

April 12, 2021

Dear Traffic Safety Partner:

When it comes to distracted driving prevention, compliance with our state's distracted driving laws is not the same as a commitment to focused driving.

At the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, we believe that no one should join a meeting while driving. This includes audio or video conference participation, regardless of whether the participant is using a handheld or a hands-free cell phone.

To that end, we have added the following statement to all meeting agendas: "WTSC encourages everyone to keep their focus on the road while driving. Please do not join this meeting if you are behind the wheel unless you are parked in a safe location."

We understand that for some partners, this may mean that you will be unable to participate in a meeting. If this happens, the WTSC will make every effort to assist you by providing meeting recordings, meeting notes, or one-on-one follow up meetings. Just let the meeting organizer know what you need.

We call on our partners to set the example by adopting a similar approach to attending or hosting meetings. Here are some tips to help you and the people you connect with keep their focus on the road while driving.

Put safety first: Let anyone you connect with know their safety is more important than a phone call. If they are driving, ask that they call back when they are parked.

Put safety on the agenda: Begin team calls by asking if anyone is behind the wheel. If so, ask them to disconnect and join again when they are parked in a safe location.

Schedule strategically: Do not book calls or virtual meetings during your travel time.

Block your travel time: Indicate on your calendar when you will be on the road so that others know not to book meetings during those times.

Set your office hours: Establish specific times you are available to make and take calls.

Sincerely,



Shelly Trucksess Baldwin
Director