

CONTEMPORARY HISTORIAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, Inc.



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS



PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Ford's announcement that it is killing almost all of its traditional sedan car models is dramatic proof that sedans have lost their luster for U.S. automakers and drivers. SUVs have surpassed sedans as the best-selling vehicle in the U.S. annual market share. Ford says that what is now called a SUV will soon be considered a car. Ford will still make the Mustang and a 5- door hatchback model called Focus Active which is a crossover vehicle. The first models to go are the Fiesta, Taurus and the Focus. This will be done over a two or three year period. GM says that it will continue to make sedans at present, but has stopped production on two models.

A new suspension system called Clear motion will soon be available on some new cars. It is designed to soften the ride as you pass over potholes, rough roads and or speed bumps. No details are available at this time as to what vehicles will have it and when.

On May 1st, a new law took effect requiring all new cars sold in the U.S. to be equipped with backup cameras to help drivers avoid accidents

Lyft is partnering with APTV, an automotive technology company to put 30 self-driving cars to work in Las Vegas. They will service high demand areas of the city.

Uber has announced a partnership with federal officials and aviation manufacturers aimed at further developing electrically powered vertical take-off and landing aircraft or VTOL for short. Ubers air taxi would use wing-mounted propellers to provide lift and a tail mounted propeller to generate forward thrust, as with a plane. Uber plans demos in 2020 for VTOLs in Dallas, Los Angeles and Dubai. Uber still has many problems to resolve before reaching its goals.

Many companies who build and are selling self-driving vehicles have applied to states for permission to test their vehicles in their state. California is adding more hurdles to the requests as they investigate reported problems with self-driving vehicles. The complaints range from vehicle did not recognize no right turn on red light, confused by cones in construction zones, problems detecting vehicles in opposite lanes, problems dealing with vehicles entering the lane in front of them, failure to yield to other vehicles entering lane, making too wide right turns and delays in recognizing both pedestrians and vehicles that cut in front of test car. Cruise, a web site on vehicles, says that some self-driving models do not brake hard enough to stop at stop signs. California DMV has requested disengagement reports from the companies. This report details when humans were forced to take charge of the vehicles.

Anheuser-Bush plans to use Nikola Hydrogen electric trucks for their long haul beer deliveries and has ordered 800 vehicles and plans to convert all of its fleet to electric vehicles by 2025.

According to a survey by USA Today of 2,018 drivers, 42% say they text while driving even tho it is illegal in most states. Nearly 4 in 10 U.S. drivers call distracted driving a habit.

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety and USA Today, there were 2,049 U.S. hit and run vehicle deaths in 2016. The highest number on record and a 60% increase since 2008.

A year ago a California state bill went into effect to help nab hit and runs drivers. It was called Yellow Alert. Info on vehicles involved in hit & run accidents was listed on the overhead electric signs used for Amber alerts. But now, the Federal Highway Transportation Agency says that California has to stop using them as they distract drivers.

Drivers in Los Angeles lost 102 hours because of traffic jams, the most in the U.S. Second was New York City with 91 hours lost and San Francisco with 79 hours.

Pedestrian fatalities have skyrocketed 46% since 2009.

On May 14th, a Tesla vehicle traveling at highway speed (60 mph) slammed into the back of a firetruck that was stopped at a red light. The driver says that she was distracted and that the vehicle was on Autopilot. Tesla is investigating the accident.

Uber has announced that it will abandon its Arizona testing of self-driving cars, a program that was paused due to a March crash that killed a pedestrian. Uber plans to restart testing autonomous cars around its Pittsburgh technology center once the Arizona crash inquiry ends and may resume testing in California.

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.

ALASKA

The unpaved 60-mile McCarthy Road has been opened for public travel.

The Denali Highway has reopened for the season. The 135 mile, mostly gravel highway, which is closed October through mid-May, opened a few days late this year because of snow and storms.

ARIZONA

State transportation officials have held meetings to discuss ways to ease traffic congestion on Flagstaff's busiest roads. No suggestions or solutions have been announced.

The city of Glendale plans to vote on placing a permanent American flag on the top of Thunderbird Mountain.

ARKANSAS

The town of Damascus get a third of its revenue from speeding fines and has agreed to closer security of enforcement after state officials questioned their excessive enforcement.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco has ordered three companies that rent motorized foot-pedal scooters in the city to stop operating until they can ensure riders are obeying state laws and that the devices are not a hazard to the public. This is due to complaints of riders whizzing by on sidewalks, not wearing helmets and parking the scooters on sidewalks.

A new bill, SB 1030, would increase the fine for distracted driving and add a point to their DMV record which may increase their insurance costs.

On April 30th, CALTRANS began their scheduled inspection of the Golden Gate Bridge. There were no reports of any problems and it is a routine inspection.

The owner of a truck driving school in Sacramento pleaded guilty to conspiring to get driver's licenses for students who failed or didn't take the driving test.

CALTRANS officials are targeting mid-September for reopening a stretch of Highway 1 in the Big Sur region that was blocked almost a year ago by a massive landslide following winter storms.

Sacramento has completed its new "protected" bike lanes. The lanes are nearest to the curb, meaning that vehicles must park to the right of the bike lanes. The city is also installing "buffered" bike lanes, which provide a 3-foot buffer to the left of the cyclists and allow vehicles to park next to the curb.

CONNECTICUT

Some state lawmakers are not giving up on a measure that could lead to highway tolls in the state.

DELAWARE

The state DMV will debut a new design for driver's licenses in June.

GEORGIA

Since December, five vehicles have run into the top of a warning beam being erected just before entering the Concord Covered Bridge.

Gov. Deal has signed a bill making Georgia the 16th state to ban holding and operating a cellphone while driving.

