

# Drifting in a Mall? Toyota's Pitch Part II Takes Another Turn at Car Ads

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**PLANO, Texas (March 22, 2022)** – What if car commercials were just as exciting as the cars themselves? Toyota takes aim at that question in the latest installment of its “Pitch” series with “The Focus Group.” In this round, Toyota Gazoo North America Racing (TGR-NA) team drivers make precision maneuvers in race modified cars and a GR86 inside and around an abandoned shopping mall. But, as the suits step in and ask for a more subdued approach, the focus group quickly loses interest, and the drivers, they just keep being themselves.

Featuring the all-new 2022 GR86, drift racing versions of GR Supras and TGR-NA Drivers Frederic Aasbø, Ken Gushi and Jhonnattan Castro at the wheel, the cars whip between the mundane and fantastic. From a white-knuckle slide into a parking spot to a snooze inducing crawl into one, the drivers and customers alike yearn for the cars to show their true colors.

## Shopping at GR Speed

“The Focus Group” is a four-minute spot that was shot in the dusty corridors of an abandoned shopping center in the Chicago suburbs. Created by Sweatpants Media in partnership with Toyota Gazoo Racing, an intricate three-day shoot in frosty winter temperatures filled the empty spaces with the squeal of tires as professional

drivers carefully navigated the mall hallways.

“After such a fun and successful shoot with Toyota for the Supra doing ‘The Pitch,’ we were excited to team up again to make a follow-up for the GR86,” said producer Elliot Blanco. “We wanted a unique location for this one, and we’re so lucky to have found an abandoned mall outside of Chicago. With the perfect location, amazing cars and amazing drivers, we were able to push them to the limit and make an incredibly epic film; we can’t wait for the next one!”

Sweatpants created both “Pitch” spots, directed by Alberto Blanco and creative director Mike Zeller, to show how the all-new GR86 symbolizes self-expression with a fun-to-drive, stylish sports car. In “The Focus Group,” authentic self-expression is exhibited through skilled driving and delighted focus group members. While mundane driving results in a case of instant boredom.

### **Media Campaign Placements**

The GR86 “Focus Group” installment and “The Pitch” is a social campaign extending across social media and digital video placements targeting auto enthusiasts and sports car intenders. Toyota will share the spot across their Toyota USA owned media social platforms on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. “The Focus Group” and “The Pitch” are also available for viewing on the [GR Family page](#) on Toyota.com.

“The Pitch” campaign was developed considering the transcultural mainstream audiences across America. Toyota campaigns are integrated through one strategic brief, creative idea and media plan – and create a cohesive marketing approach inclusive of multicultural marketing and the total market model.

The campaign’s digital emphasis consists of paid social placements with a mix of native video and video link advertisements. The full four-minute piece will run exclusively on YouTube. The digital campaign will run through April and May, just as the spring driving season gets under way in the northern half of the U.S.

To watch the video, please [click here](#).

### **About the 2022 GR 86**

The all-new [2022 Toyota GR86](#), the new generation of Toyota’s driver’s car, brings affordable sports car fun, all with a larger 2.4-liter engine that delivers improved 0-60 times. Available in two grades, the all-new GR86 features a redesigned interior and exterior with a starting Manufacturer’s Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of just \$27,700. Available at Toyota dealerships now, the thrills are just around the corner with the all-new 2022 GR86.

Key features include:

- Precision handling, low center of gravity and near perfect balance
- Available in a choice of 6-speed manual or paddle shifted 6-speed automatic transmission
- 2.4L flat-four engine rewards drivers with an improved torque curve throughout the rev range
- Functional vents and air outlets maximize handling precision
- Updated interior features new seating, 7-in. digital instrument cluster and multimedia system
- Complimentary 1-year membership to the National Auto Sport Association (NASA) with 1 High Performance Driving Event (HPDE)

### **TOYOTA GAZOO Racing**

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing embodies Toyota’s commitment to overcoming every limit to make ‘ever-better’ cars, forge new technologies and find mobility solutions under the extreme conditions of motorsports.

Competing on every kind of road, no matter what the challenge, inspires TOYOTA GAZOO Racing to continuously improve the quality of all Toyota vehicles and engineer Toyota's future DNA that brings freedom, adventure and the joy of driving to everyone. For more information, visit [www.toyotagazooracing.com](http://www.toyotagazooracing.com).