

WHAT IS DISTRACTED DRIVING?

NTSB UPDATE ABA-BISC WEST CALIFORNIA BUS ASSOCIATION

Mike LaPonte
Highway Accident Investigator
Washington, DC

What is Distracted Driving?

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines distracted driving as:

- Any activity that diverts attention from driving:
 - Talking on the phone
 - Texting
 - Eating/drinking
 - Talking to passengers
 - Using the radio, entertainment system, or navigation system.

What is Distracted Driving?

- NHTSA further states that:

“you cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention”

DISTRACTED DRIVING
IN THE UNITED STATES

3,142

People were killed
in motor vehicle
crashes involving
distracted drivers
in 2019

AVOID
DISTRACTIONS



Do Not Disturb
While Driving



Taking your
eyes off
the road



Taking your
hands off
the wheel



Taking your
mind off
driving

NTSB

National
Transportation
Safety Board

Decatur, Tennessee– Collision Between a Utility
Truck and a School Bus
October 27, 2020

Taking Your Mind Off Driving

Decatur, Tennessee: October 27, 2020



School Bus and Utility Truck at Final Rest



Probable Cause

- The probable cause of the October 27, 2020, crash near Decatur, Tennessee was the service truck driver's inattention to the driving task due to his looking at the sheriff's vehicle behind him, which resulted in his failure to keep the truck on the roadway.

Monaville TX – Single Vehicle Rollover December 17, 2021

Taking Your Mind Off Driving

Location

- Travel lanes 11 feet wide
- Shoulders 2 feet wide
- Compacted aggregate contiguous with shoulder edge - 26-28 inches
- Side slope measurements ranged 7-17% along initial departure path (less than max of 25%)
- Travel lanes and shoulder clearly delineated
- No evidence side slope affected vehicle dynamics



Crash Events

- Vehicle continued to yaw as it returned to the pavement
- Yawed about 135° before departing east side of highway
- Descended short foreslope and tripped as the backslope was engaged
- Vehicle attained one complete roll and came to rest upright





Holik Rd →



Probable Cause

- The probable cause of the December 17, 2021, crash near Monaville, Texas was the driver being distracted by noise created by the vehicle's vent window, which led to her manipulating it, resulting in poor lane control and departure from the roadway. Contributing to the crash was the driver's reaction to the roadway departure, which made the bus unstable and resulted in the vehicle entering a yaw and rolling over.

Tishomingo, Oklahoma

March 22, 2022

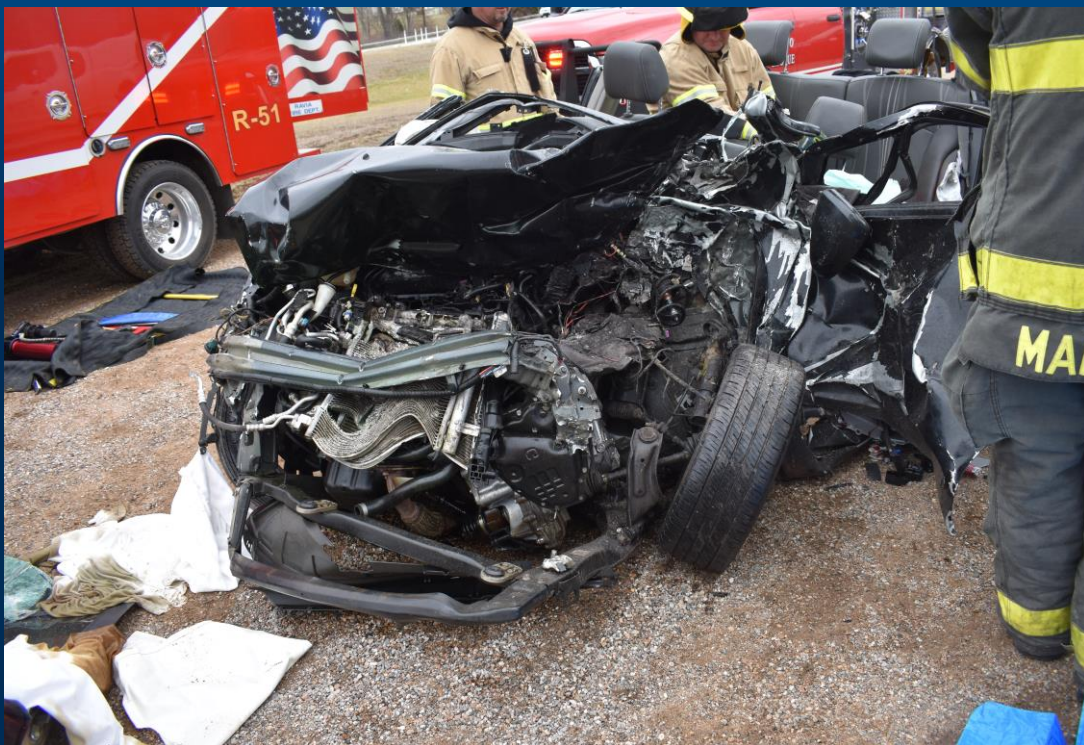
Taking Your Mind Off Driving

Overview

- Intersection of US-377 and SH-22
- 1994 Peterbilt with 2017 Travis trailer
- 2015 Chevrolet Spark



