

# CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc

## OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE



*by Larry Becker*

*Law enforcement agencies across the nation are starting strict enforcement of traffic laws during the holiday season. They are looking for DUI drivers, speeders, drivers using hand-held communication devices (cellphone use and texting), and not using seat belts are just a few of things they will be looking for.*

*The following state bills are not laws at this time. They have recently been introduced and are currently under consideration by the respective state legislators.*

## ALABAMA

*The Montgomery City Council has approved the use of speed cameras. A spokesperson for the mayor said that schools, construction zones, and neighborhoods plagued by speeding motorists will be targeted. Residents will receive a 30 day notice of when the ordinance takes effect.*

## ARIZONA

*The state Department of Transportation says its crews are ready for winter. Nearly 200 snowplows have been serviced and maintenance yards are stocked with 24,000 tons of de-icer chemicals.*

## CALIFORNIA

*The DMV has sent out notices to 13,000 vehicle owners saying that they needed to have smog checks on their vehicles. This was an error as the vehicles are not actually due a smog check this year. The DMV requires smog checks every two years, but 13,000 vehicle owners who got their vehicles checked last year got a notice saying they need it again this year. The DMV says its not sending corrected registration renewals or notices advising of the problem to those who got the error. They say they have notified smog stations about the error, but some smog stations say that they were not aware of the error.*

*On Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, CALTRANS announced that it had fired a technician responsible for seismic testing of the new San Francisco Bay Bridge after an investigation concluded he falsified safety tests on other projects. CATRANS spokesperson Bart Ney said the tech (Duane Wiles) work had been reviewed and there were no fabrications found in his testing for the new Bay Bridge. Wile's supervisor, Brian Liebrichr, also was terminated. The State Transportation committee will examine whether the state conducted adequate structural testing on the Bay Bridge and other bridges.*

*The California Air Resources Board is now being investigated by a federal committee. Rep. Darrell has sent CARB Chairwoman Mary Nicholas a 13-page letter in early November advising her that he was "expanding" the committee's ongoing*

*investigation into the establishment of fuel economy standards. Nicholas had declined to attend a committee hearing on the subject in October.*

*Most convicted drunken drivers in the state are failing to obey a new law requiring them to install alcohol diction devices in their vehicles. Instead, state officials say the offenders are either choosing not to drive or driving with suspended licenses. The law which has been in effect since mid-2010 has been billed as a test to see if forcing DYI drivers, including first time offenders, to take a breath analyzer on their dashboard for months or years will keep them from becoming repeat offenders. The ignition locking device blocks a car's engine from starting if the driver has alcohol on his or her breath. Backers of the bill are confident that compliance will improve.*

*There is a proposal to build a by-pass around some casinos on Hwy50 around some of the casinos at the Nevada state line. Present Hwy 50 would become a local street. To do that, officials plan to divert Hwy 50 up the hill behind Harrah's and Mont Bleu casinos, along Lake Parkway. It would be a short by-pass, about a mile long.*

## **COLORADO**

*The Fort Collins City Council will keep restrictions barring electric bicycles from trails due to safety concerns. The council says electric bicycles are legitimate forms of transportation, but they should be limited to streets and bike lanes.*

## **CONNECTICUT**

*The state Department of Transportation is studying whether a multi-use trail along the Merritt Parkway, stretching from Greenwich to Stratford, is feasible. The proposed trail would be located within the undeveloped highway right-of-way and would use the wooded buffer between the road and abutting properties.*

*Federal transportation officials committed \$275 million for a busway linking New Britain and Hartford. The \$567 million project is to provide bus service to 16,000 passengers a day starting in 2014. Connecticut's share is \$112 million. Gov. Mallory says the 9.4 mile corridor will create jobs and reduce traffic congestion.*

## **DELAWARE**

*A Delaware couple who believe racial and ethnic minorities should be expelled from this country have received state approval for their neo-Nazi group to adopt a rural highway. They didn't get to put the word Nazi as they desired on two Adopt A Highway signs the Delaware Department of transportation recently erected along a 2-mile stretch of Cedar Grove Road in Sussex County, Delaware.*

