



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period August 1-31, 2023

Alberta's 'move over' traffic legislation expands to all roadside workers but not all lanes

August 08, 2023, Global News (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

Changes to Alberta's Traffic Safety Act will take effect Sept. 1, 2023. And, while they mean drivers will have to slow down when passing all roadside workers, they apply only to the closest lane of traffic, not all lanes of traffic, which is what the province had previously said it was planning for.

Starting in September, drivers in the lane closest to any roadside worker vehicle stopped on the side of the road with lights flashing must reduce their travelling speed to 60 km/h or the posted speed limit, whichever is lower. Drivers must also move over to the far lane if it's safe and reasonably allow other drivers to move over too.

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Alberta dilutes legislated traffic protections for roadside workers

August 08, 2023, CBC News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

The Alberta Motor Association says its roadside operators are disappointed with the province's decision to walk back some of the traffic safety provisions passed last year in Bill 5.

The original version of the bill, which amended the Traffic Safety Act, required drivers in every lane going in the same direction to reduce their speed to 60 kilometres per hour when passing a roadside worker's vehicle with its flashing lights on.

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Alberta fire chiefs ask province why ‘slow down, move over’ road rules were changed

August 10, 2023, Global News (ALBERTA)

Fire chiefs across Alberta are disappointed with changes made to roadside safety rules and want to see the data that led the government to alter the original protections in Bill 5.

The Alberta Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) also raised concerns with what it calls a “lack of consultation” regarding the changes.

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NHTSA proposing new rules to encourage seat belt use by all vehicle passengers

August 21, 2023, Yahoo Finance (WASHINGTON, USA)

The Department of Transportation is proposing new rules designed to encourage seat belt use by car and truck passengers, including those sitting in the back seat.

The new rules proposed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration would require manufacturers to equip vehicles with additional seat belt warning systems for the right front passenger and for rear seats to encourage increased seat belt use.

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Quebec's new road safety plan includes tougher fines, reduced speeds, increased surveillance

August 22, 2023, CBC (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

With back-to-school just days away, the Quebec government on Tuesday unveiled a new plan to reduce the number of road accidents – and their severity – especially around school zones.

The road safety plan, which takes the form of 27 measures to be implemented over five years, includes tougher fines for offences against pedestrians and cyclists, reduced speeds in school zones and more photo radars.

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Government watering down roadside safety bill

August 23, 2023, The Wetaskiwin Times (WETASKIWIN, ALBERTA)

In March, Alberta Transportation announced it would not be rolling out changes to the Alberta Traffic Safety Act that, among other things, would require drivers in all lanes of traffic to slow down to 60 km/h or the speed limit – whichever is lower – when passing an emergency vehicle or roadside worker vehicle with its lights activated on the same side of the road. This rule would apply to motorists in either direction on single-lane highways and would extend those safety protections to snow plow operators and roadside maintenance workers, because in the year since it had been announced there hadn't been any public education done.

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Police, residents agree more officers needed, study finds

August 25, 2023, CBC (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) says both its members and the community want to see an increased police presence across the city.

That's one of the takeaways from consultations, surveys and meetings held by the OPS since May in order to inform their strategic plan and lay the groundwork for next year's police budget.

But one of the people whose input was included in the report said the force shouldn't take that as "blanket" permission to demand more funding and add more staff.

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