

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION, INC.

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHATSUUP HERE AND THERE



by Larry Becker

Regulators and advocacy groups have attached so many strings to highway safety incentive grants that few states qualify for the millions in federal dollars. As a result, the money intended to help save lives through graduated licensing, ignition interlocks and distracted driving prevention, has been diverted to other transportation programs since incentive grants that became available in 2012. Many states have not even applied for the grants as they fail to qualify as their traffic laws do not meet the grants requirements. States would be required to amend their traffic laws in the two year time frame.

How much gas can you get for \$10??? In Britain, it is 1 gallon, 2 gallons in China, 3 gallons in the U.S., 22 gallons in Saudi Arabia and only 238 gallons in Venezuela. The world average gas price is \$5.41 per gallon as of mid August. (Information source is air-inc.com).



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.

ARIZONA

The Arizona Dept. of Transportation say people will be able to walk, jog, skate or bike under the elevated ramps that will soon carry traffic on the interchange between Loop 303 and Interstate 10 freeways in Goodyear. The open house was held on August 16th in the new westbound I-10 frontage road.

CALIFORNIA

The hidden Gas Tax buried deep within California's "Cap and Trade" program, was tucked away in the fine print of AB 32, a bill that radically increased government control over businesses in the name of reducing "global warming," and which goes into effect on Jan.1, 2015. CARB has elected to expand the devastating Cap & Trade program to include transportation fuels such as gasoline and diesel. That means that refiners and importers will need to buy carbon credits and guess who will pay for the cost of buying the credits? According to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office, retail gas will rise by 13 to 20 cents per gallon immediately and up to 50 cents per gallon by 2020, but CARB's own analysis calls for both gasoline and diesel to increase by 76 cents per gallon. There are several estimates on what the increase will be. (Information is from an article by Assemblyman Tim Donnelly issued on August 13, 2014).

There is still controversy over the new span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bridge as the state Senate released a report saying that the Dept. of Transportation managers "gagged and banished" at least nine top executives for the bridge after they complained about substandard work by the Shanghai, China firm that built the span. Some legislators are calling for a criminal investigation of the Dept. of Transportation officials involved.

State transportation officials are moving forward with a controversial plan to add toll lanes in a busy stretch of the 405 Freeway in Orange County despite strong opposition from nearby cities who argue the so called “Lexus lanes” will hurt average commuters. The plan would create two high-occupancy lanes in each direction along a 14-mile of the freeway from the 605 Freeway to Costa Mesa at an estimated cost of \$1.7 billion.

At least 340 vehicles were damaged by massive flooding during the last week of July on the campus of the University of California.

D.C. WASHINGTON

City records show Marion Barry, the former mayor and current council member, has racked up \$2,824 in unpaid parking and speeding tickets on his Jaguar since 2012, the Washington Post reports.

DELAWARE

Gov. Markell has signed legislation that requires all people convicted of drunken driving to have interlock devices installed on the vehicles they drive. Previously interlock devices were required only for first offenders arrested with a blood-alcohol concentration of .15 or higher or who refused to take a chemical test, and for repeat drunken drivers.

On August 22nd, workers began a jacking process to shift the deck of the northbound lanes of the I-495 bridge over the Christina River back into proper alignment.

FLORIDA

The state will push up the timing of \$800 million dollars worth of highway construction projects across the state. The \$255 million dollar project to widen Interstate 95 in Volusia County will be moved up to 2015 from 2020.

ILLINOIS

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's said the number of red-light camera traffic tickets being reviewed by city officials has increased from 9,000 to 16,000 after a Tribune (newspaper) investigation revealed unexplained spikes in the number of tickets issued at several intersections.

INDIANA

The new stretch of U.S. 31, between South Bend and Plymouth in northern Indiana, opened to traffic in mid-August. State transportation officials said that drivers were able to start using the 20-mile section of divided four-lane highway on August 21st.

Residents of Boonville will soon be allowed to drive golf carts and all-terrain vehicles on city streets. The Boonville City Council, on August 5th, voted to approve the proposed ordinance even though Police Chief Daryl Saltzar has expressed safety concerns.

IOWA

New traffic cameras are helping more Iowa commuters through the Des Moines area. The Des Moines Register reported nearly 50 state-of-the-art cameras along local roads have reduced traffic. The city plans to add 18 more cameras on heavily traveled corridors next year. (No information was released on if the cameras are also used to enforce traffic laws).

KANSAS

A century old Kansas bridge near Lindsborg, which one official described as "fun to drive over" has been closed to motor vehicles. The Salina Journal reports that the McPherson County Commission voted to follow state recommendations and close the Old Mill Bridge.

KENTUCKY

The sinkhole that swallowed up eight cars at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green will be partially filled in with plans for a bridge built over the top of the section left open.

LOUISIANA

A \$15.5 million dollar project to widen Hwy 73 in Ascension Parish faces more delays. Officials say the project projected to be finished a year later than it's original end date of October 2013, won't be finished for another 8 to 10 months.

Truck traffic has been banned from the O.K. Allen Bridge in Rapids Parish. Trucks will be detoured from the bridge and told to use the Purple Heart Bridge on U.S. 167, also known as the Pineville Expressway. It is not known if the ban also applies to motor-homes or trailers.

MISSISSIPPI

State transportation engineer Albert White said it could take several weeks to fix a big sinkhole on U.S. 61 near Natchez Regional Medical Center. The hole is nearly 15 feet wide and 25 feet deep.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Legislation to expand the range of antique auto vehicles eligible to used original year-of-manufacture license plates has been signed into law by Gov, Maggie Hassan. Under the new law, eligibility would be expanded to include all 1975 and earlier model years. However, the number on the antique plate must not be in use on another motor vehicle, motorcycle or trailer.

