

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION



**OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS
PLUS WHAT'S UP HERE AND THERE**

by Larry Becker



The Federal Highway Administration says that American drivers hit a driving record. U.S. driving reached 1.58 trillion miles in the first six months of 2016.

The Detroit Free press reports that car loans (new & used), have topped \$1 trillion and that the 30 and 60 day delinquency rate rose in the second quarter of the year. The average new car loan was \$29,880, up 4.8% from the second quarter of 2015. The average monthly payment is \$499, sometimes as long as seven years.

Better than Elmer's Glue!! When pedestrians are struck by vehicles, their most serious injuries occur when they fall to the ground. Google may have solved that problem on their self-driving cars. The vehicles will have an "adhesive layer similar to double-sided duct tape", the company's patent reads. The adhesion of the pedestrian to the vehicle may prevent the pedestrian from bouncing off, the company states. Will this result in Google searches on how to clean a pedestrian off the windshield? (Information from an article by AARP)

Experts try to tackle regulation of stoned driving in California with state voters in November deciding on Prop. 64, an initiative to legalize possession and sale of marijuana for recreational use by those over age 21, the question of whether pot liberalization will make streets and highways more dangerous is a critical part of the debate. Colorado opened retail stores selling marijuana in 2014 for adult recreational use and a recent survey reported that pot-related traffic fatalities spiked by 32% according to a recent report.

Federal regulators faced with a growing number of self-driving car tests on roads across the U.S. plan to issue a flurry of new guidelines aimed at automakers and tech companies. The U.S. dept. of transportation will require any new tech to meet a 15-point safety assessment, consider new powers to allow administrators to limit the development of experimental vehicles and will issue a model for states self-driving car policies aimed at developing a cohesive set of national regulations.

In 1961, Goodyear invented an illuminated tire. There is not too much information on the tire and what happened to it.

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

Starting in October, a state driver's license won't count as valid ID to enter Fort Wainwright and some other federal facilities.

ARKANSAS

Highway officials commissioned a study to determine whether the state should use tolls to build a section of Interstate 49. According to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, officials are considering the tolls and public-private partnership for a 13-mile stretch of Interstate 49 from Interstate 40 to south Arkansas 22 in Barling.

ARIZONA

The self-driving Lexus sport-utility vehicles from Google were involved in three crashes caused by humans last month (August).

Mexican officials suspect a stolen truck outfitted with a cannon, was used to launch items over the U.S.-Mexican border near Douglas.

CALIFORNIA

SB 32 establishes new emission goals that will require massive cuts in petroleum use, and to help meet these goals, the Los Angeles Police dept. is testing using electric vehicles for routine patrols.

The California New Car Dealers Association states that sales of alternative powered vehicles have not kept pace with the rest of the new car market and that sales of electric vehicles have basically fell flat since 2014. They also say that (EV/HYBRID) technology costs more on a vehicle to vehicle basis and some consumers are looking at (less expensive) internal combustion engines in an effort to save money.

Connecticut

Gov. Malloy says the widening of Interstate 84 is ahead of schedule. The wide ranging project includes 20 retaining walls, realigning the roadway to eliminate the existing “S” curve and reconfiguring interstate ramps.

The state’s streamlined motor voter program registered more voters in the first month than the old program had in the past three years. From August 8 through September 7th, 14,093 people signed up under the new system.

DELEWARE

The Dept. of Transportation has received a \$1.49 million dollar grant for a pilot study regarding the feasibility of charging drivers on a mileage based user fee to help pay for road projects. The grant provides funding for on-board mileage counters in 50 vehicles to explore the feasibility of replacing the gas tax with a mileage based user fee.

A little extra income! The Dept. of Transportation said that over the Labor Day weekend, more than 888,000 vehicles passed through Delaware’s toll plaza locations. The Dept. of transportation says the weekend generated more than 42.4 million in toll revenue.

HAWAII

The state is proposing to get rid of the gas tax used to fund road repairs and replace it with a mileage based use fee.

IDAHO

The state Dept. of Transportation is considering updating its rules governing “megaload” shipments. Shipments of vastly oversize truckloads have been on hold along part of U.S. Highway 12 between Lewiston and the border with Montana.

INDIANA

State Dept. of Transportation spokeswoman Debbie Calder said that the four-lane Indiana 641 bypass will open to traffic in December, although some finishing work will continue through June 2017. The bypass will run about 6 miles and link Interstate 70 and U.S. 41 around Terre Haute’s southeast side

MARYLAND

Gov. Hogan said the state will begin studying locations and exploring potential funding options for a new Chesapeake Bay crossing.

MICHIGAN

Commissioners rejected a project to rebuild a parking lot and boat ramp along the Boardman River, the Traverse City Record-Eagle reports.

