

CONTEMPOARARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION Inc.

# OLDCARSANDNEWLAWS PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE



*By Larry Becker*

*They got us again! Washington and Maryland increased their gas tax as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, just before July 4<sup>th</sup>, one of the busiest travel days of the year. Washington State will raise 4.9 cents per gallon, the second part of an increase last year to yield an overall rate of 49.4 cents per gallon. Maryland's rate is rising 0.9 cents to 30.3 cents per gallon. The rate has been rising under a 2013 formula that accounts for inflation. The New Jersey Assembly approved a 23 cent per gallon hike on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The Senate will consider the bill in the first week of July. Gov. Christie said he would sign the legislation. The gas tax, which had been the lowest in the US, will be 37.5 cents per gallon.*

*According to a survey by USA Today, 82 hours are lost each year by car commuters in Washington, D.C. Lubbock, Texas drivers had the fewest hours lost, only 12.*

*According to an article in USA Today, on an average, a DUI raises car insurance rates by 80%.*

*According to a report in USA Today, 82% of travelers are at risk for cyberattack. It says that 82% of travelers connect to Wi-Fi abroad even if it's not a secure connection. It also says that 48% do on-line banking via public Wi-Fi.*

*Don't want to wait?? Audi is introducing an industry-system that tells drivers how long it will take for a traffic light to change from red to green. It will be available on some 2017 models.*

*A great Deal!!! A real estate dealer in Sacramento, California is offering a great deal on a new home. If you buy a new home, they will give you \$35,000 towards the purchase of a new Tesla Model 3. The only problem is that most of the homes start at \$1,000,000.*

*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 state legislatures..*

## **ALABAMA**

*Officials in Foley are discussing naming a new pedestrian bridge in costal Alabama after the recent Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee Ken Stabler. The \$1.5 million bridge is currently being built above State Route 59, the state's busiest beach-bond highway.*

## **ALASKA**

*The city of Sitka has announced that construction will start soon on the second phase of an Oceanside sidewalk project. The project is funded by the State's Transportation Dept.*

## **CALIFORNIA**

*S.B.1429, which expands the authorization of year-of-manufacture license plates to include owner's of 1980 or older model-year vehicles, has been approved by the CA Assembly. It was previously approved by the state Senate. The bill has been sent to the governor for his signature. Current law only authorizes owners of vehicles that are a 1969 model-year or owners of a commercial vehicle or pickup truck that is a 1972 or older to utilize year-of-manufacture license plates. These plates must be legible and serviceable.*

*In California it is illegal to talk or text on a hand held cellphone, but it is not explicitly illegal to scroll through your phone's music playlist by hand while driving or to take photos with your phone's camera from behind the wheel. The law is also silent on whether you can hold your phone in your hand to read the phone's map, or search on an app for the nearest pizzeria or gas station. That is because the state's law on cellphone restrictions were written years ago, before phone apps, maps and cameras came into common use. Anything that you do with a hand-held cellphone that causes you to drive erratically is a no-no and could result in a citation. A new bill, AB 1785, says that drivers aren't to do anything with their smartphones while driving has been introduced in the Assembly.*

*AB 51, allowing lane splitting to be legal, has been signed by the Gov. and authorizes the CHP to develop guidelines for motorcyclists who weave in and out of traffic.*

*AB 1785 would require drivers to mount their smartphones on the car's windshield or dashboard and use them only for things that require the "motion or a single swipe or tap of the driver's finger."*

## **COLORADO**

*A \$15 million dollar grant will help fund the expansion of a stretch of Interstate 25. The funding will help to add a toll express lane in each direction between Fort Collins and Loveland, bringing the total number of lanes to six.*

## **CONNECTICUT**

*As of August 8<sup>th</sup>, DMV said every applicant or renewal of driver's licenses or non-driver ID's will also function as a voter registration application unless the customer ops out.*

*More than 8,000 vehicle owners missed their vehicle registration in February because they didn't receive a renewal notice due to a computer glitch.*

## **IDAHO**

*Police are trying to change speed traps by eliminating the “trap” part of the process. The Coeur d’Alene police have started posting officer’s locations on the department’s Facebook page.*

## **ILLINOIS**

*State transportation officials are asking private partners to help develop an express toll lane on Interstate 55 in the Chicago area.*

