

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

July was the worst month for auto sales and the 7th straight drop. According to the Autodata Corp, sales of new cars and trucks fell 7% in July.

The Associated Press reports the latest documents filed by automakers show that automakers won't meet the government deadline of' Dec. 31st, to finish the recalls which began in mid-2015.

A Chinese automaker, "Great Wall Motors" is "deeply interested" in buying the Jeep brand from Fiat Chrysler, but the company says that there have been no discussions with Great Wall Motors.

England plans to ban the sale of diesel and petrol cars and vans by 2040.

As of August 8th, Colorado is requiring anyone convicted of a felony DUI to stand time behind bars. A 2015 law makes a fourth and subsequent DUI offenses, a felony.

Ford and the government are checking into reports that Ford Explorer 2016 & 2017 may have caused police officers to become ill while using the vehicles. This is thought to be caused by carbon monoxide fumes. Ford has promised to repair the vehicles as it investigates.

A Delaware bankruptcy judge has temporarily halted the prosecution of lawsuits filed by four states against Japanese auto-parts supplier Takata over its defective air bag inflators. The judge issued a 90-day stay on the lawsuits.

Less people riding in the rear seat of a vehicle use their seat belts than people in the front seat. Only 72% say they use the seatbelt in the rear seat while 92% say they use the seat belts in the front.

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

State transportation officials say that specialty license plates keep raising record amounts for charitable causes in Arizona. In the most recent fiscal year ending June 30th, specialty plates generated more than \$9.8 million dollars.

The state plans to award a project contract for a system to reduce the risk of wrong way driving. The system uses thermal camera technology to sense wrong-way vehicles and alert drivers and others on the road.

CALIFORNIA

State officials say that nearly one million undocumented drivers could be licensed by the end of the year. Through June 2017, DMV issued approximately 905,000 licenses under AB 60, the bill requiring applicants to prove only identity, and California residency rather than their legal presence in the state.

County officials will spend more than \$138 million to buy 95 electric buses for Los Angeles County.

An editorial by John Moorlach of the Sacramento Bee suggests that California vehicle owners buy locking gas caps. The Cap & Trade legislation that was recently passed will raise gas prices as much as 73 cents per gallon, plus the 12-cent increase from the gas tax hike passed earlier this year. Moorlack bases his information on a report by the Legislative Analyst's Office. State officials do not agree with the report.

COLORADO

Colorado is using a driverless truck to follow and protect highway workers. It's electronically controlled by another truck ahead of it.

FLORIDA

Tolls for a road linking the Florida Keys to the mainland will be collected by hand until Sept 1st. State officials had hoped electronic collecting would start Aug 1st

GEORIGIA

A three month project to repave four miles of US 80 that links Tybee Island to the mainland is taking place during the peak of hurricane season.

HAWAII

A law banning Honolulu pedestrians from using cellphones and other electric devices while crossing the street will take effect October 25th. The first violation can earn a fine up to \$35.

ILLINOIS

State officials say that in the 20 years since they lowered the drunken driver limit to .08 blood alcohol level, vehicle fatalities have fallen by 43%.

INDIANA

State police are working to make construction zones on Interstate 70 safer after three people were killed in crashes during the third week of July.

IOWA

A study has found that almost 5,000 of Iowa's 24,000 bridges are rated as structurally deficient. Most problem bridges are in rural areas and farm communities that see relatively low traffic.

MARYLAND

Gov. Hogan has announced changes to Maryland's Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program that he says will save residents more than \$2 million a year. The changes include extending the period for getting an initial inspection after the purchase of a new vehicle.

Results of a study to add a third span to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge span should be ready for release by October.

The relaunch of speed cameras in Baltimore stumbled July 31st when the program's vender issued nearly \$39,000 in duplicate tickets on its first day. The 962 people who received duplicate tickets received a letter forgiving their violations.

MINNESOTA

A new \$650 million bridge opened the last week of July in Stillwater to replace a lift bridge that carried traffic across the St. Croix River for more than 85 years.

A great deal!!! The state dept. of Transportation is selling a bridge. The state says it will even pay the buyer what it would cost to tear down the Hwy 57 bridge over Red Creek in Jackson County.

