



# Canadian Road Safety News Digest

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

For the Period October 1-31, 2024

## Renewed calls for pedestrian safety as October marks awareness month

October 1 2024, CTV News Montreal

With students in school and days getting shorter, there are renewed calls for pedestrian safety.

Quebec's automobile insurance board (SAAQ) and other organizations like the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), Montreal police (SPVM) and CAA Quebec want to reduce avoidable accidents.

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## 'My dad lost his life': Family reacts to 7-year prison term for wrong-way impaired driver

October 2 2024, Global News

An Oshawa, Ont., judge has sentenced a man to seven years in prison and a 14-year driving ban after he drove impaired and at excessive speed the wrong way down Highway 401, killing one person and seriously injuring someone else.

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## Impaired driving problem needs preventive measures

October 4 2024, Winnipeg Free Press

There have been letters and articles published lately with regard to deaths that have resulted from vehicle crashes caused by impaired drivers. Most are calling for tougher penalties for impaired driving but I only read one that actually called for prevention – which is the key to ending deaths caused by impaired driving.

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## Safety advocate pushes back on speed limit hike on 401's 'carnage alley' until concrete barriers built

October 6 2024, CBC

An advocate for highway safety says Premier Doug Ford should following through on a four-year-old promise to build concrete centre-median highway barriers on Highway 401 before making any moves to increase speed limits.

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## Potential photo radar rule changes would 'erode traffic safety': Calgary police chief

October 8 2024, CTV News Calgary

Calgary's police chief is worried possible changes to Alberta's photo radar rules will affect safety for both residents and officers - and not just on the roads.

"We're very concerned that this decision is going to actually erode traffic safety and our ability to keep Albertans and Calgarians safe on the roads," Calgary police Chief Mark Neufeld said in an interview Tuesday.

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## Texting while walking puts pedestrians in danger: UBC study

October 8 2024, UBC News

New UBC research analyzing actual pedestrian interactions with vehicles on busy streets concludes that distracted pedestrians face higher safety risks compared with undistracted road users.

Previous studies have speculated that distracted pedestrians, such as those texting and talking on the phone, are at higher risk of being hit by a car due to failing to react to oncoming traffic or straying off designated crosswalks.

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## **DRIVE Roadside Revolutionizes Roadside Assistance with Free On-Demand Towing App - Available Now!**

October 9 2024, **Whitecourt Star**

DRIVE Roadside, a leading innovator in the on-demand towing and roadside assistance industry since 2018, is excited to announce the launch of its newly revamped app, now available for iPhone and Android. This updated version is designed to provide a seamless, efficient, and customer-centric experience for drivers in need of assistance. Using GPS tracking, drivers can request help in less than a minute, instantly sharing their location and connecting with one of over 100,000 trusted rescue providers—making it one of the largest networks in North America.

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## **Distracted driving deaths up 40 per cent in Ontario compared to last year**

October 14 2024, **CTV News**

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) says the number of fatal collisions caused by distracted driving on the roads it patrols has increased more 40 per cent compared to this time last year.

The OPP primarily patrols the province's highways and says it has recorded a total of 296 fatal crashes so far this year - of those, 63 people were killed in collisions where inattentiveness was the main cause.

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## Manitoba Public Insurance backs driving safety program for youth

October 15 2024, Insurance News

MADD Canada has unveiled its 2024-2025 school program, One Last Dance. The program, designed to educate youth on the grave consequences of impaired driving, will be delivered to students in Grades 7-12 across Manitoba.

Provincial sponsor Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) is funding 118 presentations this year to emphasize the importance of reducing impaired driving among young people.

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## Ontario government moves to force cities to get approval for bike lanes that remove traffic lanes

October 15 2024, CTV News Toronto

The Ford government has announced plans to introduce legislation that would restrict the removal of vehicular traffic lanes in favour of bike lanes in Ontario municipalities.

Ontario Transportation Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria made the announcement Tuesday morning alongside area MPP Christine Hogarth and the owner of a west-end Toronto restaurant on Bloor Street West steps away from where bike lanes were installed last year, sparking anger among some.

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## Are AI and Talking Cars the Future of Driving?

October 15 2024, Psychology Today

New research presented at the recent 27th IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems shows how a conversational AI based on an LLM framework called Talk2Drive can interpret human commands to guide autonomous vehicles (AVs). “This is the first-of-its-kind multi-scenario field experiment that deploys LLMs on a real-world autonomous vehicle,” wrote corresponding author Can Cui along with co-authors Ziran Wang, Zichong Yang, Yupeng Zhou, Yunsheng Ma, Juanwu Lu, Lingxi Li, Yaobin Chen, and Jitesh Panchal, all of Purdue University.

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## Calgary report suggests more investment needed to improve roads

October 16 2024, CTV News Calgary

Infrastructure teams with the City of Calgary will be meeting Wednesday to discuss if more money should be committed toward improving the quality of roads.

