injury Center)
- Drivers who use cell phones are four times more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves  
(Source: NHTSA, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)






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**ROAD CLOSED** Just the Facts

- 23% of fatal crashes in 2011 involved reports of distracted driving
- 18% of injury crashes involved distracted driving
- 5 seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. At 55mph, that's the length of a football field.  
(Source: VTI, 2009)





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## Just the Facts

- In 2009, those drivers involved in fatal crashes were reportedly distracted.
- The 30 to 39-year-olds had the highest proportion of cell phone involvement.





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## Just the Facts

These statistics are staggering.

It is our job as professional transit operators to "Ensure Safety"

**DON'T BE A STATISTIC!**





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## Risks Associated with Distractions

For light vehicles or cars:

- Dialing a cell phone makes the risk of a crash or near-crash event **2.8 times** higher than non-distracted driving;
- Talking or listening on a cell phone makes the risk of crash or near-crash event **1.3 times** higher than non-distracted driving; and
- Reaching for an object such as an electronic device makes the risk of crash or near-crash event **1.4 times** higher than non-distracted driving.





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**ROAD CLOSED** Risks Associated with Distractions

- For heavy vehicles or trucks:
  - Dialing a cell phone makes the risk of a crash or near-crash event **5.9 times** higher than non-distracted driving;
  - Talking or listening on a cell phone makes the risk of a crash or near-crash event **1.0 times** higher than non-distracted driving;






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**ROAD CLOSED** Risks Associated with Distractions

- For heavy vehicles or trucks (cont):
  - Using or reaching for an electronic device makes the risk of a crash or near-crash event 6.7 times higher than non-distracted driving; and
  - Text messaging makes the risk of a crash or near-crash event 23.2 times higher than non-distracted driving.








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**ROAD CLOSED** Bus Operator Distractions

- Radio
- MDT
- Passenger assistance
- Route maps
- Fareboxes
- GPS

*Managing our level of distraction is critically important!*

(Source: APTA)






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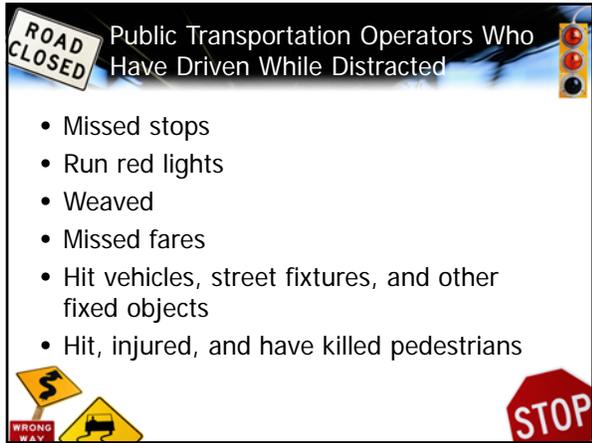
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**ROAD CLOSED** Public Transportation Operators Who Have Driven While Distracted

- Missed stops
- Run red lights
- Weaved
- Missed fares
- Hit vehicles, street fixtures, and other fixed objects
- Hit, injured, and have killed pedestrians



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**ROAD CLOSED** The Transportation Industry

The Public transportation industry has had a number of very serious accidents as a result of distracted driving.



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**ROAD CLOSED** Alexandria, VA



Driver was using a cell phone



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**ROAD CLOSED** Los Angeles, CA



Operator was text messaging  
25 people killed and 102 injured



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**ROAD CLOSED** Boston, MA



Operator was texting  
49 People Injured



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**ROAD CLOSED** April 2014

National Distracted Driving Enforcement and Advertising Campaign Event



Anthony Foxx  
U.S. Transportation Secretary



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**ROAD CLOSED**

"At DOT, we've come to understand that [the] combination of public awareness, strong laws, and tough law enforcement can make a difference changing dangerous driving habits."

Anthony Foxx, USDOT Secretary

**WRONG WAY**

**STOP**

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**ROAD CLOSED**

**The Washington Post**

**U.S. bans truckers, bus drivers from texting while driving**

By Ashley Halsey III, Washington Post Staff Writer  
Wednesday, January 27, 2010

On Tuesday, the federal government formally barred truckers and bus drivers from sending text messages while behind the wheel, putting its imprimatur on a prohibition embraced by many large trucking and transportation companies.

"We want the drivers of big rigs and buses and those who share the roads with them to be safe," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "This is an important safety step, and we will be taking more to eliminate the threat of distracted driving."

