

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHATS UP HERE AND THERE



By Larry Becker

The value of Japanese classic cars has skyrocketed in recent years. A pristine Toyota Celica from the early 1970's can cost up to \$20,000. A well maintained Datsun 510 might go for as much as \$25,000, and a Toyota GTI, don't ask. Remember when you could buy one for almost nothing?

It seems as if many drivers still talk on handheld cellphones, but the latest study by California Office of Safety and University of Ca. at Berkeley suggests the number is dropping.

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 legislature.

ARIZONA

State officials have launched a new public-education campaign on highway safety, using a recent dust-related fatal crash to promote the message of "pull aside, stay alive." The Dept. of Transportation says the new campaign is keyed to the approaching summer monsoon season.

Parking rates on some downtown streets in Phoenix could soon cost as \$4 per hour during peak times. The City Council approved the proposal on June 18th.

CALIFORNIA

There is still lots of debate on the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge and its cracked welds. A study by UC Berkley engineering professor Abolhass Astaneh-Asi concludes that the bridge would not survive the ultimate seismic test, but CALTRANS insists that the bridge is safe.

The city of San Francisco is seeing a spate of mini cars being tipped over in the middle of the night, but police don't know if the acts are a protest or a prank.

Last week DMV said that they have received enough orders for the old black with yellow numbers license plates from the 60's to qualify to be sold. A total of 7500 was needed for the plate to qualify and DMV reports that they had 7,549 applications. The preorder cost is \$50. The fee gets the motorist either a personalized plate or a sequentially numbered and lettered plate. Two other plates are under consideration for re-minting, the blue plates with yellow numbers from the 70s and yellow plates with black letters from the 50's – have not reached the required 7,500 application level.

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera has issued a cease-and-desist demand to an app called Monkey Parking, which allows people auction off public parking spaces that they're using to other drivers. Herrera issued a letter to Paolo Dobrowoln, CEO of the start-up on June 24th.

New state park rules allow smoking in private vehicles only.

D.C. WASHINGTON

They don't want us there!!! On June 27th, residents were able to comment on a draft of a long-range plan that calls for toll lanes at major entry points into the city, a congestion charge to drive downtown and other efforts aimed at keeping vehicles off of downtown streets, the Washington Post reports.

They're watching you!! Five new speed cameras have been installed according to the Washington Post. For the first 30 days of operation, the cameras will only issue warnings.

DELAWARE

On June 5th, Delaware's transportation secretary ordered immediate inspections of major bridges in the state to determine whether they might be at risk of problems similar to one that closed the Interstate 495 bridge bypass in Wilmington.

GEORGIA

A law effective July 1st, will allow drivers to use their on-line receipt from the Dept. of Driver Services as proof of valid driving privileges until they receive their permanent license or permit in the mail.

INDIANA

The cost of driving on the Toll Road is going up an average of 2.6% on July 1st for those without E-Zpass transponders. Driving a car the full length of the toll road will be \$10, up from the current \$9.70.

Plans to fill potholes have been caught in a political tussle. Gov. Ballard has proposed spending \$350 million on road repaving, sidewalks and repairs to bridges, swimming pools and parks. Democrat lawmakers who control the City-County Council have blocked the plan saying they don't want Indianapolis to make about \$90 million in interest payments over 30 years.

MARYLAND

Montgomery County is conducting a 15-month, \$480,000 study to evaluate whether "adaptive signal control" technology that adjusts traffic light timing to real-time conditions would be worth the cost, the Washington Post reports.

MICHIGAN

A major freeway construction project that's requiring 140, 000 motorists to take detour routes until October is on schedule despite a delayed start because of prolonged wintry weather. The \$148 million Interstate 96 project to rebuild the roadway includes bridge repair and replacement work.

MINNESOTA

Legislation that would have established a pilot program, administrated by the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation, to impose a mileage user fee, died when the legislature adjourned for the year.

Legislation to provide for a program that will allow classic vehicle status to be determined from nationally recognized standards has been signed into law by Gov. Mark Dayton.

As of Jan. 1, 2016, it will be illegal to sell, distribute or install a wheel weight that contains lead or mercury. The law also requires proper recycling of lead or mercury based weights removed from vehicles. The law is similar to ones in other states.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Officials are considering traffic, signs, radio announcements and brochures as a way to educate drivers that holding a cellphone to talk while driving in traffic will be illegal a year from now in New Hampshire. Gov. Hassan is expected to sign the bill that hand-held cellphone use is punishable by a \$100 fine for the first offense.

