



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

The new chairman of the U.S. House Transportation Committee, Sam Graves, is proposing revenue from miles driven, rather raising the gasoline tax. Fees could be calculated based on odometer checks, or by GPS tracking devices. Michael Leius of the Colorado Dept. of Transportation has told committee members that it would take at least 10 years of more for a program charging miles per driven tax before it could be fully implemented.

Uber has launched a new service called Express Pool. It is a low cost service for passengers who are willing to share their ride with strangers and beginning and ending their journeys at specific pickup and drop off points. Using Uber's mobile apps, passengers are matched with other passengers traveling in the same direction.

On Monday, March 19th, a Uber self-driving Volvo struck a pedestrian in Tempe, Arizona who later died at the hospital. She was walking out side a crosswalk when she was struck. Uber had suspended all testing of such autos in the U.S. and Canada.

Pedestrian deaths totaled nearly 6,000 in 2017 for the second straight year amid mounting signs that walkers and drivers are dangerously distracted according to a new survey. Some experts say this is due to smartphones and marijuana. Texting while walking is especially risky in urban environments. Combine that with drivers who are using their phones or touchscreens while driving and It's a recipe for fatalities. In addition, drugged driving and walking are believed to be a growing contributor. About 75% of pedestrian fatalities occur at night, making road illumination critical. Both distracted drivers and pedestrians are to blame. There are proposals to ban texting while walking, but Hawaii is the only state where it is banned. In the seven states and D.C. that legalized marijuana for recreational use, pedestrian deaths spiked 16.4% in the first half of 2017. At the

same time, deaths fell 5.8% in other states. One expert says that people who are texting and walking, usually do not walk a straight line and often wander out into traffic unaware of what they are doing.

According to Zebra (auto insurance comparison website) the national average cost of car insurance this year is \$1,427, a 20% increase since 2011. State by state, the smallest increase was in North Carolina and the largest was in Michigan. Experts say the increases are due to more crashes caused by distracted drivers.

More drivers are using dash cams as their “second set” of eyes. They cost from \$100 to \$400 with some capable of capturing multiple views around a vehicle.

A teen in Anthem, Arizona had filed a complaint against Starbucks because they refused service at the drive-thru window because he was riding a horse.

Starbucks said drive-thru windows are for cars only for safety reasons. The next day, after a TV report, Starbucks’ district manager called the 14 year old girl and told her it was ok to ride her horse thru the drive-up lane.

Tesla is raising the rates for their Super Charger (fast charge) stations by various amounts in several states. In California, the rise is about 2 cents per KWH, but in Oregon, it goes from 12 to 24 cents per KWH. There are about 8500 Super Charger stations in the U.S. Tesla gives some owners about 400 free KWH of charging per year on some models, but the new Model 3 will not have any free hours. Most models get a 50% charge in about 20 minutes. A full 100% charge will take much longer and may cost as much as \$22. (Information from article by Newsweek.)

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

ARKANSAS

A judge has given supporters of the old White River Bridge in Clarendon, 90-days to find a way to prevent the 87-year-old span from being demolished.

ARIZONA

The state DMV plans to offer online testing for teens seeking a driver’s instruction permit, but they still must pass a road skills test to get a license.

The Supreme Court has rejected Arizona's plea to review a lower courts decision that stops the state from refusing to issue driver's licenses to "Dreamers" immigrants who are protected from deportation.

A months long project is underway to improve the interchange of I-40 and I-17.

ARKANSAS

State highway officials plan to turn U.S. 67 into an extension of Interstate 57.

CALIFORNIA

Starting in early April, auto manufactures and technology companies will be free to put cars on California roads and streets with no one at the wheel – and in fact no one in the vehicle (driverless delivery vans). DMV has received legal approval to publish the ground rules and will be issuing permits in late March or early April. The testing companies must have a permit, a communication link between the vehicle and a "remote operator" who would monitor a vehicle being controlled by an onboard computer. Also, the testing companies must have a way of letting others on the road know who owns the vehicle in case that the vehicle were to be in a accident. It must provide police a way to deactivate the car and communicate with the car company and must carry proof of insurance. There are other requiremenys also.

In early March, the California Air Resources Board issued new regulations pertaining to emissions and the CHP has begun to increase inspections of big rigs for violations.

Legislation has been introduced (SB 1407) which would allow drivers to take multiple pictures at their DMV field offices if they do not like the first photo, but they will have to payb a fee to do that and then the driver, gets to choose his photo.

WHOA!! Police arrested a man, whose blood alcohol level was twice the legal limit, for riding his horse on a freeway near Long Beach.

CONNECTICUT

State lawmakers are considering whether to penalize illegal parking of non-electric vehicles at EV charging stations.

D.C. WASHINGTON

Police have banned special events parking, citing vehicle attacks elsewhere.

DELAWARE

Ouch!! A tractor-trailer driver carrying luxury cars got stuck in an underpass for nine hours, damaging several Porches and Bentleys.

IDAHO

State legislatures have rejected a proposed “pet friendly” specialty license plate that would have helped fund spay and neutering programs.

INDIANA

Indianapolis police increased thair DUI patrols for St Patrick’s Day and the NCAA tournament.

IOWA

State officials blame an abrupt drop in tourism on two road projects, one that closed Maquoketa Caves State Park and one blocking a bridge near Sabula.

