



MEDIA CONTACT:

Sherry Box
(540) 231-1549
media@vtti.vt.edu

Teen Driving Study

BLACKSBURG, Va., September 18, 2006 – Teen drivers, particularly during the first few months of independent driving, are at much higher crash risk when compared to other drivers. This period of elevated risk is probably due to some combination of inexperience and risk taking, but there is a major gap in our knowledge of the relative contribution and specific factors associated with this problem.

Thus, the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) is conducting an 18-month study to better understand these problems. The study will examine how newly licensed teenagers drive and what behaviors are potentially the riskiest.

VTTI is looking for newly licensed teenage drivers to partake in a driving study. Drivers who live in the New River Valley area, are 16 years of age and will be receiving their licenses between September and November of this year may qualify. For participating in this study for 18 months, drivers will receive a total of \$1,900.

Drivers must be willing to allow VTTI to instrument their personal vehicles with a data collection system. The system will not cause any permanent alterations to the vehicle. Participants will be required to drive on the Smart Road twice, for which they will receive \$20 per hour.

All data collected will remain strictly confidential. Drivers need parental permission, as well as a parent who is willing to be involved in the study.

If interested, please call 540-231-1026 or email teendriver@vtti.vt.edu.