

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHATSUUP HERE AND THERE

by Larry Becker



Did you get one?? According to USA Today, 986 Robo-calls were placed every second in the U.S. in August.

A forgotten era! According to a report by ABC news, only 18% of American drivers know how to drive a stick shift vehicle. Only 5% of new cars sold last year had manual transmissions.

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.

ALAMBA

Maybe he was a collector! A man in Montgomery was arrested and charged with stealing parking meters. He also damaged several others.

ARKANSAS

On October 3rd, the state Dept. of Finance and Administration began offering enhanced licenses and ID's at 25 revenue offices. The new licenses are in response to the federal REAL ID Act, which imposes stricter guidelines for some state issued driver's licenses & IDs.

A study by the Association of Arkansas Counties has found that county owned rural roads and bridges need \$750 million in overhauls and officials have begun a statewide push to find money for the repairs. The study found nearly 1,200 bridges considered to be obsolete or structurally deficient. It is estimated that it would take about \$154 million to make repairs on about 50,000 miles of county roadways.

CALIFORNIA

California's highway 99 through Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto and other valley cities is rated by ValuePenguin as the deadliest highway in the country for travel. The highway had 62 fatal accidents per 100 miles over a recent five year period. Number 2 was Interstate 45 in Texas and number 3 is Interstate 95 when runs down the Eastern Seaboard from Maine to Florida.

Lombard Street in San Francisco, often called the crookedest street in the world has as many as 16,000 visitors a day in the peak season. Residents are not happy with the crowds and now the city may close the street to cars, nonresident pedestrians, requiring a reservation or charging a toll.

Central Valley leaders are pushing to extend BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) to Livermore to help ease traffic on Interstate 580 which is near San Francisco.

DMV's revised draft regulations for autonomous vehicles, was open to public comment to an Oct. 19th workshop. Anyone assuming that DMV has already decided what it's going to recommend would do well to look at what happened since it issued the draft in December.

D.C. WASHINGTON

The D.C. Council has approved a bill that would impose one of the toughest distracted driving laws in the country.

HAWAII

Even with the threat of heavy fines, thousands of Oahu drivers continue to talk or text while driving. So far this year, 6,871 citations have been issued to Oahu drivers for breaking the cellphone law.

INDIANA

A federal judge rejected a class-action lawsuit filed against the city by motorists ticketed under a traffic ordinance that had been ruled invalid.

MICHIGAN

Legislation to require that forest roads be open to motorized use by the public unless otherwise designated by the Dept. of Natural resources has been signed into law by the Gov. Under the new law, before the dept. newly restricts a road or trail used oi access public land, it must provide local governments in which the land is located written notice that includes the reason for the restriction. Other lands permitted for off-highway use include designated roads that are not forest roads, designated trails and other designated areas.

Heavy rains damaged roads, bridges culverts and other infrastructures during the third week of October in Marquette County. One road, Michigan 94, has 90 feet of roadway washed out. Crews are working to repair the damaged areas as soon as possible.

MONTANA

Beartooth Pass on the border with Wyoming has closed for the winter. U.S. Highway 212 between Red Lodge and Cooke City typically reopens the Friday before Memorial Day.

NEW MEXICO

Transportation Dept. spokesman Emilee Cantrell says the agency will examine Interstate 25 between Santa Fe and Eldorado. Santa fe Mayor Javier Gonzales has grown concerned over a series of wrong-way crashes.

Beam me up, Scotty! A city park will developed in Roswell near the International UFO Museum & Research Center. The park will be adjacent to the museum building, one of the city's major tourism attractions.

NEW YORK

Gov. Cuomo has unveiled a futuristic plan for New York City that includes color LED Illumination of bridges, completely automated toll booths and driver facial recognition cameras for tighter security.

Nearly \$8 million in federal funding has been earmarked for improving travel across the U.S.- Canadian border. Plans call for an in-vehicle weather forecast and alert system to warn of inclement weather and delays.

NORTH CAROLINA

A new 80-foot bridge on the Mountains to the sea hiking trail has opened. The east-west trail runs from Clingman's Dome in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park to Jockeys ridge State park on the Outer Banks.

NORTH DAKOTA

Customers can access wait times for Bismarck's motor vehicle office, as well as driver's license offices in Fargo, Minot, Williston and Dickerson. Customers can find the wait time on www.dot.nd.gov.

