



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission

Office of the Director, MS 11

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DATE: January 5, 2022

TO: Oregon Transportation Commission

FROM: Kristopher W. Strickler
Director

SUBJECT: **Consent Item 08** – Transportation Safety Programs – Declaration for 2023 “Distracted Driving Awareness Month”

Requested Action:

Request approval of the proposed Declaration that designates April 2023 as Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

Background:

Over the past two years, the increase in traffic fatalities has erased over a decade of decline. It is important to emphasize the need for diligence and need for increased highway safety in Oregon.

Each year Oregon emphasizes the importance of transportation safety to its citizens, in April the emphasis is on distracted driving awareness. Oregon joins the nation in this recognition and emphasis. We are requesting a declaration of April as Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

Popular activities typically held during the month include:

- Participate in the National Annual Distracted Driving Awareness Month.
- Participate in the annual National Connect to Disconnect.
- Increase high visibility enforcements and media statewide during this time.

ODOT Regions and Districts participate with transportation safety events and displays on an individual basis.

Attachments:

- Attachment 01: Distracted Driving Awareness Month Declaration

- WHEREAS:** Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death and injury hospitalization in Oregon; and
- WHEREAS:** Distracted driving is a serious, life-threatening practice that is preventable, yet is a national and statewide epidemic that can lead to crash fatalities for drivers and passengers, as well as, for people walking and rolling; and
- WHEREAS:** In Oregon, between 2016-2020, there were 15,538 crashes involving a distracted driver resulting in 186 fatalities and 24,126 injuries; and
- WHEREAS:** Distracted Driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention from the primary task of driving; and
- WHEREAS:** Studies show that using mobile electronic devices involves visual, auditory, manual, and cognitive distraction, and is among the worst of all driver distractions; and
- WHEREAS:** Oregon law, as of 2018, prohibits the use of mobile electronic devices when operating a motor vehicle on public roadways; and
- WHEREAS:** In order to reduce the number of crashes as well as improve Oregon's driver safety culture, the Oregon Department of Transportation seeks to enhance the awareness, understanding, education and enforcement to stop distracted driving.

NOW,

THEREFORE: We, the Oregon Transportation Commission hereby declare **April 2023** to be

DISTRACTED DRIVING SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to joining in this observance.