

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS AND NEW LAWS PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE



Not all of the following state bills are laws at this time. They were recently introduced, and are currently under consideration by the respective legislatures.

ARIZONA

Testing of zero-emission electric shuttle' vehicles have begun at Sabino Canyon, a popular outdoor recreation site near Tucson.

CALIFORNIA

The Legislature has passed a bill that will allow the City of San Francisco to covert Lombard Street into a toll road. The bill has been sent the Gov. for his signature. The toll would be \$5 for a weekday and \$10 on weekends and reservations may be required. The tolls would be good for one trip only.

The Feds have notified California that thy can no longer set their own emission standards, This would undercut the state's decades long ability to set stringent standards on tailpipe discharges from cars and light trucks. The state has filed an appeal in federal court. The Feds want the same emission standards for every state.

On September 24th, the EPA threatened to withhold billions of federal highway aid because California has, "in the EPA words, the worst air quality in the United States." As usual, state leaders say they will sue the EPA in court to restore the funds.

COLORADO

Broomfield city officials have suspended their search for investors to help build a toll road northwest of Denver after a soil test found elevated levels of plutonium.

The use of seat belts in the state is increasing. It is up 2% over last year, but up from 60% in 1997. The average seat belt use nation-wide is 90%.

CONNECTICUT

Highway signs listing attractions in Southern Connecticut have remained blank for about a year. The State Transportation Dept. says the designs for the panels were not ready before the signs were installed and they had to approve the custom logo.

FLORIDA

Florida Power and Light plans to install 1,000 electric charging stations at 100 locations across the state.

HAWAII

The number of abandoned vehicles on the island is increasing every year, a recent report says. The Kauai Police Dept. ordered the towing of 653 vehicles over the 2019 fiscal year, The Garden Island reports.

ILLINOIS

The state has issued about 300,000 REAL ID ACT driver's licenses.

Fewer bicyclists in Chicago are being ticketed in the city, but most of them are going to riders in low-income areas, predominantly African American neighborhoods.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans city officials have voted to require new commercial parking surfaces to use porous pavement in this city where flooded streets are a common site.

MARYLAND

The state has narrowed the possibilities for a new potential bridge crossing over Chesapeake Bay to ease traffic congestion to three areas near the current twin spans of the Bay Bridge, state officials announced.

The Highway Administration has removed several road signs for "Negro Mountain" over concerns about racial insensitivity in the name.

A two-year project to rehabilitate the westbound span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge that's expected to cause major delays began in September.

A deck rehabilitation on the Bay Bridge (near Annapolis) has begun and motorists can expect major delays when using the bridge. No completion date has been announced.

MASSACHUSETTS

State transportation officials are restoring 21 historic road markers installed nearly 80 years ago to mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony because they've grown weather-beaten over the decades.

MISSOURI

Repairs to the Martin Luther King Bridge near St Louis, have been delayed due to summer and spring flooding. It was originally expected to be reopened in August, but is now set for next summer.

MONTANA

National Park Service officials say motorized electric bicycles are now allowed in Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Glacier national parks.

NEBRASKA

The city of Bellevue (near Omaha) plans to scrap bicycle lanes along one of its main thoroughfares in favor of more lanes for vehicles.

NEVADA

The state DMV will start tracking the miles driver's travel each year, data lawmakers aim to use to help determine the future of infrastructure funding.

More charging stations for electric vehicles are popping up in Las Vegas. The Las Vegas Sun reports that casinos, shopping centers and the University of Nevada have installed charging stations.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

A woman is fighting the state DMV over the rejection of her vanity plate showing a common parental phrase, "PB4WEGO." (Pea before we go!)

Visitors are expected to spend more than \$1.5 in the state this fall.

NEW JERSEY

Boardwalks at the Jersey shore could be reclassified as roadways as part of a plan to divert much-needed funds (road funds) to repair them.

NEW YORK

The second span of the new Kosciuszko Bridge between Brooklyn and Queens opened on August 29th.

The state has a new license plate that features several famous landmarks the DMV announced on Sept. 4th based on a statewide survey. The winning plate show-cases iconic settings across the state like the Statue of Liberty, Niagara Falls and the Montauk Lighthouse.

An elevated section of highway will be removed, and a section repurposed as an waterfront overlook in a redevelopment completion named Skyway redesign contest.

A crumbling 3-mile stretch of the New York State Thruway that runs through Seneca Indian Nation territory will be repaved under an agreement between the state and the Senecas.

NORTH CAROLINA

Old Bonner Bridge near Nags Head is coming down. About half of the center is gone, hauled offshore in massive pieces for a new purpose – an artificial reef.

NORTH DAKOTA

A federal grant of \$65 million will help replace 18 aging rural bridges, most in the western part of the state.

OREGON

Car owners could have the option of a new license plate if the state Wildlife Foundation design is approved. The group began a voucher sale this summer for the plate featuring a mule deer with a Mount Hood background.

PENNSYLVANIA

The State Police say it hopes to resume collecting data early next year on the race of drivers whom troopers pull over after a report revealed the practice ended seven years ago.

RHODE ISLAND

A state lawmaker is frustrated that mandated replacement license plates will have a design similar to the state's distinctive "wave" plates in use since 1996. Sen. Di Palma said the purpose of the new design was to make it easier for police to tell at a distance that the plate is old.

