

SPRING EDITION
2015

NEWSLETTER

Vermont Local Roads



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We're on the web
www.vermontlocalroads.org

Distracted Driving Month Renews Focus on Cell Phone Ban in Vermont



During National Distracted Driving month, the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance (VHSA) would like to remind drivers it is illegal to use any handheld portable electronic device in Vermont while operating a motor vehicle. An extensive public outreach campaign last Fall noticeably reduced the number of drivers violating this new law, but recently, there has been an increase in people observed using cell phones while driving. A statewide enforcement effort will be underway starting in April.

“There has been a concerted effort to educate the public using media, road signs and a host of other outreach efforts,” said VHSA Chair, Kevin Marshia. “We are still seeing people on the road who are either unfamiliar with the new law, or are making bad choices behind the wheel. We hope this renewed enforcement effort will help drive home the importance of focusing on safety when you’re driving. At 65 mph, it only takes three seconds to travel the length of a football field. Those three seconds could forever change your life or those of innocent victims.”

Since the law came into effect in October, law enforcement agencies have issued 729 tickets and 728 warnings. There has been a notable decrease in crashes, though it is still too early for the data to tell the full story.

Violators are subject to a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$200 for a first violation, and of not less than \$250 and not more than \$500 for a second or subsequent violation within any two-year period. If the violation occurs within a properly designated work zone in which construction, maintenance, or utility personnel are present, two points will be assessed against the violators’ license for a first conviction and five points assessed on subsequent convictions.

Hands-free use is permitted under the law. Hands-free means the portable electronic device is not in the hands of the driver. Devices can be used by employing an internal feature such as Bluetooth or a wired headset with a single-button control, or a speakerphone. The device itself can be used for single button hands-free operation, as long as the device is in a cradle or otherwise securely mounted in the vehicle. The ban is lifted when the driver needs to communicate with law enforcement or emergency service personnel in an emergency.

MONTPELIER, VT - April 23, 2015 - Kevin Marshia - VTrans

New England's 5th season

Many Vermont communities are once again having to deal with yet another horrible mud season.

This year might prove worse than previous years due to the brutal winter. Forecasters expect the mucky mess to stretch well into May especially with the onset of Spring rains.

Vermont's mud season is nothing new. It's really a part of the culture in these parts but it still creeps in and takes many by surprise. Like this cold and snowy winter wasn't enough now we have to somehow make sure we don't make our mufflers a permanent part of the road.

On the other hand, if you enjoy watching out of state plates navigate our dirt roads, pull up those rubber boots, head down to the road and get ready for a chuckle.



Buried School bus in central New Hampshire



Jack Drysdale and his "buried" car

Poet Leland Kinsey may have summed it up best; *"In spring the freeze and thaw of each day draw the frost out, but until the last heaving layer is thawed, the melted water can't percolate downward and must either run off or sit. In some parts of the world, water that can't percolate forms quicksand beds; here we call them roads."*

(Left) Back in 1993, events conspired to create a small bit of folkloric history. It was a particularly bad year for mud.

Added to this, April 1 was a publication day for The Randolph Herald. They decided to have a little fun.

The towing crew in this photograph is from Stockwell's Garage on Braintree Hill. The driver of the buried car is Jack Drysdale, former editor and publisher of The Herald. The car is, in fact, nothing but a roof with glass that The Herald paid to have removed from an aging auto by Kevin Williams up at Especially Imports, a local garage.



Early century roads

Marking Crosswalks



Crosswalk Painting

A marked crosswalk can benefit pedestrians by directing them to cross at locations where appropriate traffic control, including traffic signals or adult school crossing guards, either currently exist or can be provided. However, marked pedestrian crosswalks, in and of themselves, do not slow traffic or reduce pedestrian crashes.

It may be helpful to install marked crosswalks at signalized intersections or locations where crosswalks are typically marked, at key crossings in neighborhoods with designated school walking routes, and at certain types of uncontrolled crossings.

