### Before the North Carolina Distracted Driving Task Force



## Stopping Texting While Driving



The Technical Solution

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### MCCRORY WANTS CRACKDOWN ON TEXTING WHILE DRIVING



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What is an effective solution to propose?

NNID recommend funding of Pilot Project that demonstrates a Technical Solution.



## **Classic Solutions**

### Change User's Behavior

- Education Programs
- Ad Campaigns (NNID)

Texting bans don't reduce crashes; effects are slight crash increases



http://www.iihs.org/iihs/news/

OR HIGHWAY SAFET

INSURANCE INSTITUT





# **Engineer Solutions**

- Stopping Texting While Driving is an Engineering Problem
  - Define the Problem
  - State the Requirement
  - Design a solution



Engineers solve technical problems with technical solutions.



# **Engineer Solutions**

- Requirements
  - If user is moving more than 5 MPH, phone should be blocked from sending or receiving text messages.
  - Solution should work on exisiting phone already in the field.
  - Solution should allow incoming messages to be received at a later time when stationary
  - Solution should not be an undue burden on cell phone carriers.
  - Allows for 911 / Emergency Override
  - Results should be measurable.



# **Similar Problems & Solutions**

- Enhanced 911 for Cell Phone
  - 1994 33% of 911 calls came from cell phones and 95% of caller's didn't know their own location.
  - FCC mandated that carriers develop a solution
  - Today, 911 caller's location is know to about 100 ft



# **Similar Problems & Solutions**

- Emergency Alert to Cell Phones (2007)
  - As a result of Virgina Tech shooter and similar cases.
- Wiretap Capability for Cell Phone (1994)
  - Enabled law enforcement to regain investigative tool.
- Kill Switch for Cell Phones (1984)
  - Due to high rate of phone theft, develop method to make stolen phones useless to perpetrators.
  - Capability in already in phone system.
  - Works on all phones.





# **Texting While Driving "Firewall"**

- US Patent Application 13052098 (Examiner Ajayi)
  - Developed by two Raleigh Engineers (under company NNID)
  - Former Nortel / Verizon Engineers
  - Telecommunications Experts w/30+ patents
    - Cell Phone Expert Witness in Legal Cases
    - Expert In Cell Phones Associated Accidents



### Features

- Detects If Text Sender or Receiver is Moving
  - Prior to delivery, Network detects user's velocity
  - Uses existing capabilities in phone networks
  - Works on all existing phones just like 911 No APP
  - Acts like a "feature"



- Can be applied to any subset of phones (e.g. User's under age 25)
- First Responders can be exempt
- Outgoing 911 text is allowed
- Incoming Emergency text is allowed

• Can also control voice usage or Facebook usage





#### There is a Flow of Messaging Between the Phone & Network Prior to Every Call

- 1. User Send a Text
- 2. Carrier Receives Text
- 3. Carrier Checks if Receipient is a customer

Sprint

- 4. Carrier Checks if User's account is valid
- 5. Carrier Checks if User is in the Network
- 6. Carrier Determines Tower Closest to User
- 7. >>NEW>> Carrier Checks User's Velocity <<NEW<<
- 8. Carrier delivers text to cell tower / Tower Delivers Text
- 9. Confirmation of delivery is returned





## **Basic Call Flow**

There is a Flow of Messaging Between the Phone & Network Prior to Every Call



- The Handset & Network Exchange Data Prior to Call
- Capability to Provide Velocity Already Exists
- Delivery of Text is Denied if User Is Moving
  - The text is stored for later delivery
  - Sender can received a "NNID" notification
- No changes required to Handset / Little to Network Protocol



## **But What If...**

### What if the user is on a bus or a train?

 Mass Transit can be equipped with a "Beacon" that allows passenger to be shown as authorized to text by the network. (Beacon is placed behind driver)

### What if the user is the passenger?



- Front seat passengers should be blocked from texting. This is a known driver distraction.
- Back seat passengers can text via "Beacon" or "Legal Notice" that certifies that the user is not a driver and further notes velocity in call detail records and in customer bill.
- More technical solution in Phase III



# **Phases Of Implementation**

### • Phase I – No Blocking, Just Measurement

- Phone systems currently keep extensive details of each call and text message, called "Call Detail Records" (AKA, "Meta Data")
- Phase I adds "Velocity" data to each call record.
- Accurate "use of phone while driving" data now available through data. Aggregate data reports provide accurate baseline.

### Phase II – Implement in High Risk Areas

- Block texting along I-40 and I-85 Corridors
- Applies only when connected to cell towers that cover these Highway.









#### **Funding Proposal**

Ben Levitan, Telephony Expert – www.BenLevitan.com

# **Funding Purpose & Expectation**

#### Pilot Implementation

- Through NC State Incubator, funds used for a implementation of patent in a small test area (Single Cell Tower)
- Testing by MBA Program Student
- Partnership with Sprint
- Primary Research Report
- Expectations and Results
  - Proof of Concept Report
  - Technology Demonstrations
  - Regulatory Recommendations for State's Cell Phone Service Providers
  - New Investigative Tool for Accident Investigations





### **Contact Information for NNID.ORG**

### NNID



IMS Workshop

