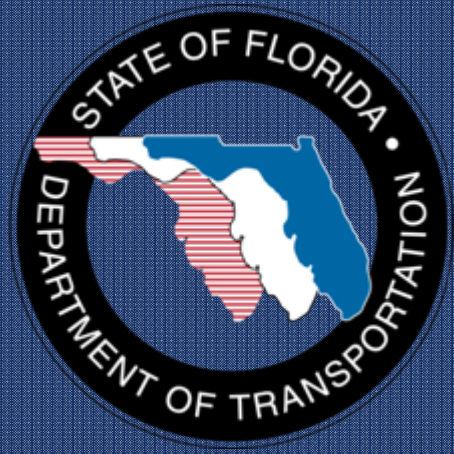




Curbing Rural and Urban Transit Operator Distracted Driving





Curbing Rural and Urban Transit Operator Distracted Driving

**19th National Conference on Rural Public and
Intercity Bus Transportation**

Ms. Deborah Sapper and Ms. Amber Reep

University of South Florida's (USF)

Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)

Alexandria, VA Bus Crash – Cell Phone Use by Driver



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) determined that a bus accident in Alexandria, Virginia, November 14, 2004, **was caused in part by the fact that the bus driver was talking on a cell phone.** The NTSB determined that the bus accident was avoidable since signs leading up to the bridge warning of the reduced clearance were well marked.

October 2008 (METROLINK)

According to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which investigated the cause of the collision, the Metrolink train ran through a red signal before entering a section of single track where the opposing freight train had been given the right of way by the train dispatcher.

The NTSB faulted the Metrolink train's engineer for the collision, concluding that he was distracted by text messages he was sending while on duty.

Killing 25 people and injuring 135



More than \$7,100,500 worth of damage

May 2009 - Boston Trolley

MBTA: A two-car Green Line trolley slammed into the rear of another two-car Green Line trolley that was stopped at a red signal near the Government Center Station.

The Conductor in this Boston Trolley Crash was texting his girlfriend at the time of the crash.

49 Injured



EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Possession and Or Use Of Cellular Phones and Other Electronic Devices By An Operator Is Prohibited While The Operator Is On An Authority Train, Streetcar, Or Bus

**FIRST OFFENSE FOR USING CELL PHONE:
30 DAY SUSPENSION AND
RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCHARGE!**



Sept. 30, 2009

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Distracted Driving Summit



“We must act now to stop
distracted driving from becoming
a deadly epidemic on our nation's
roadways.”



Distracted Driving Policies

Dec 10, 2009 8:09 am US/Central

11 CTA Employees Fired For Cell Phone Use CTA Adopted A Zero Tolerance Policy This Year

RTA will fire bus and rapid transit drivers who call or text while behind the wheel

By Karen Farkas, The Plain Dealer

September 22, 2009, 8:30AM



Gus Chan / The Plain Dealer

RTA is instituting a zero-tolerance policy in regard to cell-phone use by its drivers.

CLEVELAND, Ohio — RTA bus and rapid transit drivers caught using -- or just carrying -- cell phones and other electronic devices while operating a vehicle will be fired.

The zero-tolerance policy announced Monday is similar to those adopted this year by transit agencies in Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Baltimore.

The Massachusetts Bay Area Transit Authority does not even allow drivers to bring any personal devices aboard their vehicle.

Home > Portland News > Breaking News

TriMet fires driver who placed Kindle on instrument panel while piloting bus

Published: Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 5:40 PM Updated: Thursday, September 23, 2010, 6:30 AM



Joseph Rose, The Oregonian

Follow

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Story tools



TriMet has fired the bus driver caught on video reading a Kindle while steering through morning freeway traffic last week, saying his actions posed "an immediate threat to public safety" and violated agency policy.

It's actually the second time in four years that driver **Lahcen Qouchbane** of Gresham has been terminated by TriMet.

In September 2006, the agency fired the 40-year-old driver for pushing a passenger of a bus. However, the union appealed and an arbitrator reinstated the driver with a 30-day suspension in lieu of termination.

Last Thursday, a rider on the Line 96 bus took a cell-phone video of Qouchbane appearing to read his **Amazon Kindle** while maneuvering the rainy Terwilliger Curves on Interstate 5.

New MBTA hire fired for cell phone use

Updated: Wednesday, 09 Jun 2010, 2:18 PM EDT
Published: Wednesday, 09 Jun 2010, 1:42 PM EDT



Large Photo

BOSTON (FOX 25 / myfoxboston.com) - A man who beat out thousands of job applicants for work as an MBTA bus driver has been fired after less than a week for allegedly violating the agency's ban on cell phone use.

The man was hired by the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority through a 27,000-person job lottery conducted to fill 34 vacancies.