A federal infrastructure grant will help to replace and upgrade 11 bridges on a busy section of Interstate 95.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Fees to enter state parks may be increasing. The State Game, Fish and Parks commission is seeking comments from the public about proposed increases as the park system faces \$8 million in flood damage.

TENNESSEE

The State Dept. of Transportation has awarded a \$1.82 million federal grant to Clarksville for construction of a pedestrian bridge to complete a 10-mile hiking and bike trail.

VERMONT

A total of \$3.6 million in grants will go toward improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in communities around the state.

VIRGINIA

A northern Virginia county (Arlington) is taking down highway signs honoring the president of the Confederacy. The state has approved Arlington's request to change the name of U.S. Route 1 in the county from Jefferson Davis Highway to Richmond Highway.

WEST VIRGINIA

Vehicles exceeding the weight limit of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, has led officials to close it indefinitely.

WHAT SUUP HERE AND THERE

On Sept. 21st, police in Fremont California got a hit on their license plate reader on a Toyota Avalon entering the city. The vehicle was listed as wanted in a felony crime in Santa Clara County. Police gave chase (driving a Tesla police vehicle), but soon discovered that they were running out of battery juice and had to stop the pursuit. They only had about six miles of travel left on the vehicle. Luckily, the CHP had joined the pursuit and stopped the fleeing vehicle.

Federal prosecutors have charged a Fiat Chrysler employee with rigging pollution tests on more than 1000,000 diesel pickups and SUVs sold in the U.S.

The experts predicted that the UAW would strike against Ford first, but they were wrong. They struck against GM. GM has enough completed on hand to keep up sales, and isn't paying employees who walked off the job, but not operating in the U.S. for a week could cost roughly \$450 million. It is a wait and see who wins, the workers or GM.

In 1947, Las Vegas erected a 40 foot neon cowboy known as Vegas Vic on Fremont Street as part of promotion by the local Chamber of Commerce. For many years, Vic greeted people passing by with a "Howdy Partner" and waived his arm. He still stands at 25 Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas, but no longer issues a greeting or waves his arm. (He's getting old like the rest of us.)

The cities that have the most number of drivers running red-lights are" #1-New Orleans, Louisiana, #2- Boulder, Colorado, #3- North Miami Beach, Florida, #4-Laurel, Maryland, #5-Tampa, Florida, #6-Fort Worth, Texas, #7-Knoxville, Tenn. and #8-Newport Beach, Florida.

The number of people killed when someone ran a red-light rose 31% to 939 in 2017, a 10-year high according to AAA.

Have you reserved yours yet!! GM has announced that the starting price for a 2020 Corvette Stingray will be \$59,995 for the base model, second level will be \$67,295 and top the one will be \$71,945.

A great deal!! The Missouri Dept. of Transportation is offering eight old bridges for sale.

Automakers are urging Federal regulators to review and update laws concerning testing of full autonomous vehicles. This includes removal of all driver controls in autonomous vehicles.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety estimates that nearly 15 million Americans drove under the influence of cannabis (marijuana) in the 30 days surveyed. In a 2019 study of medical marijuana users, 1 in 5 admitted to have driven “very high”, and 50% has hit the road within two hours of a dose. University of California, San Diego researcher, Thomas Marcotte, states that marijuana can slow reaction time, mental focus and the ability to stay in your lane are just a few of the side effects.

On Sept. 10th AAA released the cost-of-car-ownership study that found a 24% increase in average financing costs on new cars contributed to a 4.9% overall increase of owning a new vehicle. Altogether, it costs the average American about \$9,282, or \$773.50 per month, to own a new vehicle when factoring in fuel, maintenance, depreciation, insurance, and borrowing costs according to AAA. The average driver pays \$920 in annual financing costs alone- which is up from \$744 in 2018. That comes in part from longer loan terms and higher vehicle prices. The average amount borrowed per new vehicle purchased in August was \$32,590. The average interest rate was 5.8%, the same as a year earlier, but the average loan terms went from 66.6 to 69.6 months. AAA says the average vehicle will depreciate \$3,334 in 2019. Depreciation amounts vary by make and model.

Carvana, a company that facilitates buying and selling vehicles online plans to open a \$40 million complex in West Memphis, Arkansas and create more than 400 jobs.

Farmers Insurance company estimates that 20% of American drivers do not have insurance coverage on their vehicles. Many states, like California require insurance coverage when registering or renewing their vehicles. Some may have coverage at renewal time, but let it lapse until the next renewal period.

The average age of cars and light trucks on U.S. roads reached an all-time high of 11.8 years in 2018, according to research firm, IHIS Makit. Automakers are improving the interiors of vehicles. Owners want more comforts since they are keeping their vehicles so most automakers are scrambling to make the interiors of their vehicles more durable.

The U.S. EPA has issued a final rule that allows gas stations around the country to sell E15 (gasoline that's 15% ethanol) year-round. Previously, the EPA prohibited between June 1st and September 15th due to fuel-volatility combined with higher blends of ethanol

and with warmer temperatures could led to increased ground-level ozone formation and smog.P



Larry Becker

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