NEVADA

The state Dept. of Transportation announced the opening of the first section of Interstate 11. It is part of what will become an international trade route from Mexico to Canada.

BLM management is considering raising the entrance fee to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation area in Las Vegas. The current charge is \$7 for drivers, the proposed increase would raise the fee to \$15.

NORTH DAKOTA

Many state residents can now renew their driver's license on line. The system works for drivers 21 to 65 who have no changes in their address or name.

OHIO

In a 5-2 ruling, the Ohio Supreme Court upheld traffic camera enforcement. It's the third time the court has struck down legislative restrictions opposed by cities, including the latest to require a police officer to be present.

RHODE ISLAND

The Providence City Council is considering a proposal to add 20 more red-light cameras in the city and hopes to have 10 in place by years end.

Funding for incentives to help Rhode Island residents to purchase electric cars has dried up. State drivers received \$575,000 in incentives through the program which used settlement funds from petroleum violations.

State officials have rejected a plan to ban tractor-trailers from many state roads, a decision that would allow drivers to avoid upcoming truck tolls. But the state Traffic Commission says it will reconsider the idea after getting more information.

TEXAS

Huston is stepping up bicycle safety enforcement after 3 dozen were injured since 2015. A 2013 ordinance requires motorists to stay at least 3 feet away from bicyclist and pedestrians.

The North Bosque River bridge which was built in 1884, the last functioning Whipple Bridge in Texas is being replaced.

WASHINGTON

Most vehicle and passenger ferry fees will increase in October and again in 2018 under a proposal by the State Transportation Commission.

WEST VIRGINIA

State officials say the storm the last week of July damaged some 200 state maintained roads, with repair costs approaching \$7 million. The flooding affected roads in 11 West Virginia counties.

WYOMING

Cheyenne locals who modify their diesel vehicles to blast out heavy plumes of smoke could be hit with worse punishment than the state's \$100 fine. The City Council has voted to ban the practice commonly called "rolling coal". That gives the municipal court discretion to boost the fine.

State officials plan to pave a two mile dirt section of Moose-Wilson Road, a popular route into the Grand Teton National Park next year.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

On July 27, 1917, the first Ford Model TT truck rolled out of the assembly plant, beginning an American love affair with pickups that still stands today. Ford had intended the Model TT for farmers, another tool like the Fordson tractors that he built. He had the Model TT engineered specifically to be a truck at a time when most pickups were modified cars. Before the model TT, most pickups were produced like stretch limos are today. Customizers bought cars, stretched their wheelbase, added new body work and sold them as trucks. Ford even sold a \$59

kit that would convert a Model T into a tractor. The 1917 Model TT had a 1 ton chassis and a longer, stronger frame than the Model T car.

In the last week of July, Tesla announced upgrading all of its premium interior options to be leather-free. The company is known for being environmentally friendly.

Hyundai plans to start producing a “crossover” truck called the Santa Cruz. No released date has been announced.

Toyota and Mazda have announced plans for a \$1.6 billion joint assembly plant in the U.S. that will create 4,000 jobs. The location of the plant has not been disclosed.

Faraday has leased a 1-million square foot former tire factory in Hanford California. It plans to start producing electric vehicles by the end of 2018.

Uber is scaling back on its car leasing business, but is considering several options for its Xchange leasing program.

Mazda says it has achieved a breakthrough in an old fashion gas engine technology that could add up to 10 mpg and could be available in 2019.

Henrk Fisker is back with plans for a new electric vehicle and expects that production will start at the end of 2019. It will cost only \$129,000.

Hyundai has unveiled a new fuel cell SUV with a longer range. Hyundai says the new fuel cell will allow the vehicle to travel 498 miles before refueling.

Great Deal!!! For only \$50,000 you can get a replica Porsche 550 Spyder. They are made in Chandler, Arizona by Seduction Motorsports. Porsche made only about 100 of the original 550 Spyderys. Another company, Pur Sang of Southern California builds replicas of the Bugatti Type 35 racer.

There are also several other companies that build replica vehicles and will build any model that you can afford.

Several companies are testing electric trucks, both in the U.S. and Europe. England has been using them for a few years now. In the U.S. Government

approval is needed before the vehicles can be driven on state highways and U.S. Interstates.



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