NEVADA

State officials have decided to shift back to more traditional methods to finance a Las Vegas freeway expansion. Members of the State Transportation Board voted to use government issued bonds for Project

Neon instead of the untested P-3 public-private partnership. Project Neon will improve a stretch of Interstate 15 that sees about 257,000 vehicles a day.

NEW JERSEY

On August 1st, the Atlantic City Expressway marked its 50th anniversary and the toll at the Egg Harbor Plaza was 75 cents in 1964 compared to \$3 now. The speed limit in 1964 was 75 mph, but now it is 65 mph.

The George Washington Bridge is getting a 9-foot high fence as the number of suicides there is approaching record levels. The Port Authority reported 13 suicides and 40 rescues so far this year. There were 16 deaths for all of 2013.

NEW MEXICO

Gov. Martinez wants the state Dept. of Transportation to do more to prevent suicides at the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge near Taos. The department plans to install 10 telephones at or on the bridge that will be answered by the New Mexico Crisis Access Hotline.

NORTH CAROLINA

The transportation department has awarded a contract worth more than \$11 million to a Mooresville company, for 11 new bridges in Buncombe, Madison and Mitchell counties. Work began on August 25th and will be completed in November 2017.

OAKLAHOMA

Work on the \$5.8 million dollar Stepps Ford Bridge project near Commerce has stopped after federal officials told the Ottawa County Commission that its construction method could harm a threatened catfish population.

OHIO

For the second consecutive year, the most stolen vehicle in the state in 2013 was a 1994 full size Chevy pickup truck, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau. (They must like 94 Chevy trucks in Ohio).

OREGON

Portland mayor Charlie Hales said that tolls on highways are inevitable.

RHODE ISLAND

The cost for the state to deal with an improperly installed railing on the Iway Bridge on Interstate 195 is now approaching 500,000.

A new ban on truck traffic in the Slatersville Historic District has begun to be enforced. The ban, recently approved by state lawmakers, prevents trailers weighting more than four tons from traveling on local streets, except to make deliveries.

SOUTH DAKOTA

In an attempt to enhance safety on city streets, the Sioux Falls police dept. stopped issuing warnings in favor of tickets that carry fines such as \$25 for jaywalking or \$120 fines for motorists not yielding to a pedestrian. The push to change behavior was promoted by a summer of fatal accidents involving motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

The major byway between Pierre and Sturgis is closing for about 2 to 3 weeks starting August 11th, creating a 76-mile detour. The South Dakota Dept. of Transportation says the two and half mile stretch of Highway 34 east of Howes will be closed August, 11th just east of the Highway 73 junction. No completion date has been announced.

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Highway patrol is testing a software system that aims to increase the safety of motorists and the decrease the number of crashes. No further details have been released.

The Governor's Highway Safety Office's has issued orders for police to crack down on drunken drivers especially through Labor Day weekend.

UTAH

Drivers for smart-phone based ridesharing services are facing steep fines from officials, who say the drivers are running unlicensed taxi services. Some drivers for the app-based service Lyft say they've been fined \$6,500 for a single ticket.

VERMONT

The Green River Covered Bridge, which has undergone repairs for the last 6 weeks, should reopen to pedestrians in late August and to vehicle traffic by mid September.

Vermont has two more locations where electric vehicle owners can charge their cars. The chargers in the Marketplace garage, is a level 3 station capable of the fastest charging time of any commercially available station. In the Lakeview Garage, located near two hotels, there are 2 Level 2 dual-port stations.

WEST VIRGINIA

A report released on August 14 by the National Insurance Crime Bureau says a 2008 full-sized Ford pickup truck was the most often stolen vehicle in the state in 2013. Chevy pickups were ranked second, followed by a 1998 small size Chevy truck. (West Virginia gives you 3 choices while Ohio only gives one).

WISCONSIN

An optional ‘In God We Trust’ state license plate created by legislation authored by Rep. Dean Kaufert is set to move forward after a local Madison resident met the \$9,000 fundraising goal to pay for the DOT design. David Hinds received donations from across the state.

WHAT'S UP HERE AND THERE

A Nice Guy!! City Councilman Cecil Bothwell of Asheville, North Carolina, used his electronic parking pass to allow dozens of motorists to leave a county garage for free following the Mountain Moral Rally the first week of August. Area media outlets report he's now received a \$125 bill from Burcombe County for the parking fees.

The National Highway Safety Administration has unveiled a plan to require vehicle-to-vehicle communications technology in all new passenger cars. Adopting these technologies, the agency says, could prevent nearly 660,000 crashes every year once the rollout is complete. One of the communication devices would warn drivers if they are making a left-turn too soon which accounts for more than 7 percent of all car crashes. Testing of the technology devices is already under way, but it may be years before they will be available. There is also no estimated cost increases for the devices to be added to new vehicles.

No Big Howdy! A newly released Driver's Seat Road Rage report say 31 that drivers in Houston, Texas, were found to be the least courteous drivers in America. Houston was found to have the highest incidents of bad behavior (drivers speeding, tailgating, cutting others or slamming on their brakes and other incidents), making Huston number one in bad driver behavior. Joining Huston at the top of the list is Atlants #2, and Baltimore in third place. Portland, Oregon, still has the most courteous drivers, along with Pittsburg and St. Louis. Drivers in Baltimore are meaner than when the survey was first released, their driving etiquette dropped 20 spots from third most to third least in ranking.

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August 25, 2014