NEBRASKA

State counties will soon be able to apply for \$40 million in state matching grant, to repair and replace aging rural bridges. Individual grants for each bridge under the new state program would be capped at \$150,000 and counties must provide a 45% match.

NEVADA

A mistake in an application for federal funds may mean the elimination of an express bus route that carries 25,000 passengers a year between Lake Tahoe's south shore and downtown Carson City.

NEW MEXICO

Tourism officials will close four visitor centers in October. The centers are: La Bajada, Raton, Chama and Anthony.

RHODE ISLAND

Setting a great example! A municipal car used by Mayor Jorge Elorza's (Providence) advance staff was towed for accumulating seven years worth of unpaid parking tickets.

The Turnpike and Bridge Authority reached an agreement with popular cellphone navigation app Waze on a partnership to share traffic information. Under the agreement, the authority will receive Waze maps of the four bridges it controls complete with live traffic information as well as updated crash reports.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling smoothed the nerves of an irate visitor by offering to pay his \$10 parking ticket. Keyserling said he would pay the fine if the man from Greenville promised to return next year for his vacation. The mayor says he was glad to help out but won't make a habit of it.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The state Dept. of Transportation said road work has begun on Interstate 29. Repairing concrete pavement and resealing joints will run from the Iowa state line to north of Exit 4 (Sioux City area) for the north and southbound lanes.

WASHINGTON

Speed limits in downtown and residential areas of Seattle will probably be reduced this year. The City Council is considering a proposal that would reduce speed limits downtown to 25 mph from 30 mph. The residential speed limit would drop to 20 mph from 25 mph. If approved, the changes could take effect in November.

WYOMING

State transportation officials will use new technology on the Interest 80 corridor in an effort to prevent crashes. The state Dept. of Transportation has received a \$4.4 million federal grant to cover most of

the \$5.7 million project. The new technology will allow truck drivers to learn about updates on roadside infrastructure.

The Wyoming State dept. of Transportation is exploring the idea of offering license plates that celebrate Yellowstone National Park. The Yellowstone plate is still in the early stages of development and it would require the state Legislature to pass a law allowing the plate to be produced.

The state Dept. of Transportation will limit speeds to 55 mph after dark on a total of 84 miles of roadway. The first signs marking the change will go up on a 15 mile stretch of Highway 19 south of Pinedale by the end of October.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Tesla faces a new security in China about its Autopilot system after state television broadcasted allegations that a man was killed in a crash had activated his car's driver-assist system. Tesla says the car was too damaged from the accident to transmit data to company servers, and that the driver's family had not cooperated with an investigation.

NBC news states that there are only three factories, 2 in the U.S. and 1 in Canada, to process expired batteries from electric vehicles. It also states that it is costly to recycle these batteries.

A company founded in 1984 to produce high-end audio systems now is on the vanguard of the self-driving vehicle frontier with key financial backing from Ford Motor and Baidu, China's largest search engine provider. It seems that every day some company announces that they are developing a self-driver vehicle.

In June 1936, Consumer Reports, for the first time, rated 22 low and medium price cars selling for less than \$800. Two were designated as Best Buys, 17 acceptable, and three not acceptable for various reasons, including safety, manufacturer's financial viability, poor back-seat ride and bad design.

On Sept. 9th, 240 years ago, the Continental Congress changed the name of the United Colonies to the United States.

The Lincoln Highway was the first highway linking the east coast to the west coast. It was first conceived by Carl Fisher in 1912. The original highway crossed 13 states and was 3,389 miles long, but was shortened to 3,142 miles by 1924. In 1926, the U.S. started the numbered highway system.

Volkswagen is involved in talks with a Chinese company to make electric vehicles.

In September Ford announced that it will move its small car production from the U.S. to Mexico.

GM announced that its new electric vehicle, Bolt will have a starting selling price of \$37,495 including delivery charge. After tax credits are taken into account, the price could be as low as \$30,000. The \$37,495 retail price is for the base model. The vehicle is rated at 238 miles on a single charge.

For only \$999, you can buy a kit to make your vehicle a self-driving one. Comma.ai founder promises to ship a \$999 self-driving car package, called Comma One, by the end of the year. Details are sketchy as to what models and years the kit will work with. In time, Comma One “probably” will work with all Honda and Acura (cars) with Lane Keeping Assist Systems. Not too many details were released.

Tesla announced plans to build a battery storage system at a California utility site that will have the largest output of any existing lithium-ion storage facility.

Lyft (ride-sharing company) sees future cars as being shared and driverless. They think that more and more people will not be purchasing new vehicles, but will be using ride share cars.

R U 1?? One in six people actually had a harder time “breaking up” with their car than ending their first relationship.



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