The state Dept. of Transportation say that about two-thirds of the 193 scheduled road projects have been completed. At this same time last year, only about 45% to 55% were completed.

OHIO

There is justice! A federal judge has sentenced Karen Findley, former chief executive of Redflex Traffic Systems red-light camera vendor, to 14-months in federal prison for her role in a bribes-for-contracts scheme.

OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority has voted to increase tolls to pay for a turnpike improvement and extension package. The increase is contingent on a resolution of a pending lawsuit by Oklahoma City lawyer Jerry Fent.

The Oklahoma Dept. of Public safety said the government has rejected the state's request for an extension of time to comply with the federal REAL ID act. But the agency said the Dept. of Homeland Security won't begin enforcing the act until after Jan. 29, 2017.

OREGON

The state Dept. of Transportation is testing new speed signs that change the speed limit based on weather conditions on Interstate 84. Crews have installed the variable-speed signs on a 30-mile corridor from Ladd Canyon to Baker City.

The state is increased pressure to adopt federal standards for its driver's licenses and ID's before residents face additional scrutiny at secured areas, including airports.

RHODE ISLAND

A plan to charge big-rig trucks that travel along state highways has won approval from the federal government. The state Dept. of Transportation said it executed agreements with the Federal Highway Administration for 13 tolling locations.

Smart planning!! The state Dept. of Transportation plans to restore the old alignment of highway lanes on Interstate 95 after its new traffic pattern resulted in delays and driver confusion.

SOUTH CAROLINA

State parks are now safer for visitors who have heart conditions. The state Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism announced in the last week of September that all 47 of South Carolina's state parks now have been equipped with heart defibrillators.

TEXAS

A \$105 million plan to turn the Astrodome into a parking garage and event space was initially approved the last week of September after 16 years of inactivity, the Huston Chronicle reports.

VERMONT

The Agency of Transportation has received an additional \$16 million in federal highway funds it can spend on its projects.

VIRGINIA

A regional transportation board has recommended expanding the congestion-plagued Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel. If the recommended I followed by a state transportation board in December, the span will grow from four lanes to six.

WASHINGTON

A giant tunnel-drilling machine is nearing the halfway mark on its underground route from Sodo to South Lake Union. The drill known as Bertha was close to Pike Place Market. The machine was less than 100 feet away from reaching the midpoint on the Highway 99 tunnel project, The Seattle Times reported in the first week of October. Officials say the U.S. Highway 101 over the Elwha River could need replacement or retrofitting now that two dams have been removed.

WISCONSIN

The state Dept. of Natural Resources is delaying the construction of a bicycle train and bridge over the Manitowish River Vilas County after facing criticism, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports that crashes have spiked after the speed limit was increased to 70 mph last year. In the 12 months following the switch to 70 mph on Interstate highways in June 2015, fatalities rose 37% on interstates and injuries increased 11% and the total number of accidents rose by 12%. In that time, 10 more people died, 200 more were injured and 1,057 accidents were reported than in the previous 12 months on interstate roads. On Wisconsin's county highways, fatalities, injury accidents and total accidents rose but by less margins than on the interstate.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Is that with Fries??? The Wendy's on North Main Street in Culpeper Virginia will receive \$926,000 in a condemnation settlement with the town and state Dept. of Transportation that validated an adjoining traffic circle's negative effect on business at the fast-food restaurant.

After 91 year of car manufacturing in Australia, Ford has announced that it will end production next year.

Otto is here!!! The first commercial shipment by a self-driving truck was a beer run. Uber Technologies Inc.'s a self-driving trucking unit. Otto, said it partnered with brewing giant Anheuser-Busch Cos. To carry 51,744 cans of Budweiser on a shipment through Colorado. There was a human driver in the cab. Otto, a company founded by former Google engineers and executives was acquired by Uber in August of this year

The top selling new vehicles in the first nine months of the year are pickups. Ford is number one, Gm is number 2 and Fiat Chrysler (Dodge) is number 3.

Route 66 has been changed many times since it was first built and no actual total mileage is known. It was rerouted around cities instead of through them as cities grew. Originally, it end in Los Angeles, then was extended to downtown Santa Monica then extended to the pier in Santa Monica.

Google's self-driving cars have hit another milestone on the road to the automotive future, notching 2 million miles on the autonomous testing odometer. Experts are debating on how to track the safety of driverless cars. The U.S. government keeps no comprehensive database of crashes of driverless cars.

Larry Becker

26 October, 2016

