



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period March 1-31, 2024

## Where's the fire?! There are no good excuses for speeding

March 1 2024, City of Ottawa

A fire truck may fly by you on the way to saving lives. But when you speed, the opposite is true - you are risking lives.

Those few seconds possibly saved by speeding could have tragic consequences for you and other road users. From 2017 to 2021, 209 drivers were involved in fatal and major injury collisions in Ottawa related to speed and aggressive driving.

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## 'A lot has changed,' Winnipeg mayor says as he pushes to reopen Portage and Main by summer 2025

March 1 2024, CBC

Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham made it official Friday morning and announced his desire to reopen Portage and Main to pedestrians by summer 2025.

A new report from the city's acting urban planning manager says fixing the leaky membrane at Portage Avenue and Main Street in order to protect the city-owned underground pedestrian crossing would create traffic delays for four or five years and cost at least \$73 million.

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## Have you noticed new pedestrian beacon crosswalks at NC intersections? Here's what to do

March 1 2024, Yahoo News Canada

As cities across North Carolina look to make their streets more walkable, a different kind of traffic signal is being installed to keep pedestrians safe – but some drivers are unsure of what to do when they approach them.

The traffic signals, called pedestrian hybrid beacons (PHB) are traffic control devices designed to help pedestrians safely cross busier intersections, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Studies show that PHBs can significantly reduce crashes.

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## Regina drivers pulled over for any reason this month will have to take a sobriety test

March 1 2024, CBC News

The Regina Police Service is launching a new initiative that will require drivers pulled over during March to take a mandatory alcohol screening test.

And they want drivers to know that under the law, drivers are required to comply with a demand for a breath test.

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## A New Jersey city that limited street parking hasn't had a traffic death in 7 years

March 2 2024, CityNews Ottawa

Street parking was already scarce in Hoboken, New Jersey, when the death of an elderly pedestrian spurred city leaders to remove even more spaces in a bid to end traffic fatalities.

For seven years now, the city of nearly 60,000 people has reported resounding success: Not a single automobile occupant, bicyclist or pedestrian has died in a traffic crash since January 2017, elevating Hoboken as a national model for roadway safety.

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## Opinion: We can use curbs to shape the future of accessibility and mobility

March 3 2024, The Varsity

The curb is an often overlooked feature of street design, but behind its unassuming presence lies the intermediary between pedestrian and driver, automobiles and bipedalism. Curbs are the mediator of urbanity – marking boundaries, dictating movement, and ensuring safety in a realm where vehicles might meet human vulnerability.

But what happens when this aspect of road planning is neglected? How might we better utilize curbs to increase street safety for all transit modes? Better curbs, to me, start from building them for pedestrians who use them instead of constructing them with only cars in mind.

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## AI Stocks - Another Application to Watch; Transforming the Future of Transportation Safety

March 4 2024, Gananoque Reporter

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution is impacting all sectors, and transportation has not been left out. Forbes notes. “AI is revolutionizing the transportation industry in many ways, and its impact on safety is significant. From automated vehicle inspection systems and intelligent traffic management systems to assisted driving and fleet integration, AI is making transportation safer and more efficient on a global scale.”

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## Navigating the Road to Safety: The Book Publishing Pros Announce Nationwide Launch of 'You're Driving Me Crazy!' by John Reinhardt

March 5 2024, Northern News

Miami, Florida-(Newsfile Corp. - March 5, 2024) - Amid growing concerns over road safety, The Book Publishing Pros proudly present the nationwide launch of John Reinhardt's debut publication, “You're Driving Me Crazy! 101 Dangerous, Discourteous, Illegal and Just Plain Stupid Driving Habits.” This groundbreaking guide marks a pivotal shift in driving etiquette and behavior, offering a comprehensive overview of safer driving practices.

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## Drivers lack confidence navigating roundabouts

March 6 2024, Penticton Herald

A new ICBC survey conducted by Ipsos reveals that just over half of drivers (57%) feel confident navigating a single-lane roundabout and 29% feel confident navigating a multi-lane roundabout.

