

**RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT**

<b>DATE:</b> 09/21/2018	<b>PROJECT AREA:</b> Special Projects
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**TITLE:** Observation of Distracted Drivers in Arkansas

**PROBLEM STATEMENT:**

Ideally when traveling one would hope that other drivers were aware, alert, focused on the road, paying close attention to their surroundings, and ready to react to unpredictable events. However, with the growing abundance of smartphone technology, it seems that more and more drivers are using these devices while operating motor vehicles contributing to a multitude of complications when we travel. Distracted driving is a common cause of accidents and highly detrimental to the drivers on our roadways. According to the CDC website "Over 30,000 people are killed in crashes each year in the U.S. and crash deaths resulted in \$44 billion in medical and work loss costs in 2013".

**OBJECTIVES:**

To combat this issue data specific to Arkansas drivers needs to be gathered in order to understand how pervasive this problem actually is. Plain clothed people could be stationed at certain intersections as well as unmarked cars on selected stretches of roadway could be put in place to tally the number of drivers observed to be using an electronic device while operating their vehicle.

**FORM OF RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT:**

Once data has been collected it could be used to help support the case for legislation to be introduced making cell phone use a primary offense, allowing officers to stop motorists they've observed using electronic devices while driving. If legislation were to be adopted mobile surveillance vehicles working with law enforcement could be deployed in order to detect smartphone use. In conjunction with these measures a campaign could be done to let the public know these measures are in place.

If implemented, these actions could cut back on the number of distracted drivers on our roads, saving lives and money.

**Estimated Project Duration:** 12 Months

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Standing Subcommittee  
Ranking

Advisory Council  
Ranking

Statement Combined with  
Statement Number(s)

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