KENTUCKY

Officials say a bridge painting project will cause intermittent lane closures along a 10-mile stretch of I-64 in Bath County. The \$1.2 million dollar project is expected to be completed by July 31.

The old Richardsville Road Bridge that dates back to 1889, has been closed due to concerns about deteriorating trusses.

LOUISIANA

Lafayette’s red-light cameras are gone for good, but they may be replaced with cameras in some school yards.

MAINE

Authorities said three bridges in Piscataquis and Penobscot counties will be replaced by using a \$10.8 million dollar federal grant.

MARYLAND

Boston will expand its speed and red-light camera system, nearly doubling it.

MICHIGAN

In February the Mackinac Bridge was closed to traffic because of a weather issue, falling ice, but reopened later in the day. It was the fourth closure this year.

Authorities say sensor-equipped signs in the state's northern Lower Peninsula warn motorists of slippery roads.

MINNESOTA

Wearing Green did not help. The State Patrol said it made 370 drunk driver arrests over St Patrick's Day weekend, up from 175 last year.

MISSISSIPPI

State lawmakers have sent Gov. Bryant a bill that would set fines up to \$50 for impeding traffic in the left lane of any road with at least 4 lanes.

MISSOURI

The Gateway Arch will now be known as the Gateway National Park.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Police in Concord could no longer set up sobriety checkpoints under a bill passed by the New Hampshire House, but not yet approved by the state Senate.

Preliminary designers for repair work on the Piscataqua River Bridge estimate that construction could not start until 2021.

NEVADA

Reno's last drive – thru wedding chapel, The Chapel of Bells, closed the last week of February. It had opened in 1962.

One in three state motorists could see a 9% jump in auto insurance rates by July 1, when required bodily injury and property damage coverage rates rise.

NEW JERSEY

In February, Jersey City Police began issuing tickets to drivers accused of excessive horn honking in support of a teachers union protest.

NEW YORK

State lawmakers are balking at setting tolls to enter Manhattan's busiest streets.

In the last week of March, Gov. Cuomo said that he remains "cautiously optimistic" of getting congestion tolls for busy Manhaattan streets.

OHIO

The state will end same-day driver's license testing and issuing.

Transportation officials plan a three year, \$51 millon project to revamp the Akron Expressway and Central interchange, but will not start until 2021.

A jury ordered the state Turnpike Commission to pay \$1.1 million for less than a half-acre plot that the commission tried to acquire for \$11,865.

Ordered to repay \$3 million in citations stemming from automated traffic cameras, the city of New Miami has asked the state Supreme Court to hear its appeal.

OREGON

Visitor fees are expected to rise May 1st at Crater Lake National Park.

PENNSYLVANIA

Several truck driver groups have filed a lawsuit against the state Turnpike and the state Dept. of Transportation to challenge a 6% toll increase that took effect in January.

RHODE ISLAND

A local court in Providence was jammed with people om March 5th contesting speeding tickets after a new school zone speed camera system program resulted in 12,000 tickets in 33 days.

Many of the thousands of people who received tickets, are now suing to end the program.

UTAH

Drivers stuck at a stop-light with no traffic in sight, could run a red-light under a measure in the state legislature.

EV-maker, Tesla, is on track to sell cars in Utah under a deal approved by state lawmakers.

WISCONSIN

A University of Wisconsin Hospital study of trauma patients found that motorcyclists without helmets are twice as likely to get neck injuries than helmet users.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

A man who lived in New Jersey was visiting friends in West Virginia. He attended a party, thought that he had too much to drink, so he called Uber. When the driver arrived, he got in the back seat and when the driver asked him his address, he gave his home address in New Jersey and fell asleep. When he awoke, he had arrived at his home in New Jersey and the Uber fee was \$1500. The fee was paid by a fund raising group who said he did the right thing by not driving after drinking.

A survey by AT&T and Kantar Value found that 34% of Americans say that self-driving cars will make roads more dangerous, but 44% would use them if they were available.

Uber has been sending self driving trucks on delivery runs across Arizona since November of 2017, in the first step in what promises to be a freight transportation revolution that could radically reshape the jobs of long haul truckers. At present, a Uber team member rides in the cab, but to monitor, not drive. There are 3.5 million truck drivers in the U.S. The annual revenue of the trucking industry is about \$700 billion according to U.S. Today. Unless you live in Arizona, California, Nevada, Michigan and Florida, you are unlikely to come across a truck that isn't helmed by a driver.

Uber and Lyft have plunged into the health care business to transport the 3.6 million people who miss medical appointments each year to their doctors office. Under Uber health, a program that will allow health care providers to schedule rides for patients. Lyft has crafted a partnership over the past few years working with health insurers, hospital systems and medical transport services to help patients to and from medical care in non-emergency situations. Some medical providers schedule the rides through Lyft and Uber and are free but not all rides are free, it depends on the health provider.

Americans bought 199,826 plug-in electric passenger vehicles in 2017, 25% more than in 2016.

RU1? A recent survey shows that 6% of Americans used a delivery service to buy groceries in the last 30 days.

In Laporte, Ind, a driver is facing reckless driving charges after he was accused of driving his Dodge Challenger Hellcat 160 mph on the Indiana Toll Road.

The Henry J (Kaiser-Frazer Company) was manufactured from September 1950 until 1953. Some models were sold in 1954, but were really 1953 models. Sears also sold a model of the Henry J for two years and sold it under the name of Allstate.



Larry Becker

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