

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

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 legislators.

In late April, a small California company, Kitty Hawk, piloted a flying car over a scenic lake about 100 miles north of San Francisco. It was powered by eight battery powered propellers. Uber and Google are developing flying cars. **Maybe we can order one in 2021??**

In several cities, customers can order by phone or computer, food from their favorite restaurant and Uber will pick up and deliver to the customer' home, office or other chosen locations. There are several other companies that also will pick up and deliver your food order also.

The Feds are considering stopping funding for Route 66 and turn it over to the states who will be responsible for up keep and all repairs.

ALABAMA

The state Dept. of Transportation will widen a portion of Interstate 65 in Shelby County. The project was requested by Gov. Kay Ivey and will take about two years to complete.

ARIZONA

The Pima County Board of Commissioners have voted to ban cellphone use while driving, unless it has a hands-free option and takes effect June 1st. Cellphone use while driving is allowed in some Arizona counties.

The feds have released a critical report on the poor condition of roads on tribal lands. The General Accounting Office report says children can't get to school in bad weather.

ARKANAS

A 150 foot swinging bridge near Ozark was swept away by flood water in early May. The bridge spanned the Mulberry River for almost a century and was a major tourist attraction.

An Arkansas prosecutor said the city of Damascus violated the state speed trap law because its revenues from fines exceeded 30% of its expenditures for two years.

CALIFORNIA

Gov. Brown has signed the controversial \$52 billion tax and fees bill for the largest road funding program in more than 25 years. On Nov.1, 2017, the excise tax on a gallon of gas will increase to 30 cents per gallon and diesel fuel excise tax will increase to 36 cents per gallon. The present base registration fee is \$53, on Jan. 1, 2018, but it will increase. A new “transportation improvement fee” takes effect and is based on the value of the vehicle. Vehicles valued at up to \$4,999 will pay \$25, \$5,000 to \$24,999 will pay \$50, 25,000 to \$3,499 will pay \$100, \$35,000 to \$59,999 will pay \$150 and vehicles valued at \$60,000 and up will pay \$175. At present, there are no ZEV specific charges, but on July 20, 2020 there will be a new \$100 ‘road improvement fee” which will be adjusted for inflation starting Jan. 1, 2021.

A bill (AB 1103) had been introduced that would let bicycle riders not stop at stop signs, but was pulled from consideration.

AB390 would clarify how much time you have to get through a crosswalk when the “walk” signal is lit.

The DMV has cracked down on parking abuses and said that it had cited 417 people for fraudulently using the disabled parking placards and more citations will continued to be issued for abuse of the placard.

Big new plans to ease traffic congestion around Lake Tahoe include a Hwy 50 bypass behind the casinos allowing casino traffic to become a narrow, pedestrian and bike, usable “Main Street”. A new off-street bike trail is planned for Incline Village to Sand Harbor, shuttle busses added and parking alongside the highway

will be eliminated, Fanny Bridge in Tahoe City will be rebuilt and turned into a local street. Hwy 89 will be realigned over a new Truckee River Bridge with two roundabouts. A group of agencies, including the state Highway Dept. and local transit districts plan to start charging soon for parking at a few parking area's on the lakes northeast shore near Sand Harbor.

DMV employees handle about 20,000 personalized license plate requests each month, or about 1,000 per day. The number soared from 7,000 to 20,000 per month after the state started accepting requests for retro-looking 1960s license plates in 2015. Four DMV employees handle the 20,000 monthly requests for the plates and make sure that the requests meet the state's rule of decency. Sexual suggestions, hints of vulgarity or possible gang references are rejected. Eight multilingual employees review the requests before they can be issued. There are several other double checks before being issued. In the second half of 2016, the DMV review staff rejected 9,600 applications. Vanity plates cost an extra \$48 to \$98.

D.C. – WASHINGTON

Transportation officials say more than 7,600 potholes were repaired during the city's annual Potholepaloozap campaign, a four week repair initiative.

Washington's more than 8,000 taxis are getting digital meters. Cab drivers have until August 31st to get rid of their traditional meters

GEORGIA

Parking rates could increase in Savannah's historic downtown area as the City Council is weighting a consultant's recommendation to double meter rates.

HAWAII

The Kauai Police dept. is getting new Ford Explorers as patrol cars which cost between \$50,000 and \$55,000.

INDIANA

Toll road fees will increase dramatically in June when a state subsidy ends. The Northwest Indiana Times paper reports that vehicles with transponders will pay \$10.50 to go the full 157 miles, more than double the current rate.

IOWA

Robert Crosby Jr, who ran a scam on buyers of classic cars, has been sent to prison. Authorities say he took down payments for vehicles but didn't deliver them.

KENTUCKY

For the year and a half, the public won't be able to tour the Kentucky plant that manufactures Corvettes. The tours will shut down on June 16th.

LOUISIANA

State lawmakers have rejected a bill to eliminate inspection stickers for most personal vehicles.

MAINE

Legislation to reduce the motor-vehicle excise tax mill rate by 10% starting in 2018 died in committee. It may be reintroduced next year.

A judge has ruled that a man who was banned from driving for life after pleading in 1997 for a triple-fatal drunken driving crash can reapply for a license. Maine law doesn't limit how many times someone can seek reinstatement.

