

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHATS UP HERE AND THERE

By *LARRY BECKER*



A great deal! The city of Sycamore, Ill. (about one hour west of Chicago) is one of handful holding onto meters that accept pennies, nickels and dimes around the time square. The City Council quadrupled fines for parking meter violations. The fines went from a quarter to one dollar. Mayor Ken Mundy says that many out-of-towners ask for a copy of the ticket as a keepsake. In Chicago, it costs as much as \$6.50 an hour and a ticket is \$65.

A resent survey by FindLaw.com of 1,028 adults, 51% of men support red light cameras, at intersections, while 49% oppose them, but 61% of women support them and 39%opposethem.

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

Residents who complete a state approved driving school's training program might be able to skip having to take written and behind-the-wheel tests at Motor Vehicle Division offices. Some students will be tested randomly, however to measure the school's instructions.

ARKANSAS

The Pevehouse Bridge project started on Jan. 5th and is expected to be completed by early September.

CALIFORNIA

According to the state, California faces \$59 billion in deferred road maintenance, and the price tag to meet the state's long-term transportation need is significantly higher. The Governor is asking the legislature for money to fix the problem. The Governor also has set a goal to reduce California petroleum use by 50% by 2030, a mere 15 years away. He has called for higher mileage vehicles, electric vehicles, improved battery technology and other types of fuel that could be a part of the solution.

Nothing New!! Holes in the \$6.5 billion San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge – first detected by Ca. Dept. of Transportation employees last winter, have continued to leak water inside the structure during recent storms. In mid December, officials of the bridge authorities stated that all problems with the bridge were corrected.

One way or another, you'll be paying more for the roads! The state is studying several options to raise money to pay for \$59

billion worth of maintenance to do in the coming years. Some of the ideas are, raise registration fees, or car tax fees levied on the value of the vehicle, make heavier use of toll roads especially if tolls are imposed on roads that were built with taxpayer money, a miles driven tax and increase weight fees. For example, a Prius would pay less than a pickup or a SUV, or an 18-wheeler. These are just a few of the ideas under consideration.

The city of San Diego anticipates spending \$566,000 for two “Portland Loos” outdoor public restrooms, compared to an initial estimate of \$215,000. Costs ballooned because the restrooms didn’t meet the state building standard.

A startup company in Oakland is offering Oakland airport travelers free parking and a little bit of money in exchange for rental fees on their cars while they are away. Flightcar pays the car owners for each mile the customer drives their car., between 5 and 20 cents per mile up to 75 miles and 40 cents a mile after that. Renters pay Flightcar about \$25 to \$30 a day.

D. C. – WASHINGTON

Early in 2015, the city Dept. of Transportation will experiment with street parking in the congested Gallery Place-Chinatown-Penn Quarter area, the Washington Post reports. Under the park DC CQ pilot program, the cost of street parking will vary and will be monitored. The goal is always have one parking - space open on each block.

DELAWARE

Delaware roads and bridges could cost state motorists \$2 billion a year on higher vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes

and congestion relays, reports TRIP, a national transportation research group.

The Dept. of Transportation has accelerated plans for a major rehabilitation of the I-95 Bridge over Brandywine Creek in part because the extra wear and tear caused by heavy traffic detoured from I-495 last summer.

FLORIDA

As of Jan. 5th, Florida residents attempting to obtain the standard driver's license or a commercial driver's license will have an hour to complete the knowledge test. Previously, there was no time limit for the on-site tests, the News-Press reports.

HAWAII

Lava flow from a volcano on Hawaii's Big Island has advanced about 120 yards toward Highway 130.

ILLINOIS

Motorist may drive without an up-to-date vehicle registration sticker under a new law that became effective on Jan. 1st.

KANSAS

Work has started to remove parts of the Fairfax Bridge connecting Missouri and Kansas to make way for a new replacement bridge.

KENTUCKY

Gov. Beshear states that it will cost taxpayers \$7 million each month that lawmakers do not take action to replace the Brent Spence Bridge that connects northern Kentucky with Cincinnati. The 50 year-old bridge, has no emergency shoulders, and now carries twice the amount of traffic it was built to handle.

Legislation has been reintroduced to put in place a new valuation procedure for older vehicles. Under the bill, vehicles 20 years old or older would no longer be presumed to be in “original factory” or “classic” condition. This measure instead provides for three options for assessing the value of these vehicles.

LOUISIANA

A \$21.7 million, 1,000 plus space parking tower opened January at the University of Louisiana. The new parking areas were needed to end congestion.

MAINE

U.S. Senator Susan Collins says a new federal grant of \$1 million for the Sara Long Bridge, (between Kittery & Portsmouth, N.H.), replacement project should help expedite construction of the bridge.

MISSOURI

A state senator has proposed a bill that would ban red-light cameras and high-speed license plate scanners in Missouri.

Sen. Rob Schaaf said he believes the devices are meant to make money for municipalities.

