

CONTEMPORARY HISTORICAL VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

by Larry Becker

The word automobile is a European word from two countries: Auto is a Greek word meaning self and mobile is a French word meaning moving.

The federal government has approved a new deal that allows Mexican freight trucks to be driven on U.S. highways. This is part of NAFTA, an agreement between Canada, Mexico and the United States which was signed in the 1990s. Canadian trucks have been allowed to use U.S. highways for the past few years. The allowing of Mexican trucks and drivers to use U.S. highways has and still is opposed by the teamster's union who cite safety concerns of the vehicles and experience of the drivers.

The EOA may do away with gasoline vapor recovery systems in 2013. They are the bulky rubber cover at the end of the gas nozzle that is required in some states. By 2013, the EPA estimates that 70% of the vehicles on the road will have gas tanks that have been designed to trap vapors while refilling.

The following state bills are not laws at this time, . They have recently been introduced and are currently under consideration by the respective legislatures.

ARIZONA

The city of Flagstaff is considering a “use tax”, a city tax primarily on business equipment and on cars and trucks sold in communities that don’t collect local sales taxes. Enforcement of the tax on motor vehicles would be added to the duties of the state DMV.

CALIFORNIA

Drivers who renew their driver’s licenses are now required to yes or no to the question of whether they want a sticker on their license stating that they are organ donors.

SB 28

The bill has been sent to the governor who is expected to sign it. The bill would increase fines for using a cell phone (not a hands free device) while driving and makes the law apply to bicyclists also. Under SB 28, the basic fine for a first time automotive offense would jump from \$20 to \$50 and subsequent offenses from \$50 to \$100. However, with state and local assessments tacked on, the total bite for a first offense would jump from \$208 to \$328 and for additional tickets from \$328 to \$528.

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As of July 1st. driver’s whose cars had the yellow “Access OK” decals were no longer allowed to use the state carpool lanes during commute hours. The six year program had helped to popularize the Toyota Prius and other hybrid gas-electric vehicles. New hybrid vehicles meet higher standards now.

With school starting the CHP is reminding drivers that they must stop when a school bus is stopped with it’s red light flashing and often with it’s retractable stop sign out. No matter how many lanes there are, driver’s in both directions are required to stop. The key exception is when the road has a center divider such as a concrete median. In that case, vehicles on

the opposite side of the road do not have to stop. Once the bus turns off its red lights, cars can start moving.

CONNECTICUT

The state Department of Transportation has held public meetings to discuss the planned busway to Hartford. Advocates say the busway would help alleviate traffic congestion along the Interstate 84 corridor.

Westpoint will be the first municipality to receive an electric-car charging station as part of a Connecticut Light and Power research project. The utility is opening the station to study electric-car owner's recharging habits. Other areas getting recharging stations include Mansfield, Torrington and West Hartford.

D.C – Washington

The DMV is offering money for the first time since 2001, the Washington post reports. Starting on August 1st, all overdue parking, photo-enforcement and moving violation tickets issued before Jan. 1st, 2010 can be paid with out penalties. Mayor Grey said the city expects to collect about \$6 million thru the program, which ends Jan. 27th, 2012.

GEORGIA

The Sea Turtle license plate is providing about \$5,000 each quarter for the sea turtle center. The tag costs \$80 and \$10 to renew annually. The first \$25,000 earned by mid 2010, repaid the initial investment from the Jekyle Island Authority.

ILLINOIS

Work began on August 1st to make safety improvements on a deadly stretch of I-74,. A high-tension cable barrier will be installed in the median of a six mile stretch from the Carlock Intersection to McLean County Highway 38 to prevent crashes involving vehicles crossing the median. The slopes on the side of the roads in that area will also be re-graded.

INDIANA

The Indiana Highway patrol has a new tool in it's effort to enforce speed limits in construction zones. The Patrol is using a pickup that looks like a highway maintenance vehicle to catch speeders in the construction zones. Fines for violators are very expensive and multi-violators face the loss of their driving licenses.

IOWA

Residents who owe court fees for fines must pay up before they can get a new car registration or renew their current vehicles. In the past, the law only applied to clerk of court fees in the resident's home community. As of August 1st, it applies to any past-due fine in any Iowa county.

KENTUCKY

All 70 patrol officers (in the Owensboro area) are getting digital video cameras that clip to their uniforms and can record incidents up close. A grant from the Department of Justice has paid for the cameras.

MARYLAND

The state secretary of transportation said toll increases for bridges, tunnels and roads will likely be delayed because of changes being considered in response to public hearings. Members of the Transportation Authority may not vote on a bill scheduled for August 25th as planned. That could delay the increases until November 1st instead of Oct. 1st.