MICHIGAN

Michigan State University is curbing moped parking following an increase in the use of the vehicles to get around campus.

Tractor trailers with side guard rails mounted between their tires are less likely to be involved in fatal accidents according to a study by a safety group. Federal law requires big tucks to have rear guards but doesn't require side guards.

MONTANA

State lawmakers have passed a measure to give residents the option to get a driver's license or ID card that complies with the federal ID Act. Starting in 2018, the ID or driver's license will be needed to board flights.

NEVADA

The state has raised the speed limit from 75 mph to 80 mph on a 130 mile rural stretch of Interstate 80.

State lawmakers have agreed to speed up funding for the state Division of Parks to address a maintenance backlog. The division can currently only use \$64,000 annually, of \$14 million set aside in 2009 for park repairs.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The state Dept. of Transportation scheduled a bridge replacement project which started May 15th over the Hampton Falls River. A section of Route 84 will be closed for six weeks.

The police are warning drivers to stay up to date on their vehicle registration. In Alexandria, a woman was fined and her car was towed when she tried to fake her vehicle registration using a supermarket cheese wrapper.

NEW MEXICO

The Pecos Valley Riders ATV club has asked the Carlsbad City Council to allow their vehicles to use the roads along with cars and motorcycles.

NEW YORK

New York City has launched a new ferry service with a Rockaway Queens route. The ferry will start a South Brooklyn route on June 1st.

NORTH CAROLINA

The State Court of Appeals says the state acted legally when it made a deal with a private company to build and operate Interstate 77 toll lanes in the Charlotte area. The deal was challenged by a group that wants the road widened, but without adding tolls.

Delays in clearing Interstate 77 on time from overnight toll lane construction means \$1.3 million in penalties for the contractor.

OKLAHOMA

State transportation officials have suspended construction on about a dozen highway projects. This is due to a \$878 million budget hole.

OREGON

A bill in the legislature to ban a long planned foot bridge for hikers and bikers over a pristine river is facing stiff opposition from hikers and bikers.

PENNSYLVANIA

A bill to provide Historic Military license plates to qualifying vehicles has been approved by the House and sent to the State Senate.

RHODE ISLAND

The state Dept. of Transportation says a plan to cut registration fees for commercial trucks is costing the state \$1.1 million more than they expected.

Providence City Council has passed an ordinance allowing police to confiscate and destroy RV vehicles driven illegally. The move comes after dozens of riders tore through Riverside Park on Easter Sunday morning doing \$20,000 in damages.

Just over 700 Rhode Islanders appealed their vehicle's assessed value in the past three years, but only 24 succeeded in getting it lowered. Gov. Raimondo is proposing to cut the tax by 30% next year.

UTAH

Drunk driving contributed to about 13% of the state's traffic deaths last year a report finds. The leading factors in fatal crashes were: speeding-38%, and unbuckled seat belts- 29%.

WEST VIRGINIA

Gov. Jim Justice has stopped a pilot program that would have charged entrance fees at seven state parks and forests. Justice calls the decision to charge \$2 a day starting on Memorial Day Weekend, an error made without his approval.

A bill to allow titles to be issued to abandoned vehicles (upon request) has been signed by the Gov.

WISCONSIN

Gov. Walker says he has “no interest” in raising vehicle registration fees to help pay for new roads. The state Dept. of Transportation is facing a \$1 billion shortfall.

WYOMING

Business owners near Cody are worried about losing customers because of proposed road construction next year in Yellowstone National Park.

UTAH

The state Dept. of Transportation plans to build a \$5 million overcrossing for wild life along one of the state’s deadest stretch of roads for big game. It is a 13 mile stretch of Interstate 80 near Parleys Summit.

VERMONT

Parking in Burlington has changed. The city will begin towing cars that have been parked in city garages longer than 48 hours.

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WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

According to USA Today, drivers who have had automobile accidents after using their phones were distracted for an average of 135 seconds before the crash.

A new electric pickup is coming from an Ohio-based manufacturer called Workhorse. It will have a backup 3 cylinder gas motor. The company says its Workhouse15 truck has a range of 80 miles per charge and will be pitched to businesses. It carries a price tag of about \$52,500.

Harley Davidson has developed an electric motorcycle, but few details are available at present time.

According to AARP, the most dangerous place for older drivers are: #1-Cape Coral-Fort Myers, Fla, #2 Palm Boston-Melbourne, Fla, #3 Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford,

Fla, #4 Jacksonville, Fla and #5 Deltona-Daytona Beach, Fla. The top safest cities are-#1-Cororado Springs, Co, #2 Port-South Portland, Maine, #3 Madison, WS, #4- Boston-Cambridge and #5 -Provo-Oden, Utah.

According to a survey by AARP, consumers ages 50 and older represent 35%of the population of the U.S., but control more than half of the nation's investable assets.

NEED A JOB??? The National Park Service is looking for volunteers to staff visitor center this summer in the Grandview area of the New River Gorge National Park area.

Summer is here and everyone will start traveling. Remember, there is lots of road construction in various states due damages from the winter storms.

Larry Becker

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