



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

A monthly compilation of national, provincial and local news stories on road safety

For the Period July 1-31, 2023

This is the most dangerous time to be a pedestrian in over 40 years. These charts explain why.

July 04, 2023, Microsoft Start (UNITED STATES)

From behind the wheel, cars and trucks today are safer than ever before. But for people on the street, vehicles haven't been this dangerous in over a generation.

A study of State Highway Safety Offices data released by the Governor's Highway Safety Association in June assessed American drivers killed at least 7,500 pedestrians in 2022. That's the most of any year since 1981. Missing data from Oklahoma means the final number is likely even higher.

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Government of Canada announces new measures to improve commercial vehicle safety

July 10, 2023, CISION (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The safety and security of Canadians is a top priority for the Government of Canada. Promoting commercial vehicle safety is of critical importance, which is why we are looking at new enforcement measures that can bring about positive changes.

Today, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced that, in addition to existing measures, enforcement officers will be able to impose fines to drivers or companies who violate the Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations.

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Automated Speed Enforcement data highlight significant speed reduction impact

July 11, 2023, City of Toronto (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Three years after the start of issuing tickets to speeding vehicles, evaluation data from the City of Toronto's Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) program highlight how speed cameras have been effective in significantly reducing the number of people speeding and overall vehicle speeds, pointing to increased compliance and improved driver behaviour.

An evaluation study conducted by researchers from The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in collaboration with the Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) analyzed speed and collision data from January 2020 to December 2022 at 204 locations that had an ASE device. Although data collection was affected by the pandemic, substantial data was collected during periods without stay-at-home orders or school closures.

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Crashes are the leading cause of traumatic workplace death in B.C.

July 11, 2023, The Nelson Daily (NELSON, BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Can you name the most dangerous thing you do in your job?

It may be driving – even if you do it just once in a while. Things like running office errands, calling on clients, or travelling to off-site meetings are work-related driving. And work-related crashes are the leading cause of traumatic workplace death in B.C.

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Despite surge in popularity, private e-scooters still banned on Edmonton streets

July 11, 2023, CBC News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

Privately-owned electric scooters may be common on city streets but they are still illegal to be used on public property in Alberta – and municipalities are hoping to change that this fall.

Companies like Lime and Bird are allowed to rent e-scooters in Calgary and Edmonton under an exemption to the provincial Traffic Safety Act, to support cities' active transportation programs.

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Quebec's new electric scooter rules are now in effect

July 20, 2023, CBC News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Quebec's three-year pilot project to regulate the use of motorized personal transport vehicles, such as electric scooters, begins on Thursday.

The Transport Ministry says the goal is to evaluate the safe integration of these devices into regular traffic, informing possible additions to the road safety code.

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Manitoba impaired drivers to be denied third-party liability coverage: MPI

July 25, 2023, Global News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

Beginning Aug. 1, Manitobans convicted of impaired driving will face new insurance consequences.

Impaired drivers who are in a crash will be denied third-party liability coverage under the new rules, Manitoba justice minister Kelvin Goertzen and Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) board chair Ward Keith announced Tuesday.

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New algorithm maps safest routes for city drivers

July 25, 2023, UBC News (VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Most navigation apps can show you the fastest possible route to your destination and some can even suggest an eco-friendly route calculated to produce the least amount of carbon emissions.

But what if they could also map the safest route with the lowest possible risk of a crash?

A new algorithm developed by UBC researchers could make this a reality. Led by Dr. Tarek Sayed, professor in the UBC department of civil engineering, and PhD student Tarek Ghoul, the group developed a new approach which identifies the safest possible route in an urban network using real-time crash risk data, and can be incorporated into navigation apps such as Google Maps.

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Biker Down Rides Into Canadian Motorcycle Safety

July 28, 2023, CARSP (VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Canadian motorcyclists will soon have access to free life-saving training, including a world's first: The Biker Down Motorcyclist First Aid Certificate powered by the Canadian Red Cross.

Motorcycling remains very popular for nearly 1 million Canadians, both as a passion and as a mode of transportation. During the pandemic there was a dramatic increase in the sales volume of motorcycles. Unfortunately, there has also been an increase in the number of rider injuries and fatalities. Biker Down's mission is to train and empower bikers to help reduce motorcyclist fatalities by 30 per cent; not only saving lives but also eliminating the associated costs of a road traffic fatality.

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Lost in translation: How New Zealand's plan for bilingual road signs took an unexpected turn

July 29, 2023, CNN

It was meant to be an inclusive gesture to New Zealand's indigenous Maori community. But plans to introduce bilingual road signs featuring both the English and te reo Maori languages have sparked a divisive, racially charged debate ahead of the country's looming general election.

New Zealand - or Aotearoa as it is known to the Maori - recently hosted a public consultation on whether to include te reo Maori on 94 types of road signs, including for place names, speed limits, warnings and expressway advisories.

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