

[Idaho Moves Forward with Texting Ban](#)

By **Jake Knight** on April 20, 2012

Earlier this month, Idaho took a leap forward in making its streets safer. On April 5, Governor Otter approved distracted driving legislation that prohibits texting while driving. This measure makes Idaho the 37th state to enact such distracted driving legislation.

According to the Idaho Transportation Department, distracted driving contributed to 192 fatalities and 1,534 injuries in Idaho from 2008 to 2010. In the past several years, the Idaho state legislature has introduced distracted driving bills but had failed to pass them.

Cynthia Gibson of the [Idaho Pedestrian & Bicycle Alliance](#) cites that, in addition to keeping members informed at every step in the legislative process, forming partnerships with non-biking/walking organizations was a key to success. “We met with organizations who want safer streets,” said Gibson, “including AAA, the Mayor’s Youth Task Force, and insurance companies.”

With the passage of this law, Gibson says Idaho Pedestrian & Bicycle Alliance can begin to focus on its other campaigns. “Our next focus is finding local examples of economic benefits of biking and walking,” she said. “We would use this information at the city and state level.”