According to a recent report to the city's infrastructure and planning committee Calgary's pavement quality is decreasing annually and the conditions are "impacting satisfaction."

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## Winter Tires Save Lives: Advocating for a Canada-Wide Mandate to Enhance Road Safety

October 17 2024, Canada Newswire

As Canada endures another winter of icy roads and unpredictable snowstorms, the importance of road safety cannot be overstated. With rapidly changing weather conditions, Canadian winters bring a host of challenges to drivers. These treacherous conditions contribute to nearly 30 percent of collisions, turning routine drives into dangerous experiences, according to Transport Canada. The question remains: Are we doing enough to protect ourselves and others on the road? The solution lies not only in cautious driving but in the widespread use of a critical safety feature often overlooked—Winter Tires.

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## U.S. regulator investigating Tesla's self-driving software after fatal crash

October 18 2024, CBC

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on Friday said it was opening an investigation into 2.4 million Tesla vehicles with the automaker's Full Self-Driving software after four reported collisions, including a fatal crash.

The U.S. auto safety regulator said it was opening the preliminary evaluation after four reports of crashes where FSD was engaged during reduced roadway visibility like sun glare, fog, or airborne dust.

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## Ontario police see increase in wildlife-related collisions

October 19 2024, CP24

Ontario Provincial Police say they have seen an increase in wildlife-related collisions over the past three years and are reminding drivers to be cautious on the road.

According to OPP, there were 2,193 wildlife-related collisions in central Ontario last year, up from 2,053 reported in 2022. In 2021, there were 1,820 collisions involving animals.

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## Honda Canada Foundation contributes \$200,000 to Parachute Canada to promote road safety education

October 23 2024, Honda Canada News

Honda Canada Foundation, Honda's charitable arm in Canada, is donating \$200,000 to Parachute Canada to support and grow its programming for road safety education and awareness. The partnership will support Honda Canada Foundation's new traffic safety pillar to advance traffic safety awareness campaigns and hands-on learning clinics in communities across Canada. Honda's vision for a collision-free society aligns with Parachute Canada's commitment to Vision Zero; zero fatalities on Canadian roads.

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## Saanich OKs \$21M plan to improve road safety

October 23 2024, Times Colonist

Saanich council has adopted its new road safety plan, the first on Vancouver Island, which will cost \$21 million over 10 years and sets a goal to eliminate fatal crashes.

Council was unanimous in endorsing the plan, which has been just over two years in the making and stems from council's adoption in February 2022 of Vision Zero, a goal to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities on roads.

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## The City of Vancouver is doubling down on this pedestrian safety measure

October 26 2024, CBC

The City of Vancouver is working to double the number of leading pedestrian interval (LPI) intersections it installs per year, with studies showing the design has the potential to reduce collisions.

An LPI intersection gives pedestrians a head start by switching the walk signal on a few seconds before the light goes green for drivers. This enables pedestrians to establish their right of way and be more visible to drivers who are turning, the city says.

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## **OPINION: Bike lane bill contradicts experience, science and safety**

October 28 2024, The Community Press

Provincial legislation (Bill 212) aimed at keeping towns and cities from building bike lanes and even forcing some to remove them is bad news for everyone in Ontario, wherever they live. For people who live in the towns and cities directly affected, it will result in more dangerous streets and more congestion. For those who don't, it introduces a dangerous and false polarization, pitting drivers against cyclists and encouraging dangerous driving.

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## **Legislation that guides road design must prioritize safety over travel times**

October 30 2024, Healthy Debate

As physicians and researchers from the University of Toronto who practice in emergency medicine, trauma, surgery, anesthesiology, intensive care, rehabilitation, psychiatry, pediatrics and family medicine, we bear witness to the trauma inflicted on pedestrians, cyclists and the drivers of motor vehicles due to traffic-related injuries - the majority of which are preventable.

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## IF YOU BUILD IT, WHO COMES AND WHY?

October 31 2024, CARSP

While the adage ‘if you build it, they will come’ often holds true for transportation infrastructure, it may not be sufficient to achieve significant increases in use, especially among diverse residents and for various types of trips. Trips to destinations like grocery stores, schools, and arenas often require the transportation of large goods or multiple passengers, posing additional challenges to sustainable modes of transportation. People with disabilities, children, youth, older adults, and those with caregiving responsibilities may have specific needs and desires related to transportation infrastructure, especially regarding separation from vehicular traffic.

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# Canadian Events & Conferences in 2024 & 2025

## **CARSP Fall Webinars**

November - December 2024

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## **Ontario Traffic Council Events**

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

January 1- December 31, 2024

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## **Connecting Road Safety Partners**

January 1- March 31, 2025

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## **Careers in Transportation 2025**

January 28, 2025

[Learn more](#)

## **CARSP/ICTCT 2025 Conference**

May 20-23, 2025

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