



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

### **PLUS WHATS UP HERE AND THERE**

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

#### **ALASKA**

**In the second week of November, anyone with unpaid-parking fines at the University of Alaska Anchorage had the option to reduce or cover the cost of the tickets with peanut butter jelly donations, which were donated to local charity groups.**

#### **ARKANSAS**

**State highway officials have designated a stretch of Arkansas 22 as ‘True Grit Trail’ in honor of the classic novel by Arkansas native Charles Portis.**

#### **CALIFORNIA**

**On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the state stopped buying gas-powered sedans as part of Gov. Newsom’s administration’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The rule exempts public safety vehicles at this time. The new rules also require starting next year state agencies buy vehicles from manufacturers that recognize California’s ability to set its own air pollution standards, a power that the feds are trying to revoke. California’s vehicle fleet includes about 51,000 cars and trucks and only about 3,000 of the vehicles were hybrids or zero emissions as of last year, according to the Dept. of General Services. Most automakers wanted a nationwide federal ruling on vehicle emissions that is the same for every state.**

**California has joined 22 other states in a lawsuit against the EPA over the Fed’s attempt to revoke part of a waiver it granted California in 2013 permitting the state to impose its greenhouse gas and zero emission vehicle standards.**

#### **CONNECTICUT**

**Hartford is considering turning five residential streets into “bicycle” boulevards. The city has held hearings to discuss repurposing the roads for use mostly by bicycle and pedestrian traffic.**

**Republicans in the state Senate are unveiling an alternative transportation plan they say doesn’t rely on tolls and taxes.**

**Democratic leaders of the state House of Representatives have suggested that Gov. Lamont reconsider tolling just for big trucks, a concept the Democrats campaigned on during last year's election but discarded in favor of tolling all vehicles.**

## **ILLINOIS**

**The state is receiving \$70,000 in federal money to help build infrastructure for a corridor supporting alternative-fuel vehicles along Interstate 80.**

## **IOWA**

**A new specialty license plate with white lettering over a black background is now the states most popular. The state DMV has issued more than 46,000 "Blackout" plates since early July.**

## **KANSAS**

**The city of Wichita will add the state's first electric buses to its public transit fleet in hopes of saving hundreds of thousands of dollars and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, that contribute to global warming.**

**The state transportation department says Kansas hit a 10-year high for deer-related crashes last year.**

## **KENTUCKY**

**A federal court is allowing a man to personalize a license plate reading "IMGOD" after a 3-year legal battle.**

**The state plans to set up 12 regional offices to issue special driver's licenses that will be needed in less than a year to board domestic airline flights.**

## **MAINE**

**On October 25<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Mills unveiled a new fast-charging station for electric vehicles at the Maine Turnpike plaza in West Gardiner, saying it was funded through a federal Volkswagen settlement**

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

**Highway exit numbers in the state are changing over the next few years in cooperation with a federal mandate for exits to signify distance from the beginning of the route.**

## **MICHIGAN**

**The Detroit Historical Museum will begin to charge patrons from outside the Motor City area an admission fee for the first time in seven years.**

## **MISSOURI**

**A state panel wants a test track for an ultra-high-speed Hyperloop system to be-built in the state.**

## **MONTANA**

**The speed limit on a deadly stretch of U.S. 2 was reduced to 65 mph in early November.**

**Glacier National Park officials are working on plans to reduce congestion on the” Going-to-the-Sun Road”.**

## **NEBRASKA**

**The state Transportation Dept. is offering to produce and emplace roadside memorials as a way to keep highways free of safety hazard.**

## **NEVADA**

**State public safety officials are beginning a drive to improve pedestrian safety with chalk silhouettes on roads, reflective bands for people crossing streets, and advisories for motorists. A “Dusk 2 dawn” campaign started November 5<sup>th</sup> in and around Las Vegas, where 91 white outlines marked spots where pedestrians died in recent years.**

**A proposed Las Vegas ordinance to criminalize camping on or sleeping on downtown streets when beds are available at established shelters passed on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> against a backdrop of protests in and around city hall.**

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

**Construction is moving along on the Long X Bridge project near Bismarck while future funding remains unclear for the rest of the U.S. Highway 85 expansion.**

## **OHIO**

**Only 14% of the states issued drivers and ID card holders have opted to get a new federally compliant REAL ID.**

**A law enforcement official said he has persuaded bishops of an Amish sect to install blinking lights on buggies to make them more visible to motorists. Chief Deputy Sheriff Carl Richert has been working with local Amish and Mennonite communities for years to make buggies and wagons easier to spot.**

**Uber and Lyft are urging the state to resume requiring front license plates.**

## **OKLAHOMA**

**A Republican lawmaker has abandoned his effort to rename a stretch of Route 66 after President Donald Trump.**

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Police officers are alleging in some DUI cases that people who recently smoked marijuana have green tongues, despite a lack of science backing up the idea.**

**After four years of testing, the Pennsylvania Turnpike says it plans to move ahead with a \$129 million project to become a completely cashless toll system in two years, eliminating hundreds of jobs along the way.**

**The state Turnpike Commission has agreed to pay the town of Monroeville nearly \$1 million for its public swimming pool at Bel-Air Park, as part of a road -widening project.**

