



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period December 1-31, 2023

How 2+1 roads can save time, lives and dollars in Northern Ontario

December 4 2023, Northern News (NORTHERN ONTARIO)

A new study by the Northern Policy Institute has determined the implementation of 2+1 roads in Northern Ontario presents a lower-cost solution that results in similar or superior road safety, rather than twinning.

Closing the Gap: How 2+1 Roads Can Save Time, Lives and Taxpayer Dollars outlines an example of how this cost-benefit can play out. Focusing on a stretch of highway between North Bay and Temiskaming Shores, the paper finds that upgrading this road from two lanes to a 2+1 configuration would deliver a benefit-cost ratio of 1.01 over a 20-year period, jumping to 2.28 over a 40-year period and to 3.64 over 60 years. (For a project to be worthwhile, the benefit-cost ratio should be equal to or higher than 1.)

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Some Ontario drivers take their tests in 'less complex' rural areas. Report says they crash more

December 6 2023, Global News (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Drivers who head out of their home city to take tests in "less complex" rural areas are more likely to end up involved in crashes, the province's auditor general has found.

As part of his annual value-for-money audits, acting auditor general Nick Stavropoulos found drivers from areas in and around Toronto are heading to smaller and more rural test centres to complete their driving exams.

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Quebec Transport Minister introduces a bill to improve road safety

December 8 2023, CTV News (MONTREAL, QUEBEC)

Quebec Transport Minister Geneviève Guilbault tabled a bill on Friday to improve road safety, implimenting her Road Safety Action Plan announced earlier this year.

Guilbault unveiled the broad outlines of her plan in August, which provides for the addition of photo radars, as well as a limit of 30 km/h in school zones.

Fines for offenders in these areas will also be increased.

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The 10 busiest photo radar cameras in Ottawa so far in 2023

December 10 2023, CTV News (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Photo radar cameras caught an average of 627 speeders a day on Ottawa roads in October, as the extra sets of eyes on the road continue to detect speeders in school zones and community safety zones.

New statistics show Ottawa's 28 photo radar cameras issued 19,445 tickets for speeding in October.

The busiest camera was on Cedarview Road in Barrhaven, with 2,586 speeding tickets issued during the 31 days in October.

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More than 2 road traffic deaths happen every minute, WHO says

December 13 2023, Global News

The World Health Organization (WHO) is warning that road safety is still an urgent global issue, even though it notes progress has been made over more than 10 years.

The number of annual road traffic deaths has fallen to 1.19 million per year, amounting to about a five per cent drop since 2010, according to a WHO report published Wednesday.

The WHO's 2023 global status report on road safety states pedestrians, cyclists and "other vulnerable road users" still face an "acute and rising risk of death," with more than two deaths occurring per minute and more than 3,200 per day.

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As City of Edmonton lowers the speed limit researchers say it's helped drivers stay safer

December 13 2023, CBC News (Edmonton, Alberta)

The City of Edmonton lowered the default speed limit from 50 to 40 km/h in August 2021. Two years later, researchers from the University of Alberta are seeing results in traffic safety.

Drivers are slowing down between three and eight km/h on some city streets thanks to the reduction.

A joint study by the U of A researchers with the city monitored 200 locations before and after the speed limit change. Findings show that crashes were down by one quarter, and there was a 42 per cent reduction in injuries and fatalities for those walking, cycling, or riding e-scooters.

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G-Class Grievances: Ontario G driving test changes done without safety evaluations, auditor general finds

December 13 2023, Collisionrepairmag.com (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

A decision to remove certain elements of the Ontario G class driving test was made without safety evaluations or formal cabinet approval, says Ontario's acting auditor general Nick Stavropoulos.

Specifically, in his 2023 Annual General Report, Stavropoulos noted that a change to the test which removed "duplicative" elements such as emergency stops, three-point turns and parallel parking, was made "without the support of proper policy analysis."

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Parallel parking needs to be back in G-class driving test, say experts

December 30 2023, CBC Lite (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Skills like parallel parking, driving in residential areas and three-point turns were axed from Ontario's G-class driving test in 2022 to curb driving test backlogs caused by the pandemic. But those who teach driving and keep watch over road safety say it's time to bring them back.

Ottawa Driving School owner Majed Al-Wattar says instead of just testing prospective drivers on whether they can get from "point A to point B", examiners need to evaluate a range of skills to help answer whether the would-be drivers "really deserve to [have a license] or not?"

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CARSP Conference 2024

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