## **KANSAS**

*Wichita city officials are moving ahead with a plan that would separate drunken bicycling from laws on driving a car under the influence and make drunken bicycling a misdemeanor. The city code bans operating any vehicle under the influence but makes no distinction between those powered by motor or those powered by pedals.*

## **KENTUCKY**

*The Eggners Ferry Bridge, which opened to traffic in March 1922, has been demolished. The demolition was part of a \$133 million replacement project.*

## **MAINE**

*The Federal Dept. of Transportation will give more than \$10 million to help replace the Beals Island Bridge. The bridge is the only way to get from the mainland to the island town of Beals.*

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

*Gov. Baker has signed a bill which will bring the state into compliance with new federal requirements for driver’s licenses and other identification cards.*

*Boston Mayor Marty Walsh hopes a new state law will allow his administration to lower speed limits in parts of the city from 30 mph to 25 mph.*

## **MICHIGAN**

*Renovations to the Detroit Windsor Tunnel linking Michigan and Canada will be delayed until 2017 so the project can be re-engineered. Upgrades will include a new ceiling to replace one installed in the 20’s, electrical lighting and some masonry.*

## **MISSOURI**

*State transportation officials say it will take longer than expected to finish work on the Missouri River Bridge near Jefferson City. Officials expect the additional work to add about \$500,000 to the \$7 million dollar project.*

## **NEVADA**

*As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, motorists will have to replace their vehicle license plates every eight years. A new plate will require a \$48 fee. This is in addition to registration fees.*

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

*The Sarah Mildred Long Bridge has been closed to traffic after a malfunction, and the span may never reopen. The 76-year-old bridge connects Portsmouth to Kittery, Maine, via the U.S. Route 1 Bypass.*

## **NEW JERSEY**

*The New Jersey Supreme Court has ruled that police cannot pull over drivers merely for driving with their high beams on.*

*Gov. Christie has rejected legislation calling for automatic voter registration when residents apply or renew their driver's license.*

*MyCentralJersey.Com reports that students at Rutgers University paid nearly \$5 million a year in 2014 & 2015. The school issued about 90,000 tickets last year, which works out to more than five per driver on campus.*

## **NEW YORK**

*Statewide data shows a 99% drop over four years in the number of drivers ticketed for breaking the state's move-over law. The law is designed to protect police and firefighters, as well as EMTs and sanitation workers.*

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

*The state Dept. of Transportation plans to install traffic signals on four on ramps on Interstate 540 early next year to break up the long lines of vehicles that pour on to the freeway during rush hours.*

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

*The state Transportation Dept. has begun mowing along sections of state highways. Private mowing of state highways is not allowed in the medians of four-lane highways. Motorists should take care when passing the mowing vehicles.*

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

*The Southwestern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority will no longer allow Regional Rail riders to buy tickets on trains if they are leaving the city. The change was spurred by scheduling issues created by the loss of more than 100 rail cars due to a structural defect.*

## **OHIO**

*The city of Toledo has collected almost \$630,000 during its first four months of using hand-held cameras to catch speeding drivers.*

*A judge in New Miami has ruled that proceeds from this village's new handheld speed-cameras program can't be garnished to satisfy a nearly \$2 million lawsuit that residents won.*

## **OKLAHOMA**

*Officials have unveiled a license plate with the state bird design, which will replace the image of an Apache warrior shooting an arrow into the sky. The new plates will be issued beginning Jan. 2017 and will cost motorists \$5.*

## **OREGON**

*The Oregon DMV said it will need months or more to issue a driver's license with a non-binary gender designation after a judge ruled that a person can legally identify as neither male or female.*

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Charleston has given the go-ahead to a plan to convert a lane of the T Allen Legare Bridge over the Ashley River to bike and pedestrian use, but the project has to go through a county approval process.*

*A \$75 million project to widen heavily traveled Interstate 26 east of Columbia is likely to be finished by late September. The Dept. of Transportation has been with-holding 10,000 a day in penalties. That amount has reached about \$2.8 million.*

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

*Gov. Daugard has awarded nearly \$1 million in Recreation Trails Program funding to cities, state parks and the Black Hills National Forest. Awards to cities ranged from \$9,750 for Claremont to \$112,000 for Hurley.*

## **TENNESSEE**

*The state Dept. of Transportation has axed proposals to build a toll bridge across the Tennessee River near Soddy Daisy.*