## *ILLINOIS*

*Mothers Against Drunk Driving gave the state its highest rating for efforts to combat impaired driving. The Department of transportation says there were 436 alcohol- - related crash deaths last year down from 711 in 1999.*

## *MARYLAND*

*Fee increases for the state's bridges and tunnels became effective on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, the Washington Post reported. On the Bay Bridge, the tolls went from \$2.50 to \$4. On the Nice Bridge in Southern Maryland, the fee increased from \$3 to \$4. Tolls on both bridges will increase again in July 2013 to \$6.*

*In late November the Intercounty Connector opened seven weeks ahead of schedule the Washington Post reported. The \$2.56 billion project will link Interstate 370 in Gaithersburg and Interstate 95 in Laurel.*

*The State Highway Administration has added two odd-looking "tow plows" to its winter fleet. The Tow Plow is attached to the right rear while the truck plows the lane directly in front of it.*

## *MASSACHUSETTS*

*On Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, the state Transportation Committee held a public hearing on changes lawmakers are considering to the state motorcycle laws. One proposal would lift the helmet requirements for riders and passengers over age 21.*

## *MICHIGAN*

*The city of Lansing is giving a surprise to some motorists who receive parking tickets at expired meters. Instead of a ticket in the envelope, they may find a waiver saying,*

*“This ones on us – time ran out on your parking meter, but instead of receiving a ticket, you have been randomly selected for a waiver.”*

*The city of Ann Arbor Transportation Authority is getting \$2.1 million in aid towards the costs of hybrid-electric buses. The grant comes from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Clean Fuels Program, designed to help communities adopt clean-energy technologies.*

## *NEW HAMPSHIRE*

*New Hampshire Motor Speedway has opened a mile-drive through light park. Through Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, the speedway will be lit with more than 1 million holiday lights to raise money for a charity that helps needy children throughout New England. The cost is \$15 a vehicle.*

## *NEW MEXICO*

*A man is being held on a \$100,000 cash bond after being charged with driving while intoxicated for the 16<sup>th</sup> time. Jonny Ignacio was arrested on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> after allegedly passing out behind the wheel and blocking traffic. Court records show that Ignacio has been convicted eight times of drunken driving and has a case pending in Nevada.*

## *NEW YORK*

*The New York City Department of transportation is accepting applications for “slow zones” neighborhoods where the speed limit would be reduced from 30 mph to 20 mph. According to the agency’s website, a zone will be denoted by speed bumps, markings and other “traffic calming treatments.” Applicants must be received by Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

*Car owners in New York City who fail to move their vehicles for alternate-side parking risk a ticket and a bright yellow sticker slapped on their car. The city Sanitation Department is considering a pilot program to eliminate the stickers in some neighborhoods. It is also considering stickers that can be peeled off more easily.*

*The towns of Camilus, Clay, DeWitt, Manius and Otisco wont plow roads owned by Onondaga County this winter because they say the county doesn’t pay them enough for the work. The county will take over plowing 60 miles of road in those towns. Town*

*trucks will lift their plows and drive over county roads to get to town roads that they need to plow.*

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

*Police in Smithfield say they may have to stop investigating misdemeanors and ignore some 911 calls if town leaders don't provide more gas money. Town leaders have asked Police Chief Scott to find an alternative to shifting \$39,000 from the supply budget to pay for gas.*

## **OHIO**

*The state Department of Transportation will test a new de-icing system that goes on the back of a truck and treat up to three lanes at one time. The system spreads finely ground salt. If the system works, the state will purchase more of the machines at a cost of \$93,000 each.*

*The state Transportation Dept. has finished setting up an \$18 million system of cameras, sensors and traffic signs to monitor highways. Traffic is being tracked in the Akron Canton and Cleveland areas and the system is expected to expand to Cincinnati, Columbus, Springfield and Toledo areas by 2014. Residents will be able to use a statewide website to view aerial shots of highways.*