INDIANA

The Kokomo Auto museum closed its doors on May 18th.

Learned his lesson! A man has been sentenced to 90 years in prison for setting fires that destroyed one covered bridge and damaged another.

ILLINOIS

Project funding has been approved to turn one-way downtown streets in Springfield into two-way streets.

KANSAS

A judge is being asked to order 5 Star Motors to \$100,000 in penalties after customers complained that they didn't get titles to vehicles they bought.

MAINE

Gov. Lepage has signed a bill creating a specialty license plate for the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Maine.

Officials at Acadia National Park say some road openings will be delayed several weeks because of winter storm damage.

MICHIGAN

A bill has been approved by the state legislature to allow for the attachment of a tow ball, bicycle rack, removable hitch or any other device to carry an object on the rear of a vehicle even if it obstructs the rear license plate.

Bridge repairs near Moran Township will cause a stretch of U.S. 2 to close through the summer.

Mississippi

Jasper and Smith counties have sued Gov. Bryant, saying he overstepped his authority by ordering the closure of more than 100 locally maintained bridges as structurally unsafe.

The state's new standard license plate will show "In God we trust" state seal instead of B.B. King's guitar.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The city of Berlin has completed improvements on a nearly 3-mile stretch of State Route 16 that includes a total road rebuild.

NEW JERSEY

Wildwood officials will allow four-wheel drive vehicles to park directly on the sand and should help ease parking problems in the town.

NEW YORK

The state is adding more high speed charging stations along the Thruway.

The new Goethals Bridge between New York and New Jersey is now open in both directions after a 5 year, \$5 billion overhaul.

OREGON

State officials say the 66-mile long Cascades Highway opened on May 6th.

OHIO

Records show that that about 1,800 Ohioans have 10 or more DUI arrests.

PENNSYLVANIA

The state will spend \$180 million to fix potholes and perform other work on the state roads.

TEXAS

A state panel ordered the Harris County district attorney's office to review dozens of DWI (DUI in some states) cases because a former toxicologist misrepresented her credentials.

The state DMV rejected more than 2,000 proposed personalized license plates last year. Among them: GOTWEED, NOTRUMP and NOBAMA.

UTAH

Officials say State Road 65 to East Canyon Reservoir has opened a month earlier, but State Road 39 will be closed until snow conditions clear.

WASHINGTON

The city of Bremerton is installing more guardrails around Tracyton Beach Road after a fatal crash off the edge, the second such accident on the road in two years.

State officials are working to enhance the 1,200 mile, Pacific Northwest Trail.

WEST VIRGINIA

Preston County has declared a state of emergency over "deplorable" road conditions that 'pose a danger for motorists, commercial traffic and first responders."

State officials have stepped up safety measures in a 20-mile Interstate 64 work zone between Milton and Hurricane following 25 crashes, including 3 fatalities.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

According to an analysis of police data from 2012 to 2016 by Erie Insurance Company, 61% of drivers in fatal motor vehicle crashes were daydreaming, the number 1 distraction in those fatalities and 13% were distracted by cellphones.

A survey by Hankook Tire Company, says that 29% of Americans never check the air pressure in their spare tire.

Dozens of complaints have been filed with the Better Business Bureau against Tesla saying it was slow in addressing complaints filed by customers and BBB has given Tesla an F rating. Tesla says that it had record income for 2017, but some experts they had also had record expenses.

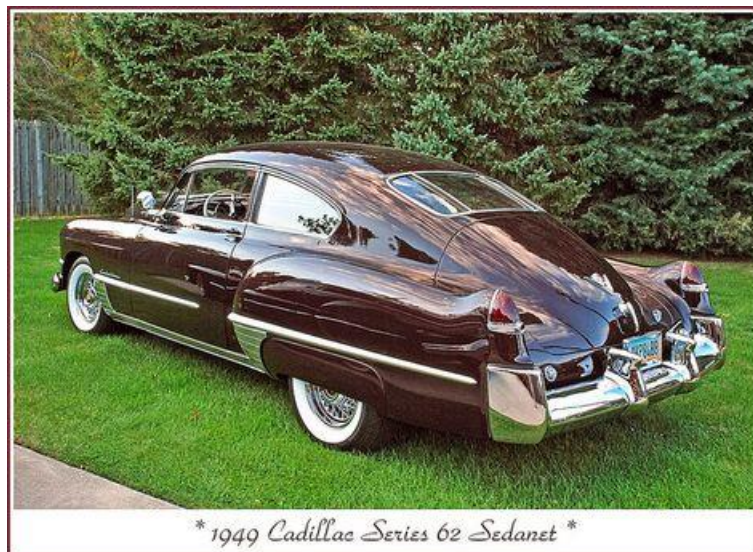
By 2030, American seniors will reach a population of 70 million, most of them still behind the wheel. Allan Williams of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety states that in crashes of all types, seniors 70 and older enjoy the lowest rate of all age groups. Senior driving suggestions are: double up, senior passengers help spot hazards and reduce wrong turns, know your limits such as distance, speed, weather and time of day and obey them, take rest stops, use public transportation whenever possible and being willing to make the decision as when you should stop driving. It is a decision that we all hate to make, but we should do it before someone else does it for us.

A fire in a factory that supplies parts to Ford for its F100 has caused Ford to shut down production temporarily. The company also supplies parts to GM. The company did reopen about 10 days after the fire.

The first drive-in opened in 1921 in Dallas Texas. It was located on the Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike. Its name was Pig Stand restaurant and grew to approx. 25 locations over the years.

Larry Becker

27 May 2018



** 1949 Cadillac Series 62 Sedanet **



** 1949 Cadillac Series 62 Sedan **