## **RHODE ISLAND**

**The state has launched a campaign to make more electric vehicle charging stations accessible to drivers.**

**An analysis of Providences electric bike and scooter share shows users took nearly 170,000 scooter rides and more than 280,000 bike rides in the first year of the program.**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**A new segment of the Carolina Bays Parkway between state highway 707 and 544 has opened.**

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**The state Transportation Commission has passed new rules for truck platooning. The practice links trucks in a convoy, using connected technology and automated driving support systems.**

**Visiting and camping in state parks will be more costly after legislators gave a proposed fee increase the OK.**

**Gov. Noen says the state is now more than 99% compliant with federal REALID requirements ahead of next year's deadline.**

## **TENNESSEE**

**To alleviate issues with driver's license facilities, the state Dept. of Safety and Homeland Security is looking to hire 80 employees, expand hours, considering outsourcing some operations and implement recommendations from more than a decade-old-study.**

## **UTAH**

**Salt Lake City officials have bought more than 100 new hybrid sedans for the police department, but some officers warn they are too small for use as patrol cars.**

## **VIRGINIA**

**State officials say the state is seeing an alarming increase in the number of motorcycle deaths when the rider was not wearing a helmet.**

## **WASHINGTON**

**An anti-tax activist is again bringing a \$30 car tab initiative to voters that would cut a major source of funding for transportation projects across the state.**

**Sound Transit board members have abandoned ideas for a \$450 million tunnel into the city's historic central historic district.**

## **WISCONSIN**

**Gov. Evers has signed into law a measure that changes how electric bikes, or e-bikes are regulated in a move designed to increase rider safety.**

### ***WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE***

***National guidelines note that yellow traffic lights should last about three to four seconds, depending in part on the speed limit. But intersections that have a red light camera can generate controversy. "They can be viewed as ticket traps" says Timothy Gates, a Michigan State University associate professor of civil engineering. If a yellow light seems short, report it. "It's up to older drivers to be their own advocates," says Richard Retting of Schwartz Engineering.***

***Ford has decided to end production of Ford Flex Sports Utility vehicle as the automaker continues to overhaul its lineup to maximize its focus on hot sellers and new models. The Ford Flex debuted in 2008 and more than 296,000 units of the vehicle were sold by 2019.***

***A company in Scotland has developed a new use for plastic waste. It is ground up, added to other materials and used to make roads.***

***Ford says that starting in 2020, Ford redesigned vehicle models will allow software updates over the internet or through cellular phone connections. Owners will be able to opt in to the program and get updates over their home wireless network at no cost.***

***A new device, the Suspended Particle Device, which is the Star Trek-like name for a film that turns vehicle's sunroofs and other glass from transparent to opaque, blocking the infrared and ultraviolet light that superheat interiors and prematurely age leather and other materials. Turn your vehicle off and the sunroof, maybe every window turns dark. When you return, turn the current back on and the glass returns to normal. At present, it is only available in some high-end luxury vehicles as an \$2,000 or more extra.***

***A new report on automated braking found that some systems have problems when drivers drove across railroad tracks and bridges. They also experienced problems with low-hanging traffic signals.***

***A recent USA Today article states that auto industry, aviation giants and ever-evolving list of start-up companies are still working on flying cars, but results could be decades away.***

***With the cold freeze in many areas, drivers are asking how often should they start their vehicles to warm them up. AAA experts say it is not a good idea to warm up your car to keep it from freezing.***

***Jeep now has a diesel Wrangler model, but it is a little costly. It is \$3,250 more than the 3.6L V and \$4,500 more than the base 2.0L turbocharged model.***

***The 10 most reliable models of 2020, according to Consumer Reports are starting with #1, Mazda MX-5 Miata, Toyota Prius Prime, Toyota Prius, Lexus GX, Hyundai Kona, Mazda CX-3, Lexus NX, Toyota 4-Runner, Mazda CX-9 and Lexus GS.***

***The top ranked automotive brands ranked for reliability are starting with #1 – Lexus, Mazda, Toyota, Porsche, Genesis, Hyundai, Subaru, Dodge, Kia, Mini. Nissan, Honda, Infiniti, Audi and Lincoln.***

***Tesla was expected to introduce its new electric pickups at the Los Angeles Auto Show in late November.***

***A new AAA study on vehicle escape tools (after an accident) reveals which ones work the best and the type of windows in your vehicle matter more than you think. They test 6, 3 hammer style and three spring loaded escape tools and found that four that shattered the tempered glass and none were able to break laminated glass. To improve safety, more vehicles are being equipped with side windows, but most vehicles have at least window made of tempered-glass, which was the easiest to break with an escape tool. To ID the glass in vehicle, labels are located on the bottom corner of the vehicles side windows and should state if the glass is tempered or laminated. Only tempered glass can be broken with the standard escape tools. Keep the escape tool handy. Usually side windows are tempered glass. AAA suggests contacting the vehicle manufacture to get more info on the types of windows in your vehicle.***

***At the Los Angeles auto show, Ford introduced a new electric Mustang Mach-E SUV, the first time in 25 years that something other than sports cars have been blessed with the “pony” designation. We can expect more “spinoffs” of existing vehicles from automakers.***

***The top 5 cities with commute(minutes)times are #1-Washington, D.C. 65 minutes, #2-New York City with 60 minutes, #3-Huston-59 minutes, #4-Miami-56 minutes and #5 –San Francisco with 55 minutes. Times vary by survey.***

***Larry Becker***

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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**