

Please help save lives and protect the citizens of the Commonwealth by supporting a Hand-held phone ban.

#HandsFreeVA

- 20 states and the District of Columbia now ban the use of handheld devices while driving. Last year in the United States, there was a 2.4% decrease in traffic fatalities. (NHTSA)
- 13 states saw an average 16% decrease in traffic fatalities within 2 years of passing a handheld device ban. (Georgia House Study Committee on Distracted Driving)

We have VERY STRONG laws on the books for driving under the influence of alcohol. We need to address driver distraction – which is another form of impaired driving - in the same manner.

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration identified distracted driving as “a crisis that needs to be addressed now.”
- Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety found Virginia to be one of 11 states considered “dangerously behind” in driving safety laws.
- 80% of all crashes and 65% of all near crashes involve driver inattention within 3 seconds of the crash. (Virginia Tech)
- Virginia drivers observed in a 2018 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety roadside survey were 57% more likely to be manipulating a cellphone than drivers in a 2014 survey.
- Texting (in essence manipulating a phone) while driving increases your crash risk by 2300%, because it involves all THREE kinds of distraction – manual, visual and cognitive. It is by far the most egregious form of distracted driving.
- In a Liberty Mutual survey, 80% of teens reported that they viewed APP use while driving as “not distracting.” (Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety)
- Motorists with smart phones use hand-held devices in 88 out of every 100 trips. Therefore, Zendrive estimates that there are about 600 million trips involving distracted driving in the US every day. (Zendrive)

- Virginia DMV:
 - 15% of all fatal crashes were distraction-related in 2018. This number is likely understated as distraction is sometimes difficult to measure in the event of a fatality.
 - Total distracted driving fatalities, top jurisdictions (starting with worst): Prince William County, Fairfax County, Fauquier County, Hanover County, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County, Richmond City, Chesapeake City, Virginia Beach City
 - Per Capita distracted driving fatalities, top jurisdictions (starting with worst): Nottoway County, Brunswick County, Page County, King and Queen County, Rockbridge County, Charles City County, Greensville County, Goochland County, Caroline County, Prince George County
 - Total distracted driving injury crashes, top jurisdictions (starting with worst): Fairfax County, Prince William County, Virginia Beach City, Hampton City, Newport News City, Loudoun County, Richmond City, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Chesapeake City
 - Per capita distracted driving injury crashes, top jurisdictions (starting with worst): Emporia City, Greensville County, Fredericksburg City, Petersburg City, Hampton City, Lynchburg City, Montgomery County, Hopewell City, Newport News City, Tazewell County

Questions? Contact Champe Burnley at Virginia Bicycling Federation at 804-405-644 www.vabike.org

Virginia Conservation Network

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