The survey also shows that 15% of respondents find it difficult to know who has the right of way when entering a roundabout. This correlates with drivers' biggest frustration when it comes to navigating roundabouts: other drivers not yielding to vehicles that have the right of way.

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## Calgary's 'Slow Down, Move Over' campaign enters 7th year

March 7 2024, CTV News Calgary

Calgary tow truck drivers, first responders and road maintenance crews are teaming up to bring awareness to road safety as part of the city's annual 'Slow Down, Move Over(opens in a new tab)' event.

On March 7, between 7 and 8 p.m., crews are parking alongside Deerfoot Trail near the off-ramps to Glenmore Trail, to remind drivers to reduce their speed and leave space between them and safety vehicles with flashing lights on Calgary roadways.

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## Committee hears about ongoing road safety efforts in Ottawa's rural areas

March 7 2024, City of Ottawa

The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee today received a presentation about improving road safety in rural areas(link is external), one of the main areas of focus for the City's Road Safety Action Plan.

The presentation highlighted that more fatal injury collisions happen on Ottawa's rural roads than anywhere else in the city. Over the last reported five-year period, 23 per cent of all fatal and major injury collisions in Ottawa occurred in rural areas. That figure rises to 38 per cent when considering only fatal injury collisions.

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## John Ducker: Drivers and pedestrians need to pay attention

March 8 2024, Times Colonist

The past couple of weeks have not been good ones for pedestrians on Vancouver Island. From Sooke to Cedar to Victoria and Saanich, there have been a string of fatal and serious-injury pedestrian incidents on our roads in recent days.

It's not just happening here, either. Last year in the U.S., a record 7,508 people were killed by vehicles – an increase of 77% since 2010. Twenty pedestrians were killed every day last year in the U.S.

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## Vancouver road safety advocate concerned after numerous car crashes

March 10 2024, CityNews Vancouver

After multiple pedestrians involved in crashes in the last few weeks, advocates are growing increasingly concerned.

Lucy Maloney, with Vision Zero, a group of pedestrian safety advocates in Vancouver, says one of the main issues causing crashes is the roads.

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## Highway 102 safety survey launched

March 11 2024, TBnewsWatch

THUNDER BAY – Area residents are getting a chance to comment on traffic safety issues on Highway 102.

The Ministry of Transportation has initiated a study to identify potential road safety and operational improvements between Dog Lake Road and Siston's Corner.

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## 80% of Partial Driving Automation Systems Tested By IIHS Rated Poor

March 12 2024, Motor Illustrated

The push towards partial to fully automated driving has experienced several highs and lows in recent years. The latest findings from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) suggest that the road to fully reliable and safe automation is still under construction. The IIHS recently unveiled a new ratings program aimed at assessing the effectiveness of safeguards integrated into partial driving automation systems and the results could be characterized as lows.

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## Most automated driving systems are lousy at making sure drivers pay attention, insurance group says

March 17 2024, CityNews Toronto

DETROIT (AP) – Most electronic systems that take on some driving tasks for humans don't adequately make sure drivers are paying attention, and they don't issue strong enough warnings or take other actions to make drivers behave, according to an insurance industry study published Tuesday.

Only one of 14 partially automated systems tested by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety performed well enough to get an overall "acceptable" rating.

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## **B.C. announces high fines, jail time for commercial truck drivers who hit overpasses**

March 12 2024, Global News

B.C. commercial truck drivers could face high penalties and fines for hitting overpasses under the province's new plan.

Proposed changes to the Commercial Transport Act (CTA) will enable the courts to impose fines for as much as \$100,000, and imprisonment up to 18 months.

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## **Tesla, rivals get low marks for automated-driving technology**

March 12 2024, CTV News

Tesla's TSLA.O Autopilot and Full Self Driving technology and nine other assisted-driving systems marketed by major automakers received "poor" ratings from the U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in a new study released on Tuesday.

