# Icon Description automatically generatedFocused Driving Key Messages

**Focus First**

* When driving, put the focus on driving first.
* Focused driving means safer roads.
* Distracted driving has declined in Washington. That’s motivation for all of us off the phone when we’re on the road.
* People save lives when they focus on driving. Focused driving begins by turning off your phone before starting your car.
* Choose safety, like most Washington drivers, and don’t let your phone endanger your life.

**Focused Driving is Everyone’s Responsibility**

* Set a good example by turning your cell phone off, putting it on “Do Not Disturb” mode, or giving it to a passenger while driving.
* As a passenger, you can encourage the driver to put their phone away while driving.
* Offer to hold the driver’s phone, enter a destination on GPS, or send a text.
* For GPS use, enter your destination before beginning your drive. A dash mounted phone stand can keep your phone in view but should be positioned so it doesn’t block any visibility through the front windshield.
* Set clear expectations for teen drivers that on the road means off the phone.
* Get prepared for every drive: adjust seat and mirrors, buckle up, set the radio and GPS, and put your phone out of reach before leaving.

**Most Washington Drivers Focus When They Drive**

* Driving deserves our undivided attention, and most in Washington State do a great job staying focused behind the wheel. More than 90% give driving their full attention.
* Washington’s driver distraction rate fell from 9.4% in 2020 to 6.9% in 2021 as more people chose to focus as they drive.
* On the road off the phone – device use, hand-held or device to ear – is the most common source of driver distractions.
* Nearly 18,000 crashes involving a distracted driver were reported in 2021 in Washington State.
* Emphasize focused driving with young drivers. More than one in ten distracted driving crashes involved teen drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 who drove while distracted.

**Enforcement**

* Law enforcement agencies across the state are stepping up enforcement with distracted driving patrols. Spotters on foot at intersections and other places where drivers may be tempted to use their phones will work in tandem with patrol cars for ticketing drivers.
* Remember that the first ticket for distracted driving is $136. A second ticket withing five years will cost at least $234. Any tickets may increase your car insurance premiums.