Motorists can now dial 511 to get traffic-related news such as lanes closed due to construction or accidents and traffic jams.

MICHIGAN

The Ann Arbor City Council has set an August 25th deadline to strike a deal with the University of Michigan to pay for traffic services to deal with fans on football Saturday. The city wants reimbursement for traffic

management during home games and other special events at Michigan Stadium.

MINNESOTA

A \$50 million remodel of Hwy 69 thru Minneapolis is almost completed. The new highway bridge is called an “up and over” as the new road takes motorists on a new highway that goes over traffic signals on Hwy. 81 and N. 88 avenue that once intersected Hwy. 169 in a nightmarish triangle

NEW JERSEY

The state is spending more than \$17 million on technology and equipment to improve snow removal. The fleet of 500 plows and salt spreaders will get GPS devices that will tell a command center in Woodbridge where trucks are most needed, what a truck status is and what it’s crew needs.

The states 39 Motor Vehicle Commission Agencies will reopen on Mondays after officials reversed a decision last summer to close Mondays to save money. The move resulted in long waiting times.

NEW MEXICO

Carlsbad city officials are considering an ordinance to ban the use of hand held cell phones and other device while driving. . A public hearing will be held before a decision is made. The ordinance would prohibit using these devices for texting, calling, messaging, and social networking.

NEW YORK

Major toll hikes aimed at funding work at the World Trade Center and other sites drew heated debates at hearings conducted on August 16th by the port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The authority is considering raising the cost of entering the city to \$17 per car starting in 2014, up from the current rate of \$8. The fare for the PATH subway trains under the Hudson River from \$1 to \$2.75. Some commuters have complained that they are getting stuck with the bill for the new

World Trade Center and post 9/11 security projects. A final decision has not been reached on the fare increases.

A bill sponsored by SEMA to provide historical vehicle owners a one time registration fee of \$100 upon initial registration has passed in the New York Senate and now will be considered by the Assembly Transportation Committee.

NORTH DAKOTA

The U.S. Highway 83 Bypass is closed for repairs. State Transportation officials say they have been monitoring bridges in Minot and surrounding areas because of recent flooding in the area,. No date has been announced on when the bridge would reopen.

PENNSYLVANIA

A bill that would provide vehicle owners the option to use vintage original model-year plates on antique and classic vehicles has passed in the state House of Representatives and is now awaiting consideration in the Senate Transportation Committee. An annual fee of \$75 would be charged for a request to use year-of-manufacture plates. Under the bill, the plates would have been issued by Pennsylvania between 1906 and 1975 and must be provided by the vehicle owner and be legible from a reasonable distance.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The DMV is allowing residents to enter emergency contact information that will be stored with their driving records. The information will not be printed on the driver's license and can only be assessed by enforcement or medical personnel in an emergency. Drivers can enter the names and addresses of two contacts at the DMV website.

TENNESSEE

Speed cameras have generated nearly \$1.6 million for the town of Bluff City from Jan. 1st, 2010 to May 31st, 2011. Cameras on U.S. highway 11E in

Piney Flats issued 39,293 citations, according to Gov. Hasham, who was ticketed twice during his campaign last year for speeding

The city of Memphis got its first electric vehicle charging station at the historic Peabody Hotel. It is the first of more than 70 public charging stations planned across Shelby County.

WASHINGTON

By December, electric car drivers will be able to access a network of charging stations stretching along Interstate 5 from the Washington border with Canada to the Oregon border. The state selected California based AeroVironment to install nine charging stations along Interstate 5 within six months.

WHAT SUUP HERE AND THERE

Starting in late July, the Statue of Liberty will be closed for one year in order to remodel and do some safety upgrades.

The top 5 stolen cars in the U.S. last year is as follows: #1 – Honda Accord, #2 – Honda Civic, #3 Toyota Camry, #4 Acura Integra and #5 is Ford Taurus.

Something to make all the men feel better! A recent survey published in Time Magazine states that the roads might be safer with more women behind the wheels of cabs and big rigs. Though both sexes share the road in equal numbers, from 1998 to 2009, 77.3% of fatally injured drivers were males because they take more risks such as driving drunk and speeding.

The city of Lake Havasu Arizona city council shot down a proposal to allow drinking at London Bridge State Park. Drinking is not allowed in the park, although it is allowed on non city property along the seawall and the beach itself.

D.C. Metro has launched a test program that will let riders upload money to their Smart Trip electronic fee cards from their computers. About 5.000 Metro riders have been selected to participate in the four week test program,

Construction of a new bridge that will link Portland and South Portland is running ahead of schedule. It is scheduled to open July 1st, 2012.

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