The IIHS, a safety research arm of the insurance industry, also said there is no evidence that Autopilot or other assisted-driving systems have real-world safety benefits, based on crash data.

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## **Pedestrian and cyclist injuries and deaths are up. So why is Toronto set to spend less on making streets safer?**

March 12 2024, Toronto Star

When baseball player Roger Maris broke Babe Ruth's single-season home run record by knocking in 61 dingers in 1961, it famously went into the record books with an asterisk beside the achievement. It was a signifier that while, yes, he had beaten the record, Ruth's mark was set at a time when there were fewer games in the season. An important bit of historical context.

Toronto city hall's road safety numbers over the last few years should have an asterisk too. A big one, shaped like the COVID-19 virus.

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## **SQ reports 240 fatal collisions, 269 road deaths in 2023**

March 14 2024, CTV News Montreal

The Sûreté du Québec (SQ) has published its annual road safety report, which showed 240 fatal collisions and 269 deaths in 2023.

The data published by the SQ "corresponds, for the most part, to the average of the last five years."

According to the force, the leading causes of fatal collisions last year were reckless driving and speeding (31 per cent) and inattention or distraction (9 per cent).

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## Ontario Improving Road Safety in the North

March 15 2024, Ontario Newsroom

SHUNIAH – The Ontario government is marking the opening of a new commercial vehicle inspection station on Highway 11/17 near Thunder Bay. Located in Shuniah, the \$30 million state-of-the-art facility is part of the province's plan to improve road safety and deliver faster and better transit infrastructure in the North.

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## More than half of P.E.I.'s impaired driving charges this year have been for cannabis

March 16 2024, CBC

RCMP on P.E.I. have charged three dozen people for impaired driving so far in 2024, and alcohol wasn't the only cause of impairment. In fact, the majority of those arrests were related to cannabis use.

Nineteen of the 36 charges laid since the start of the year related to driving under the influence of cannabis.

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## Richmond RCMP's Road Safety Unit Highlights Key Traffic Safety Outcomes for February

March 18 2024, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

As part of the ongoing commitment to road safety, Richmond RCMP's Road Safety Unit (RSU) is releasing its traffic violation and collision statistics for February 2024, underscoring the importance of safe driving behaviours and vigilance on the roads.

For the month, officers issued a total of 782 traffic tickets, highlighting the proactive measures taken to curb dangerous and unlawful driving behaviours.

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## Aireon Launches Safety Dashboard

March 18 2024, Canada Newswire

Aireon is ushering in a new era of data analytics with the release of the first of its Data Dashboard products - Safety Dashboard.

This new dashboard will support and enhance air navigation service providers' (ANSP) safety assurance programs by identifying leading indicators of the industry's biggest operational risks. Aireon Safety Dashboard is a powerful tool designed to help ANSPs identify, monitor, and analyze key leading indicators of risk in their airspace.

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## Curious about where Calgary drivers are breaking the rules? New police data reveals hot spots

March 18 2024, CBC News

Calgary police issued 234,841 photo radar, speed-on-green and red-light camera tickets last year. That's an average of 643 tickets every day from automated enforcement alone. But have you ever wondered where the most traffic violations occur in the city?

CBC News requested data from the Calgary Police Service to find out what locations recorded the most automated enforcement traffic fines in 2023.

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## City of Saskatoon stopping prohibition bylaw aiming to enhance pedestrian safety

March 19 2024, City of Saskatoon

The City of Saskatoon has passed amendments to Bylaw No. 7200, The Traffic Bylaw, aimed at improving pedestrian safety.

The updated bylaw includes a 15-metre stopping prohibition before marked pedestrian crosswalks, along with a 10-metre stopping prohibition after the crosswalk, unless otherwise specified by traffic signs.

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## A new speed limit exposes design failures

March 19 2024, The Coast Halifax

The roads of Downtown Dartmouth just got official recognition that they're a bit safer for everyone than the HRM's standard street. This is a result of the city successfully petitioning the provincial government to lower the speed limit in Dartmouth's downtown core. The provincial government was happy to reduce the posted speed from 50kmh to 40kmh which will, based on the best available evidence, have negligible to no impact on people travelling through Downtown Dartmouth's core.

