

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION Inc

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAT'S UP HERE AND THERE



By Larry Becker

Charges against Madison Turner of Atlanta Georgia who was cited by a local police officer for driving while eating were dismissed by Cobb County Solicitor General Barry Morgan who said the state did not have enough evidence to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Finding on-street parking has become increasingly difficult as cities across the nation eliminate parking spaces in favor of creating safer roadways for non-motorists. At least 712 jurisdictions across 42 states have been moving toward implementing “Complete Streets” policy, according to National Complete Street Coalition. These policies are meant to make streets more accessible for all types of commuters. This seems to have led to a heated fight for curb space, as parking spaces are taken out in favor of bike lanes, bus lanes, pedestrian walkways and even parklets, small parks built by extending sidewalks into neighboring parking spaces.

Every state in the nation offers specialty license plates. Maryland offers nearly 800, including one for the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. They cost extra, proceeds usually are split between the states and the sponsoring organizations. Texas has refused to offer the Sons of Confederate plate following objections raised by residents who equate the flag with slavery. The Supreme Court will decide the issue. The big question is freedom of speech and blocking offensive language on the plates. Texas does offer 385 other specialty plates.

Funds raised for the Highway Trust Fund from the federal excise tax on gas tires & etc, has increased a great deal over the past 20 years, 1993-\$18 billion, 2003-\$34 billion and \$37 billion in 2013 according to a report released by the Federal Highway Administration.

Not all of the following state bills are laws at this time. They have recently been introduced and are currently under consideration by the respective legislatures.

ARIZONA

The Grand Canyon National Park infrastructure needs \$329.5 million in repairs according to the Arizona Republic newspaper. A National Park Service said repairs to all national parks in the state have been off for so long that it will cost more than \$500 million to bring them up to standards.

CALIFORNIA

As part of its one-state war on global warming, California grants rebates of \$2,500 to purchasers of electric vehicles, no matter how wealthy they are, or how much the vehicle costs. State Senator, Ted Gaines, has introduced S.B. 40, a bill that would limit tax to cars that cost no more than \$40,000. He feels the \$2,500 rebate on electric vehicles amounts as a taxpayers subsidy to Tesla Motors which routinely sells its cars for upwards of \$100,000, of no less than \$34 million so far to 13,600 customers. Assemblyman Henry T. Pera has proposed a bill that would grant rebates for used electric vehicles.

Same old story!! A new report has found tiny cracks in a rod extracted from the new San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge by the California Dept. of Transportation. Independent experts have cautioned that the structure could prove vulnerable in an earthquake temblor, but insist that the bridge is safe.

CALTRANS will conduct a one year study on phasing out all of the bridge toll takers in the San Francisco Bay Area and replace them with the automated toll systems used on the Golden Gate Bridge.

CONNECTICUT

A nearly \$300 million project widening Interstate 84 near Waterbury began on March 30th. The 2.7 mile stretch of highway has been labeled as one of the state's most infamous bottlenecks by Gov. Malloy.

D.C. WASHINGTON

The transportation department's annual Potholepalooza program runs through April. Residents can submit requests for pothole repairs, and crews will try to respond within 72 hours.

GEORGIA

The Dept. of Transportation is mapping state highways to identify potentially dangerous guardrails.

HAWAII

A ferry that runs between Molokai and Maui is reducing service in an attempt to stay afloat according to the Maui News.

INDIANA

Executives of the Indiana Toll Road's bankrupt operator will divide up nearly \$2.5 million in bonuses. The extra pay is thanks to an Australian company's \$5.72 billion agreement to buy the company according to a report by The (Munster) Times.

IOWA

Two women have filed a lawsuit against the city of Des Moines and Gatso USA, the company contracted to run its automated traffic cameras.

KENTUCKY

More than 300 bridges and overpasses in Louisville and surrounding counties, including Southern Indiana, are structurally deficient or

functionally obsolete, according to data the state's transportation departments submitted to the Federal Highway Administration last year. Kentucky and Indiana transportation officials maintain that, all of the bridges are safe for public use, The Courier-Journal reports.

LOUISIANA

A proposed budget cut would mothball nine historic sites: Audubon, Fort Pike, Longfellow, Rebel State, Fort Randolph, Fort Jessup, Marksville, Plaquemine Lock and Centenary.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston city officials have announced plans to replace existing bike lanes with protected bike lanes- known as cycle tracks- from the Boston University Bridge to Packard's corner. The lanes will be about two-thirds of a mile and use parked cars as a barrier between cyclists and vehicle traffic in a move to cut down on accidents.

MICHIGAN

Macomb County (Warren) Executive Mark Hackel wants motorists to call 911 to report dangerous potholes, pledging that the county road crews would assess and address the complaints within an hour, the Detroit Free Press reports.

