

ORANGE CONES. NO PHONES.

Distracted Driving on the Rise in National Capital Region While Major Construction Underway on Most Commuter Routes

Cell phone use is on the rise despite intensified construction on the roads and increased awareness of the dangers of distracted driving, according to a recent survey of local drivers by Transurban-Fluor and AAA Mid-Atlantic. The survey is the second Distracted Driving on the Capital Beltway Report released as part of the Orange Cones. No Phones. driver safety initiative.

Cell Phone Use on the Rise

- 55 percent of I-495/Capital Beltway drivers currently use their phones while driving, with more people talking on a hand-held cell phone, reading texts or writing texts
- In just one year, the number of Beltway drivers reading text messages while driving increased by 47 percent

Cell Phone Use Comparisons

| Methods of Use | September 2009 | September 2010 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Talk on hands-free cell phone | 30 percent | 30 percent |
| Talk on hand-held cell phone | 30 percent | 33 percent |
| Read texts | 15 percent | 22 percent |
| Write texts | 9 percent | 13 percent |

More Drivers Report Near-Miss Accidents

The number of Beltway drivers who have had an accident or near-miss as a result of distracted driving also has increased:

- 2010: The number of drivers who report having had an accident or near-miss due to distracted driving has increased to 25 percent or one in every four cars
- 2009: 18 percent of drivers, or one in every five and a half cars, reported experiencing an accident or near-miss due to distracted driving

Young and Reckless

The younger the drivers, the more likely they are to drive distracted. In the past year, the number of drivers 25-44 years old who:

- Read texts while driving has increased from 22 percent to 30 percent
- Write texts while driving also has increased from 14 percent to 19 percent

Drivers Using Phones to Address Work-Related Issues

- Half of all distracted drivers say they use their phones on the road to address work-related issues
- Of this group, 57 percent do so because they feel they should provide an immediate response
- 52 percent of employees who respond to work issues while driving say their employer does not have a formal policy regarding distracted driving
- 21 percent say their employer doesn't have a written policy

Awareness of the Dangers of Distracted Driving on the Rise

The vast majority of Capital Beltway drivers are aware of the dangers of distracted driving:

- 72 percent of Beltway drivers say they have seen stories in the news about the dangers of distracted driving
- 34 percent of drivers are aware of or have heard of the Transurban-Fluor and AAA Mid-Atlantic Orange Cones. No Phones. campaign, a safety initiative launched in 2009 aimed at ending distracted driving within construction work zones

Distracted Driving in Major Construction Work Zones

Construction on the Capital Beltway HOT Lanes and Dulles Corridor Metrorail Projects is fully ramped up along major commuter routes in Virginia, making it more important than ever for drivers to stay alert on local roadways.

- Capital Beltway HOT Lanes and Dulles Corridor Metrorail Projects include construction on a total of more than approximately 25 miles in Northern Virginia
- More than approximately 210,000 vehicles travel through the two construction zones each day
- There are approximately 2,000 construction workers in the field across the two major projects
- Construction work is underway on most major commuter routes, including the Capital Beltway, I-66, Dulles Toll Road, I-95/395, the Dulles Airport Access Highway and many arterial routes
- The two projects include nearly \$5 billion in construction activity

More Information

For more information about Orange Cones. No Phones., visit orangeconesnophones.com.