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## Rogers to deploy 5G cameras, sensors to manage traffic at five Toronto intersections

March 21 2024, CityNews Kitchener

The City of Toronto has given Rogers Communications Inc. the green light to set up cameras and sensors at five downtown intersections that will track the movement of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists with the aim of alleviating gridlock.

Rogers says the 5G-driven artificial intelligence system will capture real-time data about traffic volumes, speeds and congestion levels at the intersections as part of the city's congestion management plan, which council approved last fall.

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## **B.C. builds cleaner communities with active transportation**

March 25 2024, BC Gov News

People will have more opportunities to enjoy multi-use pathways, protected bike lanes, pedestrian bridges and safety improvements as local, regional and Indigenous governments expand their active transportation infrastructure.

For this intake period, \$24 million from the Province will support 80 active transportation infrastructure projects in communities around British Columbia.

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## **Solar eclipses linked to a rise in deadly traffic collisions: study**

March 25 2024, NOW Toronto

Research from the Sunnybrook Research Institute found that the last solar eclipse, which took place on Aug. 21, 2017, was associated with a rise in road accidents.

The study found that a significant increase in traffic risk was observed in the U.S. that averaged out to one extra vehicle crash every 25 minutes and one extra fatality every 95 minutes. The total amounted to 46 extra deaths linked to the eclipse.

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## Voting for the CAA Worst Roads campaign is now open

March 27 2024, Canada Newswire

Tired of swerving around potholes? Are you worried about your safety as a cyclist or pedestrian? Voting is now open in Ontario for the annual CAA Worst Roads campaign, and CAA South Central Ontario (CAA SCO) is giving citizens the opportunity to voice their concerns about the bad roads in their communities.

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## Use of force, traffic safety focus of Calgary police commission meeting

March 27 2024, CTV News Calgary

The Calgary Police Commission is set to discuss use of force and traffic safety during its monthly meeting on Wednesday

First on the agenda is the new traffic safety plan, a partnership between police and the City of Calgary. The safety plan looks to cut the number of fatalities and major injuries by 25 per cent by 2028.

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## Guelph to improve road safety and accessibility throughout 2024

March 28 2024, City of Guelph

Guelph, Ont., March 28, 2024 - We're installing new traffic signals, all-way stops, and pedestrian crossovers across Guelph to help improve road safety and accessibility for people walking, cycling, riding transit, using mobility devices and driving.

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## Ticketing begins April 1st for Regina's expanded Red Light Safety Program

March 28 2024, Global News

Ticketing will soon begin as the City of Regina moves to the next phase of the Red Light Safety Program expansion to help change driver behaviour, improve pedestrian safety and reduce right turn collisions.

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## Would banning right turns on red lights make intersections safer?

March 31 2024, The Globe and Mail

Banning right turns at every red light could make roads safer - but there isn't much research proving that, a safety expert said.

"I would say in order to protect as many people as possible, a ban would be the best route to go," said Valerie Smith, director of road safety programs at Parachute, a Toronto-based non-profit that focuses on injury prevention. "But I can't say it's fully supported by data."

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# Canadian Events & Conferences in 2024

## **CARSP Winter webinar series**

January - April, 2024

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## **CARSP Conference 2024**

June 16-19, 2024

[Learn more](#)

## **Ontario Traffic Council Events**

[Learn more](#)

## **TAC Conference 2024**

September 22-25, 2024

[Learn more](#)

## **MTO 2024 Road Safety Events Calendar**

January 1- December 31, 2024

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## **Transport Canada's Vehicle Cyber Security Conference 2024**

February 1, 2024

[Learn more](#)

## **Impaired Driving Behavioral Interventions around the Globe**

March 13, 2024

[Learn more](#)

## **CTRF Conference 2024**

May 12-15, 2024

[Learn more](#)

## **ITE Canada Conference 2024**

June 9-12, 2024

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