



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported in 2016, there were 37,461 people killed in the U.S. due to a traffic crash; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving is an activity that diverts the attention of the driving public caused by behaviors such as talking or texting on a cell phone; and

WHEREAS, texting is the most pervasive distraction; sending or reading a text takes the drivers' eyes off the road for 5 seconds at 55 mph, which is like driving the length of an entire football field with the drivers' eyes being closed; and

WHEREAS, texting and driving increases the risk of a crash by 50 percent; and

WHEREAS, 48 percent of passenger vehicle occupants who were killed in traffic crashes in 2016 were unrestrained; and

WHEREAS, every state promotes safety initiatives to reduce or eliminate fatalities and disabling injuries to the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, safety is a top priority for all transportation professionals and departments of transportation; and

WHEREAS, buckling up and putting cell phones down when operating a motor vehicle can drive down the record number of fatalities on our roadways; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officers of the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials (MAASTO) have each made a personal commitment to make safety their number one priority for state DOT employees and the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, DOT public campaigns, reminding motorists to buckle up and put cell phones down when operating a motor vehicle, demonstrate the commitment and dedication of the MAASTO states to work together to provide safer roadways and move toward the national goal of zero deaths:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board members of MAASTO know the importance of buckling up and putting cell phones down as two simple life-saving actions, and they join together as a mid-America region of the United States to continue to emphasize the importance of challenging the citizens and businesses of their region of the nation to buckle up and put the phone down when operating a motor vehicle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the MAASTO members represent their commitment to do what is possible to provide a safe traveling experience for the public for whom they represent by wearing a safety belt and putting the cell phone down when operating a motor vehicle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Secretary of MAASTO prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution and forward copies to all MAASTO states so they will know the effort put forth to protect their employees, and the citizens and visitors of their respective states.

Adopted by the MAASTO Board on:

May 24, 2018