MISSISSIPPI

After several years of debate and failed attempts, the Legislature eliminated Mississippi's \$5 vehicle inspection and stickers.

MISSOURI

Gateway Arch patrons now need a ticket just to get inside the doors, a change from the previous policy of requiring tickets only for rides. Officials say the change is necessary because renovation to the Arch grounds and museum have limited the available space.

NEW MEXICO

A study found U.S. 82 to be the highway in greatest need of an overhaul in the state, according to The Hobbs News-Sun. The route in Lea and Eddy Counties sees a high volume of traffic due to the oil industry.

NEW YORK

The State Assembly has again unanimously passed Alix's law, which would make it illegal to leave the scene of an accident while intoxicated. It is named after Alix Rice, an Amherst teen killed in 2011 by a drunken driver who was later acquitted on a felony charge of leaving the scene of an accident.

NORTH CAROLINA

The state will stop paying the bulk of driver's education costs this summer though state law will still require students to attend the classes, the Asheville Citizen Times reports. The state will cap the amount local officials can charge for the classes to \$65 per student.

NORTH DAKOTA

Motor County is investing \$6,000 in upgrades to the Old Red Old Ten Scenic Bypass. The 108-mile bypass marks historic and notable spots between Morton and Stark counties through a series of signs and trail systems, The Bismarck Tribune reports.

OHIO

Interest in electric vehicles is spurring demand for charging stations to service them in the Cincinnati area.

The Chagrin Falls City Council has banned the use of all cellphones while driving as of April 8th, WKYC-TV reports. Ohio is one of the few states that do not have a state law concerning driving and cellphone use.

OKLAHOMA

The city of Tulsa will introduce new parking devices later this year. The Journal Record reports that “customers?” can use coin or credit cards at the meter or pay by phone.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville County-affiliated board has asked for bids to build a personal rapid transit system that could stretch across 20 miles to connect high-traffic locations in the city, The Greenville News reports.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Lead City officials hope a new visitor center will help spur a revival for what was once the state’s richest town, according to the Rapid City Journal. The center, made possible by a grant from philanthropist T. Denny Sanford, is scheduled to open June 1st.

TEXAS

According to the Dallas Morning News, there are 130 natural gas filling stations across the state, a 25% percent increase since September.

WASHINGTON

A citizen committee’s recommendation to raise the Tacoma Narrows Bridge tolls 50 cents each of the next two summers has been approved.

WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia Division of Highways faces nearly 200 claims seeking payment for road-related injuries and damage according to the Dominion Post. Most of the claims are for vehicle damages.

WYOMING

The state Senate has passed a bill that would require motorists to give at least 3 feet of room when passing bicyclists. Violators wouldn't face arrest or fines because the bill does not include penalties.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Speed Traps! Chicago had the highest number of traffic cameras of any city and in February, 2014, tickets were issued under yellow lights that lasted 2.9 seconds. After the practice was exposed by the Chicago Tribune, they returned the yellow lights to 3 seconds which is the minimum by federal law. Many drivers still complain that it is not enough time at 30 mph to get through intersections. The city issues \$35 tickets to drivers who drive six to 10 mph over the limit and \$100 for 11 mph over the limit. Cities strapped for cash are turning to speed traps for revenue. Most speed cameras are operated by private companies who get a cut of the fines. Most cities have their yellow lights set at a little over just 3 seconds such as 3.5 or 3.9 seconds. In 2013, Florida reduced the timing of their yellow lights and it generated more than \$100 million in extra revenue.

Great job opportunity!! The agency that provides bus service in the Seattle, Washington area is looking to hire a "comfort station coordinator" whose job will be to find easily accessible restrooms for drivers, KOMO TV reports.

Delphi engineers are planning to drive a modified Audi self-driving car 3500 miles across the U.S., San Francisco to New York in a test drive to push self-driving car technology. A team of Delphi engineers will leave about March 22nd in a vehicle equipped with special cameras, radar and software. They hope to make the drive in a week. Tesla has also developed a self-driving car and tested it by driving from San Francisco to Seattle, Washington. They have also made some updates to the Model S cars and the updates will be downloaded wirelessly to the Model S cars already on the road.

\$20 in gas and 64 ounces to go!! Draft beer taps where customers can have 64-ounce growlers filled with beer to go have been installed in dozens of gas stations, grocery stores and other retailers around the USA. About 35 states allow retailers to sell the refillable, half gallon glass jug known as growlers. Florida, Iowa and Missouri are considering laws to allow the practice.

Although many U.S. auto makers have plants in Mexico making 1,000s of vehicles daily, most residents buy used vehicles. Auto brokers every day sweep up more than 1,000 discarded or partially wrecked vehicles at U.S. auctions and send them back across the border to be sold at used car lots.

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