NEW JERSEY

The state is getting new license plates that officials hope will stand up better in bad weather. The color will remain the same, but instead of embossed raised letters and numbers the new plates will feature digitally printed flat lettering.

On June 18th, a New Jersey Assemblyman announced that he will propose a bill to ban quotas on tickets that police write. The bill would also prohibit police departments from evaluating officer's performance based on the number of citations and arrests.

NEW YORK

Work has begun on the \$16.5 million Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook Bridge that will connect Amsterdam's southern neighborhoods and the Erie Canalway Trail with the downtown north of the Mohawk River.

The New York Police Dept. is conducting a citywide traffic safety enforcement initiative focused on speeding, driving while using a handheld cellphone, improper turns, disobeying traffic signs and failing to yield to pedestrians. The initiative will last through July 6.

OHIO

The Court of Claims reports that 256 people have sued the state transportation department so far this year for damages on state highways caused by potholes. and that is more than the 110 claims filed all of last year and the 147 claims registered in 2012.

OKLAHOMA

Two communities celebrated the reopening of a bridge linking them after a four and half month closure. The James C. Nance Bridge linked Purcell and Lexington.

RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority is looking into installing a flexible barrier to divide eastbound and westbound lanes on the bridge.

SOUTH CAROLINA

State lawmakers have approved a statewide ban on texting while driving. Drivers who violate the law would not receive penalty points but would

face fines starting at \$25. The use of GPS navigation and texting to summon emergency services would be permitted. The new law became effective June 10th.

A portion of U.S. Highway 187 has been dedicated in memory of Benjamin Mays, who has been called the “father of the civil rights movement.”

SOUTH DAKOTA

Construction has begun on a \$7.2 million makeover of the Corn Palace tourist attraction. The large corncob murals on the front of the building have been stripped, and many of the wood panels beneath will be replaced, Deputy Public Works Director Terry Johnson said.

TENNESSEE

Tennessee has a loophole in its drunken driving law an investigation by The Commercial Appeal has found. The newspaper’s analysis found that if a person could potentially spend more time in jail for driving drunk and getting pulled over than someone who causes a fatal accident while driving under the influence.

What’s the name? A federal judge gave Lake City the go-ahead to change its name to Rocky Top. A development group has promised that the name change would boost tourism by cashing in on the song Rocky Top, which was made famous by the Osborne Brothers.

TEXAS

As of March 1, 2015, drivers will no longer be required to have an inspection sticker on their windshield.

VERMONT

A bill to ban motor-vehicle exhaust systems that increase the noise level died when the legislature adjourned for the year. The bill would have allowed inspectors to make subjective judgments on whether an exhaust system amplified the noise emitted by the motor vehicle.

Virginia

The Dept. of Transportation has launched a website with interactive maps that show the latest paving conditions and construction projects across the state. The site also includes real-time traffic information, the status of snow plowing and other maps.

WASHINGTON

Police dashboard cameras cannot be withheld from public disclosure unless they relate to pending litigation, a divided state Supreme Court ruled.

A deadly stretch of a road near Spokane Valley is being reworked to eliminate a dip known as the “Ponderosa Jump” where two teens were killed in a crash in October.

WYOMING

The Beartooth Highway in Wyoming and Montana has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A 60-mile stretch of U.S. 12 has been officially named the Red Lodge-Cooke City Approach Road Historic District.

WHAT'S UP HERE AND THERE

Lawmakers from Oregon and Washington are reviving plans for a new Interstate 5 bridge between Vancouver and Portland.

A survey by Hankook Tire Spring Gauge Index of 920 drivers, found that 59% say there are more potholes in their areas than last year, 33% say the same amount and 7% say less potholes.

On June 11th, federal safety officials opened an investigation into 1.2 million vehicles equipped with Takata-brand air bags, now linked to six injuries and two deaths. The Takata air bags are used on at least seven car companies on their U.S. market vehicles.

Despite America's love affair with Harley-Davidson, electric motorcycles – as well as e-bicycles are revving up U.S. sales. Sales of high performance e-motorcycles will rise at least 30% per year through 2023 in North America says a May report by Navigation Research, a market research firm.

According to AAA, 42 states ban texting while driving, but some states have also banned texting while driving since AAA released the report.

Automakers in the U.S. have recalled more than 53 million vehicles in the past 18 months or about 20% of all vehicles on the road. They have recalled more than 31 million so far this year, an annual record for the industry. Federal law prohibits auto dealers from selling new cars that are under a safety recall, but no such restrictions apply to used cars. On June 25th, GM told dealers in the U.S. and Canada to stop selling 2013 and 2014 Chevrolet Cruzes because of a potential defect in the air bags made by beleaguered supplier.

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