



***~A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A BAN ON TEXTING WHILE DRIVING
IN FLORIDA~***

WHEREAS, the mission of the Florida Transportation Commission is to provide leadership in meeting Florida's transportation needs through policy guidance on issues of statewide importance and by maintaining oversight and public accountability for the Department of Transportation and other statutorily specified transportation authorities; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary functions of the Florida Transportation Commission is to recommend major transportation policies to the Governor and Legislature, and assure that approved policies are properly executed; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Transportation Commission shall periodically review the status of the state transportation system including highway, transit, rail, seaport, intermodal development, and aviation components of the system and recommend improvements to the Governor and Legislature; and

WHEREAS, safety is paramount to the Mission of the Florida Department of Transportation in that it is to provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity and preserves the quality of our environment and communities.

WHEREAS, text messaging while driving is a serious safety issue, and is banned for all drivers in 35 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, novice drivers are banned from texting in seven states and school bus drivers are banned from text messaging in three states.

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported 5,474 deaths and 448,000 injuries in 2009 involving driver distraction, with texting becoming a major distraction.

WHEREAS, studies from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute show texting while driving increases the risk of crashing by 23 times. University of Utah studies show that using a cell phone while driving delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol level of .08 percent.

WHEREAS, sending or receiving a text while driving takes a driver's eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds; at 55 mph, a distance equivalent to driving the entire length of a football field while blind.

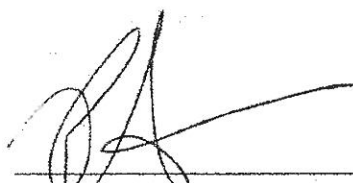
WHEREAS, a January 2012 Tampa Bay Times/Miami Herald/Bay News 9 poll concluded that 71% of Floridians support a texting ban while driving. A CBS news poll conducted in May 2011 found that 94% of Americans support a ban on texting while driving.

WHEREAS, AAA conducted a telephone survey of Florida registered voters in December 2011, and found that 79% favor a ban on texting and emailing while driving.

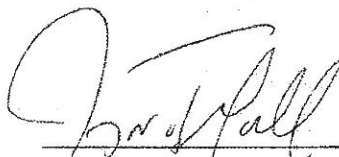
WHEREAS, after investigating numerous motor vehicle crashes involving texting over the past several years, the National Transportation Safety Board recently called for the first-ever nationwide ban on use of portable electronic devices by drivers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Transportation Commission declares its support for a ban on texting while driving for all drivers in the State of Florida and for the Florida Legislature during the 2013 Session to take up and pass a bill that makes it a secondary offense to operate a motor vehicle while manually typing or entering multiple letters, numbers, symbols, or other text in a wireless communication device, or sending or reading data in the device, for the purpose of non-voice interpersonal communication.


Signed this 4th day of April, 2012.



Ronald Howse, Chairman
Florida Transportation Commission



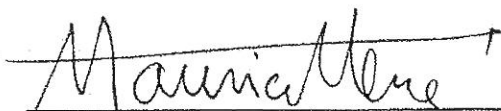
Jay Trumbull, Vice Chair
Florida Transportation Commission



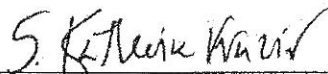
Manny Maroño, Secretary
Florida Transportation Commission



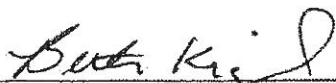
Donald Ellington, Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission



Maurice Ferré, Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission



Katherine Frazier, Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission



Beth Kigel, Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission



Ned Lautenbach, Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission



Andy Tuck, Commissioner
Florida Transportation Commission