



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period April 1-30, 2025

## **New provincial photo radar restrictions take effect in Alberta**

April 1 2025, Global News

Alberta's overhaul to photo radar enforcement has officially taken effect, as Calgary's police service prepares to apply for exemptions to problem intersections.

New regulations that took effect Tuesday prohibit photo radar on numbered provincial highways, and limit its use to school, playground and construction zones.

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## **Idling Implications: Factors of an entire trip, like idling, impact drivers' choice to speed, says Toyota CSRC study**

April 4 2025, Collision Repair Magazine

As part of an ongoing mission to investigate mobility safety, Toyota's Collaborative Safety Research Center (CSRC) has released a report exploring the reasons why drivers speed.

According to the CSRC's study, while prior research has focused on individual risky driving events like crashes or near-misses to determine driver behaviours, the broader context of an entire trip can be another important factor.

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## Is automotive high tech safe?

April 4 2025, Times Colonist

Layers of technology in new vehicles often result in increased driver distraction, lack of tactile feedback, complex menus, and real-world usability challenges.

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## Do curb extensions at crosswalks make intersections safer?

April 6 2025, The Globe and Mail

Curb extensions at crosswalks are there to calm traffic - and pedestrians' nerves.

The primary goal would be the reduction of crashes, which comes about from the reduction in speed, but that reduction in speed also makes it a more comfortable place to be for vulnerable road users.

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## Safe cycling program gives kids confidence to ride

April 7 2025, BC Gov News

More children in B.C. will be riding with confidence as the Province helps to expand the Everyone Rides Grades 4-5 program, giving more students hands-on cycling skills while promoting road safety and active transportation.

“Ensuring the safety of our children while promoting active transportation is a priority for our government,” said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit.

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## Protecting autonomous vehicle drivers from cyberattacks

April 7 2025, Waterloo News

The increasing integration of cars with advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) means fully autonomous vehicles (AVs) will likely be a reality by 2050, if not sooner. These self-driving vehicles will not just operate with minimal human intervention, they will make “decisions” to adapt and react to changing situations on the road. Human drivers will literally take a back seat.

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## City to trial one-way vehicle circulation on Canada Place for peak cruise ship season

April 7 2025, Vancouver.ca

To improve pedestrian safety and better manage the growing volume of vehicle traffic on one of the city's busiest thoroughfares, the City is testing one-way vehicle circulation on Canada Place between Howe and Burrard streets from mid-April to December 2025.

The pilot will begin ahead of the peak spring/summer cruise ship season, which annually sees upwards of 1.2 million passenger visits to Vancouver boarding more than 300 cruise ships.

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## Most Canadian drivers had a distracted driving near-miss last year, Samsara reports

April 8 2025, Trucknews.com

Eighty-five percent of commercial drivers in Canada experienced a near-miss or "close call" due to distracted driving in the past year—higher than the global average of 79%, according to Samsara.

Based on a survey of 1,550 commercial drivers across seven countries, including 150 in Canada, the report outlined smoking cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or vaping, checking phones for social media and communication as the most common causes of distraction.

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## **Distracted driving licence suspensions climb in Manitoba**

April 9 2025, CBC

Statistics released by Manitoba Public Insurance suggest Manitobans aren't getting the message about the dangers of distracted driving.

"There's a perception that distracted driving is a lesser of the evils compared to impaired driving and speeding and those types of things," MPI spokesperson Tara Seel said.

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## **Traffic specialist raises concerns over proposed bump-outs**

April 12 2025, Saugeen Times

Bump-outs (curb extensions) are often introduced to improve pedestrian visibility and safety at crosswalks. However, in smaller communities like Southampton, the potential drawbacks may outweigh the benefits.

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## Revolutionizing pedestrian safety and urban transportation using VR and digital twins

April 16 2025, torontomu.ca

Most pedestrian fatalities in Canada happen on urban roads, according to Transport Canada. As city streets become more crowded with vehicles - and soon, automated cars - an understanding of human travel behaviour is essential to make urban spaces safer.

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## Speeding ‘a serious problem,’ says Chow, as Toronto doubles speed cameras from 75 to 150

April 16 2025, CTV NEWS

The city has added 75 new speed cameras to Toronto streets, a move that Mayor Olivia Chow says will hopefully help curb speeding and not simply result in an influx of tickets.

In an email to CTV News Toronto, the city confirmed that its Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) system generated about \$40 million in fines last year alone but Chow said expanding the number of cameras isn't about fining more drivers.

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## **B.C. proposes changes to graduated driver's licensing program**

April 17 2025, CBC

The British Columbia government has introduced legislation to make changes to its graduated driver's licensing regime, seeking to eliminate the need for a second road test to obtain a full licence.

Public Safety Minister Garry Begg says the changes, if approved, will see new drivers get "on-road experience" and be subject to a 12-month restriction rather than be required to take another test to get their Class 5 licence.

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## **What should I do if I'm being tailgated in the HOV lane?**

April 20 2025, The Globe and Mail

The HOV lane is meant for carpooling - not for pushing other cars out of the way, safety experts said.

"In terms of the law, we often hear about slower traffic being required to stay to the right but that doesn't apply to the HOV lane," said Sean Shapiro, a traffic safety consultant and former Toronto police officer.

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## Changing Course: Alberta auto insurance reforms explained by the IBC

April 21 2025, Collision Repair Magazine

The Insurance Bureau of Canada is educating Alberta drivers about changes coming to the province's auto insurance sector.

Last week, the IBC launched a website explaining the Care-First auto insurance system set to arrive province-wide in 2027.

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## Photo radar cuts has Edmonton council exploring new traffic enforcement options

April 22 2025, Global News

Three weeks after new restrictions on photo radar took effect, Edmonton councillors are asking the city to look into alternative ways to conduct traffic enforcement to keep streets safe.

The new Alberta government regulations took effect April 1, prohibiting photo radar on numbered provincial highways and limiting its use to school, playground and construction zones.

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## **BBQ Ribs Behind the Wheel? 72% of Drivers Admit to Risky Meals on the Road**

April 25 2025, 107.5 Kool FM

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and while we all know texting and driving is a no-go, it turns out our phones aren't the only thing stealing our attention on the road.

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## **Quebec coroners push to align DUI rules with rest of Canada**

April 30 2025, Driving.ca

Province's impaired driving laws are among country's strictest—but leeway given to those with 0.05 to 0.08 BAC could be harming 20 per year.

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