## **OKLAHOMA**

*Motorists who drive drunk or fail to stop for a school bus loading or unloading children faced stiff new penalties as of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Nearly 200 new Oklahoma laws took effect on Nov.1<sup>st</sup> ranging from restrictions on abortion to criminal justice reforms aimed at reducing the state's overcrowded prison system.*

## **TENNESSEE**

*A plan to build a temporary bridge over the Clinch River has been scuttled because federal regulations that protect endangered freshwater mussels, prevents construction that could affect their habitat. The state Department of Transportation estimates nearly 700 vehicles a day cross the existing bridge, which is scheduled to be under repair for 12 to 18 months.*

## UTAH

*The state is introducing an intersection to busy roads in the suburb of Draper that drivers drive through to make left turns. The Utah Dept. of Transportation says the new State Street intersection will improve traffic flow by 89%. The design requires drivers making left turns to continue through the intersection for about 500 feet and double back making a u-turn. A similar intersection is to open next summer in Keams.*

## VIRGINIA

*The city of Bristol is converting its traffic lights to LED signals to improve energy efficiency and traffic safety. The conversion will also save money. The \$400,000 project is funded by federal stimulus money. The project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2012.*

*The state Department of Transportation has set up an online time-lapse camera just south of a construction site at Twin Bridges that will more than 250 feet tall and will span Route 610 and Grassy Creek. They're part of the Route 46 Connector project and will be the commonwealth's tallest bridge.*

*The Pentagon has awarded the state \$180 million to widen a highway serving Fort Belvoir. Construction on Route 1, used by 56,000 vehicles a day, could begin 2013.*

## WASHINGTON

*The winter driving season has officially arrived with studded tires now legal on highways in Washington and Oregon. They can roll right through March despite the ruts and other damages they do to pavement without ice or snow, estimated at \$18 million a year by one Washington Transportation study.*

*Sales of a new state park parking pass, the \$30 annual Discover Pass, are not raising the cash anticipated. Lawmakers have drastically cut park funding. The News Tribune reports that if the Discover Pass program fails, most of the 16 parks might to close.*

## WEST VIRGINIA

*The State Police want to establish a non-emergency number the public could call to get information from law enforcement. The agency asked the Public Service Commission for exclusive use of the 311 dialing code.*

## WISCONSIN

*Gov. Walker has signed nine bills he says will make it easier to transport produce products and lower the cost of doing business. The laws change the rules for transporting modular homes, hay or straw, agricultural crops, and long poles and pipes. One bill extends the length of an allowable vehicle to 45 feet without obtaining a permit.*

## WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

*Local governments hungry for revenue are signing contracts with red-light camera companies that put profit over traffic safety according to a new study by a national public interest advocacy group. Some contracts restrict police from doing things like lengthening the yellow signal and leave the taxpayers holding the bag if the contracts are terminated early, says the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, the foundation of state public interest research group.*

*Two major radar detector makers are introducing features that automatically share the location of police or photo speed traps or red-light cameras with all others on the system. Both show how “crowd sourcing”- linking people to share mass information – promises to revolutionize transportation by giving motorists real-time traffic data*

*reported by fellow travelers. The devices cost starts at approx. \$79 depending on which one you purchase.*

*In a potentially ground-breaking case on high-tech tracking by police, the Supreme Court will decide whether such constant surveillance is such an intrusion on people's lives that police need a warrant before attaching a GPS device to a person's car.*

*Amid fresh evidence that warnings against distracted driving isn't sinking in, the USA's top road safety agency, state's attorneys generals and the AD Council are launching a campaign aimed at drivers 16-24 years old.*

*On Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Police in Tampa Florida said the streets were clear of panhandlers on the first day of a six-day-a-week ban on street begging. The ban went into effect on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. The law allows panhandling on Sunday.*

*Remember the Cash For Clinkers Program???* Now there is one for trucks.

*A program implemented this year by the South Carolina Port Authority in conjunction with the state's dept. of Health and Environmental Control and with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers truckers a \$5,000 incentive plus the scrap value of their trucks, if it was made before 1994, to buy a 2004 or newer model truck. The program is also available in various parts of the U.S.*

*SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL*

*Larry Becker*