NEBRASKA

Legislation has been introduced to provide for the issuance (for a \$100 fee) of a single license plate for passenger cars which were not originally equipped with bracket on the front of the vehicle to display a license plate. Under the bill, a license decal would be issued with the single license plate and would be displayed on the driver's side of the windshield.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

A man who arranges tours of craft breweries is fighting the state to get vanity plates that read, "BREWBUS," "GROWLER" or "NHBEER." David Adams, owner of Granite State Growler Tours, already has a plate that reads "BEERBUS" on the vehicle he used to drive his customers around.

NEW JERSEY

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority approved a \$4.8 million project to replace the structurally deficient Prospect Street Bridge, the Daily Record reports. The Authority closed the bridge on Nov. 25th.

NEW YORK

According to radio talk show host, Tom Sullivan, New York City issues about 15,000 parking citations and 9,000 traffic citations weekly in New York City, but due to the spat between the mayor and the police dept., that number has dropped by 90%.

OKLAHOMA

The state Dept. of Transportation has told Pittsburg County officials to enforce the 5-ton weight limit on a bridge that crosses Bull Creek.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is taking a new look at a long-dormant plans to replace mile-long tunnels near Somerset. Depending on which approach the commission takes, the project would cost between \$242 million and \$694 million.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The chorus calling for lawmakers to fix South Carolina's roads got louder as tourism officials warned that deteriorating roads are threatening the state's \$18 billion tourism industry.

TEXAS

Solar-Powered vehicles could be cruising along Galveston's seawall to help with parking enforcement. The Galveston Park Board of Trustees is considering buying solar-powered electric vehicles to transport attendants to enforce parking fees and meter usage.

VIRGINIA

A bill has been introduced to provide that vehicle registrations would be permanent unless the vehicle ownership or address where the vehicle is primarily garaged is changed. The bill also provides that the registration would apply to vehicle

registrations issued on or after July 1, 2015 and that the fee for issuance of a permanent vehicle registration would be the same as that previously charged for a two year registration.

A bill has been introduced for the issuance of a single license plate for motor vehicles in which the original design does not provide for display of a front license plate. The bill also provides that the issuance of a second plate would be optional for the vehicle owner.

As of Jan. 1, the state gas tax increased by 5 cents a gallon to help pay for a \$6 billion transportation package passed under former Gov. Bob Mc Donnell.

A bill to exempt antique vehicles from exhaust system restrictions has been reintroduced. House legislation would only exempt antique motor vehicles from the requirement that they have exhaust systems of a type installed as standard factory equipment or comparable equipment.

WASHINGTON

For an entire year, the world's largest tunnel-boring machine has been stuck deep below Seattle's waterfront. Engineers still don't know why "Bertha," the 326-foot long, 2,000 ton "behemoth," custom built to create a nearly 2-mile long tunnel under the downtown, isn't working. Washington had set out on a multibillion-dollar project to build a tunnel underneath its largest city, connecting an industrial area near major port facilities with transportation routes by bypassing the crowded downtown streets.

WEST VIRGINIA

Effective Jan. 1st, visitors to Beech Fork State Park are able to reserve campsites online for up to a year in advance. Mail-in applications will be accepted beginning Feb. 15th, followed by phone-in reservations beginning March 15th.

WYOMING

A bipartisan bill sponsored by nine lawmakers would prohibit law enforcement agencies from setting quotas of citations that officers have to write. The Casper Star-tribune reports that the Wyoming Highway patrol implemented a quota, but agency officials dropped the policy in December.

A bill is being considered that would allow the issuance of a single license plate. The bill is similar to ones introduced in Virginia and Nebraska.

The U.S. Forest Service will keep three areas southwest of Yellowstone National Park off-limits to motorized vehicles and mountain bikes in a draft of its management plan for Shoshone National Forest.

WHAT'S UP HERE AND THERE

WHAT!!! Workers in Lincoln, Neb. are using single-ply toilet paper to speed repairs in the city's streets.

In the last week of December, Google unveiled its first "fully functional" prototype for its own self-driving car and plans to test it on Bay Area public roads (San Jose, Ca area) in 2015. The dainty two-seater still requires government approval

before it can be legally operate without a human driver through suburban office parks or downtowns streets, but the milestone is the latest sign that driverless cars could soon be a fixture in the Silicon Valley neighborhoods and other parts of the world.

Zoom Zoom! Telsa has quietly announced that a software upgrade that will allow its 85D and P85D Model S electric cars to achieve a top speed of 155 mph. The 85D starts at \$85,570 and the P85Dat \$106,570, before rebates – somewhat above the \$74,570 MSRP for the entry level Model S.

According to an article by Chris Woodyard of USA TODAY, the top 3 of the 20 most wanted vehicles of 2014 were pickups. First was the Ford F-150, #2- Chevrolet Silverado and #3 was the Dodge Ram.

Newer Fords have a feature called MyKey that allows the owner of a car to program a special key which sets limits on the car's performance. It is designed to help teen drivers safer behind the wheel.

Telsa's co-founder, Iam Wright, has started building electric powered trucks. His company has a contract with Fed-Ex to retro fit 25 of it's medium-to heavy duty trucks with battery powered engines that can be recharged through regenerative braking or by small turbines fueled by natural gas or propane. The Ratto Group, a San Francisco bay area garbage and recycling company, to convert 17 of its garage trucks to electric powered vehicles.

Larry Becker

January 25, 2015