Vehicles at Final Rest



Graduated Drivers Licenses are in place for a reason

- Research has shown that the risk of a crash increases greatly with each additional teen passenger riding with a young teen driver
- Two to three teen passengers with no adults in the car **DOUBLES** the risk of a fatal vehicle accident
 - **MORE** than three teenage occupants in the same situation **QUADRUPLES** the fatal accident risk
 - Almost half of teen drivers (44 percent) do this regularly

Excelsior, Wisconsin

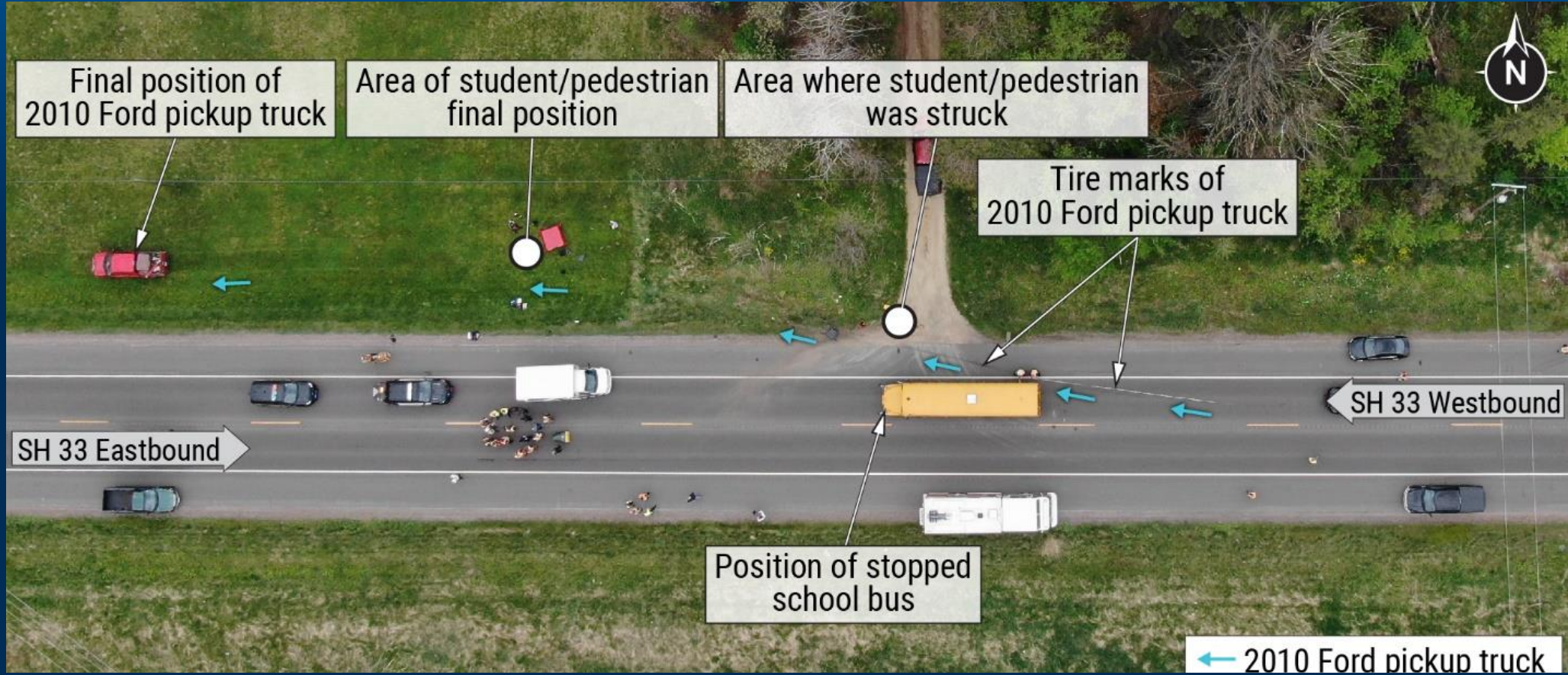
May 12, 2023

Vehicle Collision with Stopped School Bus and Student Pedestrian

Taking your Eyes off the Road

May 12, 2023,

Excelsior, Wisconsin



Texting and Driving are not a good combination

Electronic devices while driving should be banned except in case of emergency. Today, 24 states and the District of Columbia prohibit drivers of all ages from using handheld cell phones while driving. Forty-eight states and DC have an all-driver text messaging restriction. However, Missouri and Montana have yet to adopt an all-driver text messaging ban, and drivers in Nebraska and Ohio are only subject to secondary enforcement. Thirty-seven states and DC restrict the use of cell phones by novice drivers.

Initial Findings from the Crash Investigations

- Distraction was an issue in the all of the crashes.
- Decatur, TN (Distraction in mirrors - loss of control)
- Monaville, TX (Nosit Wing Window - loss of control)
- Tishomingo, OK (Distraction - Failure to Yield)
- Excelsior, WI (Texting not driving - Struck bus and student)



Michael.LaPonte@ntsb.gov

[ntsb.gov](https://www.ntsb.gov)