

June 2019 Executive Committee Distraction Policy Session

Distraction, Distraction Everywhere *(non-highway)* Breakout Report

June 20, 2019

Key Themes

- More isn't better; better is better
 - E.g., 6 messages flashing simultaneously
- Trust but verify (enforcement, e.g., red light cameras)
- In commercial space, training and discipline is critical
 - (e.g., airport incursions/labor considerations)
- Slow down until control is gained/maintained (build safety margins into procedures/design knowing that distraction is an issue)
- Diphenhydramine! Good for kids, bad for operators
- Design for idiots
- People think they multitask better than they do

Potential Actions

- Need better data to prove causality/links between activity and outcome
 - TRB database for research use (non-biased entity to build trust)
- Research shows deterrence is effective
 - Need to translate this to policy
- How much is too much automation?
 - What's the sweet spot? Information vs. Distraction
- Translate successes in one mode to others
 - E.g., flight recorder (capture data, review data, but don't be overly punitive). Develop culture of self-reporting.
 - Use near miss databases in marine and aviation
- Are new technologies helping or hurting?
- TRB develop synthesis report followed by conferences
 - Outreach/education to broad stakeholder group
- Active mode distraction needs more study and policy development