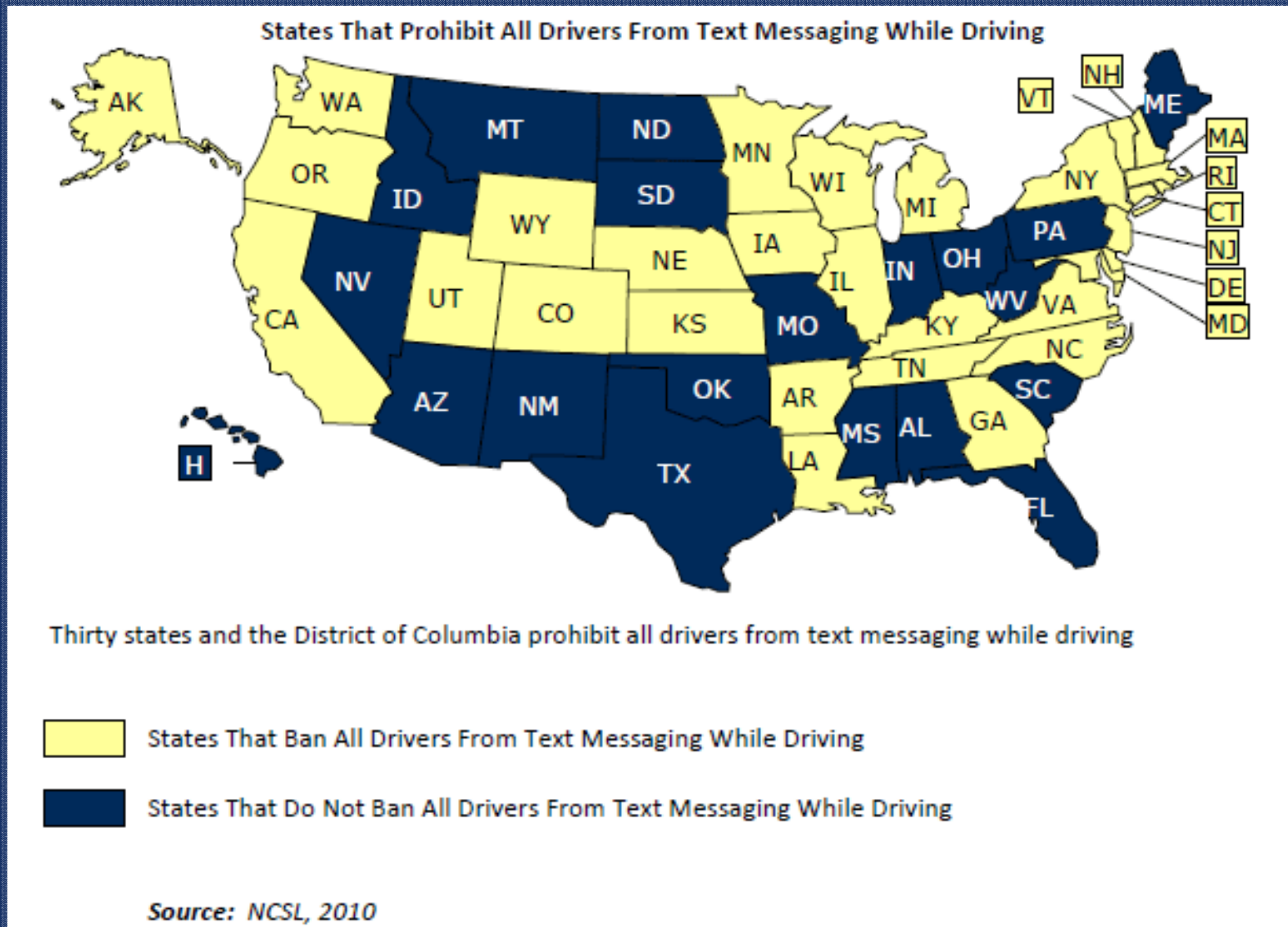
More Coverage: Local News

MBTA General Manager Richard Davey said Wednesday the new driver was seen using a cell phone at a training site. When a supervisor approached, the trainee allegedly snapped it shut and got on a bus.

This is not the kind of conduct we tolerate with 20-year veterans, let alone 20-minute veterans," Davey said in an interview. "Possession usually merits a suspension, but this is clearly no way to begin a career, and we decided it was better to part ways."

The agency's policy requires the immediate firing of any driver caught using a cell phone while on duty. It mandates a 30-day suspension of anyone caught carrying a phone while working. New hires must sign a

States That Ban All Drivers from Texting While Driving



www.distraction.gov

- National Distracted Driving Strategy
- Distracted Driving Key Messages
- Building Partnerships
- Taking Inventory of your State
- Working with the Media
- Public Education
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Put It Down (Social Norming) Logo
- Phone in One Hand. Ticket in the Other (Enforcement) Logo
- Broadcast Materials



Education is the Key

- FTA, USDOT, FDOT and CUTR
 - Development of Computer Based Training Program (CBT) (30 minutes)
 - Off the shelf classroom training program with a DVD (45 minutes)
 - Incorporating NSC, APTA and other industry safety documents.
- Federal Certification of Completion
- Florida properties will also receive State of Florida Certificates of Completion



Curbing Transit
Operator
Distracted Driving



CURBING TRANSIT OPERATOR DISTRACTED DRIVING TRAINING

Instructor Guide

QUESTIONS?

CBT and Classroom Training Program with video
will be available online in early 2011.

www.transitoperations.org

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