Distracted Driving Information Overload

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Distracted Driving

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvGTMoOYHk8
Distracted Driving
Information Overload

• DOT has refined and expanded the definition of Distracted Driving to include some common operator action in typical revenue service functions assigned to the bus operator.

• Some equipment or components installed on bus dash boards etc. Create obstructions that impair the bus operators field of view and violate the requirements of SAE standard for Field of View.

• Transit agencies could have some exposure if they are not compliant and obstruct the field of view on the vehicle.
Distracted Driving
Information Overload

• Strict compliance with DOT definition and requirements may cause typical activities that are performed by bus operators while the bus is in motion and create a non-compliant condition. How do we deal with issues such as this?

• Would stop announcements, conversation with customers with relevance to transit questions put the agency out of compliance?

• Responding to radio calls where hand set is used
Distracted Driving
Information Overload

• Reducing the operator’s information overload using technologies is the only feasible method that will reduce the possible level of distraction
• These technologies, such as automatic voice annunciation and route displays will reduce the level of distraction for the bus operator
• Some distractions are beyond the operator’s control
• However, the best solution is the consolidation of existing technologies
External Distractions

• Most accidents that occur because of distracted driving are caused by external sources

• Operators need tools and vehicle systems that help avoid or prevent collisions that occur due to external distractions

• Possible examples of existing tools:
  – Collision avoidance systems
  – Audible or visible warnings to the distracted vehicle or individuals
Conclusion

• Agencies need to assess sources of distraction that exist on the vehicles
• Policies and procedures that emphasize the distracted driving issues need to be developed and enforced
• Sources of distraction both to the operator and external sources are going to increase as technology evolves
Thank You

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