**WRONG WAY**

**STOP**

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**ROAD CLOSED**

**Transit Agency Policy Changes**

**RTA will fire bus and rapid transit drivers who call or text while behind the wheel**  
By Karen Parkes, The Public Decoder  
November 20, 2009, 8:00PM

**11 CTA Employees Fired For Cell Phone Use**  
CTA Adopted A Zero Tolerance Policy This Year

**Fired bus drivers returning to Metro**  
The post has been updated:  
Two Metro bus drivers who were fired by the transit agency are being considered for rehire.

**New MBTA hire fired for cell phone use**  
BOSTON (AP) — A man who had called thousands of job applicants for work as an MBTA bus driver has been fired after he was seen for allegedly violating the agency's ban on cell phone use.

**A Metro investigation spotted the general buses driving procedures**  
If allowed after a [10/20/09](#) in this case dropped as [10/20/09](#) of the previous supervisor at the time that the incident. Candace Smith, [10/20/09](#) could be returned to work and receive

**Decision on Ronald Taylor**  
"I'm not the member!" "I'm not strongly!"  
to not yet back on the job, and she

**STOP**

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**ROAD CLOSED** Managing Distractions

Our ability as professional transit operators to manage the level of distraction while driving is critically important.

**We must ensure safety first!**



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**ROAD CLOSED** Managing Distractions

Personal Electronic Devices

Insert Agency Policy Here



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**ROAD CLOSED** Managing Distractions

Agency-Authorized or Required Equipment or Material Distractions

Insert Agency Policy Here



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**ROAD CLOSED** Managing Distractions

Passenger Distractions

- Avoid unnecessary communications. If conversation cannot be avoided, do so while maintaining focus on the safe operation of the vehicle.
- Anytime the conversation impacts safe driving, pull the vehicle off the road to finish the conversation.



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**ROAD CLOSED** Managing Distractions

Fitness for Duty and Fatigue Management

- Notify your agency if you believe you are not fit for duty due to fatigue, illness, medication, or other causes
- People with undiagnosed sleep disorders are at greater risk for accidents caused by fatigue
- Over-the-counter and prescribed medications may affect your ability to safely perform your job



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**ROAD CLOSED** Managing Distractions

Seasonal Increase in Roadway Activity

- Population increases in winter months
- Increasing the likelihood of additional distractions and delays in service
- Drivers may not be aware of state driving laws



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## Education and Enforcement



- In 2010, the FDOT, USDOT, and FTA developed this training program to educate public transportation employees about the dangers of distracted driving.

**Show "Curbing Transit Operator Distracted Driving" video**





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## State of the Union



<http://www.distraction.gov/stats-research-laws/state-laws.html>






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## Rule Chapter 14-90, FAC



Rule Chapter 14-90, Florida Administrative Code (FAC)

- Language addressing wireless communication devices
- Requirements for driver education program that addresses wireless communication devices and distracted driving





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 Rule Chapter 14-90, FAC 

Wireless Communications Device

- An electronic or electrical device capable of remote communication.
- Examples include cell phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and portable computers (commonly called laptop computers).

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 Rule Chapter 14-90, FAC 

Personal Wireless Communications Device

- An electronic or electrical device that was not provided by the bus transit system for business purposes.

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 Rule Chapter 14-90, FAC 

Wireless Communication

- A wireless communication plan and procedure that provides for the safe operation of the bus transit vehicle and assures that:
  - The use of a personal wireless communication device is prohibited while the transit vehicle is in motion.

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 Rule Chapter 14-90, FAC 

Wireless Communication (continued)

- All personal wireless communications devices are turned off with any earpieces removed from the operator's ear while occupying the driver's seat.

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 Rule Chapter 14-90, FAC 

- A policy on the use of a wireless communications device issued to the operator by the bus transit system for business related purposes.
- Policies developed shall assure that:
  - Guidelines are developed that allow for the use of a wireless communications device in emergency situations.

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 Rule Chapter 14-90, FAC 

- The use of a wireless communications device does not interfere with the operator's safety related duties.

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**ROAD CLOSED** Rule Chapter 14-90, FAC

- The Bus Transit System shall develop a driver educational training program on:
  - the proper use of a wireless communications device issued to the operator by the Bus Transit System while in the performance of their safety related duties
  - the hazards associated with driving and utilizing a wireless communications device

**WRONG WAY** **STOP**

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**ROAD CLOSED** Our Agency's Policy

Insert Agency Policy Here

**WRONG WAY** **STOP**

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**ROAD CLOSED** Curbing Transit Operator Distracted Driving in Review

- Define the term "distracted"
- Describe the risk of driving while distracted
- Identify tips for preventing distracted driving
- Interpret the regulations, laws and company policies with regard to wireless devices

**WRONG WAY** **STOP**

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Questions or Comments



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