## **UTAH**

*The state Dept. of Public Safety started issuing newly designed licenses and ID cards in late July. The cards have features intended to boost fraud prevention and protection against counterfeiting or any kind of alteration.*

## **VERMONT**

*The state will lose 8% of its federal road money, or \$60 million, on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> if the state is found out of compliance with federal zero-tolerance standards or underage drunken driving, according to the National Highway Safety Administration. Under federal rules, the maximum allowed blood alcohol content for drivers younger than 21 is 0.02%; the new law raised that limit to 0.08% for 18 to 20 year-olds.*

## **VIRGINIA**

*Virginia is the first state to offer registration for the federal Transportation Security Administration's Pre-Check program, which provides expedited airport security screening, at Dept. of Motor Vehicle offices.*

## **WASHINGTON**

*Travelers in western Washington are now able to drive along a newly constructed avalanche bridge in Snoqualmie Pass. State transportation officials opened the new eastbound bridge, which stretches along 15 miles of Interstate 90.*

*Malcom Drilling, the contractors who built Bertha the tunnel machine two years ago, have filed a lawsuit seeking \$11 million in extra pay. The contractors contend that their efforts working with tough soil conditions cost more than anticipated. There were problems with breakdowns on the machinery and the project was late being finished.*

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

*The state will offer kiosks in malls, grocery stores and elsewhere as another option to renew car registration without going to the DMV. The first one opened the second week of August.*

## **WISCONSIN**

*The Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation is increasing safety both for workers and drivers by cracking down on cellphone talking and driving. As of Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be illegal to talk on a hand held mobile device when driving in a Wisconsin road work zone.*

*The state faces a nearly \$1 billion dollar gap over two years on transportation funding, a sum that roiled the debate on July 27<sup>th</sup> over whether lawmakers should cut projects, raise the gas tax or registration fees, or find a new way to help pay for roads.*

*On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the 41/43 interchanges reopened to traffic in the Green bay area.*

# WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

*Have a Smartphone? Did you know that with the full system, you can unlock your car doors, start the engine, open the trunk, locate where you're parked and even activate your security system if you have the right apps? The vehicle must also have the required systems, such as electric door locks, electric trunk releases and etc. Premium versions of the smartphone include features such as text alerts for speeding and when your car has a low battery. You must have a module installed in your car, (around \$300, plus installation) and a monthly service fee.*

*In mid-August, Uber began testing self-driving cars in Pittsburgh by offering free rides. Regular service will begin soon, but for the present UBER cars will have a back-up human driver in the cars.*

*On July 20<sup>th</sup>, Elon Musk of Tesla announced that they hope to expand into small SUVs, pickups and even heavy-duty semis and buses, No additional details were available.*

*According to a study by McKinsey & Co, by 1950, driverless cars will account for 15% of global sales, and 1 in 3 sales by 2050. A survey of more than 100 company risk managers at the Risk and Insurance Management Society conference in San Diego in April found that 64% of those attending said their companies had done nothing to prepare for the emergence autonomous vehicles.*

*A dog was at the wheel of a car that slowly crashed into a Walmart in Wayne, West Virginia. The car owner said that she left the car running while she went into the store, so her dog could stay cool. She said the dog must have managed to get the car out of park. No injuries were reported. (Wonder if she remembered to buy dog food??)*

*For the second three months of the year, Tesla reported it lost \$293 million. Excluding certain items, the adjusted loss was narrowed to \$150 million. Tesla has started construction on its giant battery manufacturing plant near Reno, Nevada.*

*Car makers and the government regulators are at odds over the 2025 emissions regulations. Car companies say the cars will cost more than consumers are willing to pay.*

*A group of security experts say that it has figured out how to hack the keyless entry system used on millions of cars, meaning that thieves could in theory break in and steal items without leaving a broken window.*

*The government has issued new aggressive emissions standards for heavy-duty trucks – rules that are expected to achieve better fuel efficiency and a bigger cut in pollution than the version first proposed last year*

*Despite more safety equipment in cars, car crash deaths are increasing. Labor Day (2016) could prove to be deadliest since 2008, the National Safety Council says.*

*The federal government is seeking to forcibly limit how fast trucks, buses and other large vehicles can travel on the nation's highways. A new proposal would impose a nation-wide limit by electronically capping speeds with a device on newly made U.S. vehicles that weigh more than 26,000 pounds. Regulators are considering a cap of 60, 65 or 68 mph, though that could change.*

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