

Driver Distraction Research and Policy: An update from NHTSA

- Chris Monk

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) published its Distraction Research Plan in 2010. As part of that plan, NHTSA developed Distraction Guidelines in attempts to help stem the tide of potentially distracting devices and tasks in the vehicle by encouraging driver-vehicle interfaces (DVI) that require no more eyes-off-road time than tuning a radio. These guidelines are being developed in three phases: Visual-Manual, Portable Aftermarket Devices, and Voice-based auditory interfaces. In addition, the Human Factors for Connected Vehicles (HFCV) program within the US DOT has substantial research investment in developing design principles to ensure V2x applications do not result in high workload or distraction for drivers. This presentation will provide an update on each of the three Distraction Guidelines stages, as well as the research and design principles product for the HFCV program. Other related NHTSA research programs such as crash warning interface metrics may also be included.