There are several reasons to install marked crosswalks, a few being:

- To indicate a preferred pedestrian crossing location.
- To alert drivers to an often-used pedestrian crossing.
- To indicate school walking routes.

Marked crosswalks generally should be designed to minimize crossing distances and should be straight and in line with the sidewalk ramps to make them easier for children and adults with visual and/or physical impairments to navigate.

In many cases, crosswalk enhancements including raised median islands, traffic and pedestrian signals and/or street lighting may also be needed. More substantial improvements are typically needed on high-volume multilane roads.



Creative Crossing. Charlie Brown and gang in Montreal



Crosswalk Art from walkers perspective

Transportation Innovations



Bus Stop in Montreal

Bus stops....with a twist & swing

Canadian designers in Montreal created this unique, musical experience to encourage the public to interact with each other as they waited for their bus.

There are 21 swings in total, and each one represents a different musical instrument. As you swing, musical sounds fill the air! Melodies will begin to form when several people swing in unison.

A fantastic and fun experience while you wait for your bus.

Autonomous Vehicles

By Emily Sutherland, Forbes Magazine

The big news this year is the continued evolution of fully self-driving or “autonomous” vehicles. Their arrival is now just a matter of time, perhaps no more than a decade or two at most.

The technology and cost for autonomous vehicles are almost ready for the mass market—with the real hold up being the regulators, who barely know how to begin rethinking a hundred years of safety, insurance, and traffic laws.

Unlike the awkward-looking prototypes of the first Google cars, the incumbent automotive companies are showing concept vehicles that will just look like cars, with the cameras, sensors, and other new technology hidden from view. Audi has a console that can be removed and replaced, like a tablet computer. VW will use ultrasonic technology to predict where you can find a parking space.

Now the question becomes what you will do when you’re not actually focused on driving. Mercedes demonstrated a vehicle, guestimated for 2030, whose side panels would all be flexible displays, turning the car into a theater for Infotainment, social media, and other information-intensive applications.



Mercedes-Benz F 015 concept car

Transportation News

I-91 Bridge Replacement - White River Junction



US Route 5 on Interstate 91 in White River Junction

Starting this spring, VTrans will replace two bridges over US 5 on Interstate 91 in White River Junction.

The bridge replacement is part of a VTrans initiative referred to as the Accelerate Bridge Program (ABP). ABP projects typically take half the time normally required by using a slide-in method, which will minimize the disruption of traffic flow along US 5.

The bridges will be moved into place this summer with final construction ending this Fall.



For more information visit their webpage at [http:// www.i91wrj.vtransprojects.vermont.gov/](http://www.i91wrj.vtransprojects.vermont.gov/)

National Public Works Week - May 17-23, 2015

There would be no community without the quality of life public works provides. There would be no community to police and protect, no public to lead or represent. Public works allows the world as we know it to be. This year's theme "Community Begins Here" speaks to the essential nature of Public Works services in support of everyday quality of life.



Upcoming Workshops

Safety Matters! - The focus of this training is to provide various techniques on how to identify, control and communicate safety hazards to all employees.

Register online at www.vermontlocalroads.org

- May 11 & 12, 2015 Stowe Fire Department
- May 26 & 27, 2015 Ilsley Library Middlebury
- June 2 & 3, 2015 Brighton Town Hall
- June 9 & 10, 2015 Wilmington Town Garage

Supervisory Training - Supervision requires not only technical, but also personal, interpersonal, and administrative skills. In this course participants will examine the skills essential to effective supervision, discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with supervision, and consider possible situations that supervisors generally encounter such as peer to supervisor issues. This course will cover subjects such as delegating duties, motivating employees, and performance management basics.

Rivers & Roads - Teaches the knowledge and skills required to distinguish between stable and unstable rivers, identify various types of river instability, forecast a rivers response to alternative structural treatments and build.

Game of Logging - This course will cover general chain saw operations including saw handling, maintenance and safety. Felling/demonstrations will take place at a nearby site.

Basic & Advanced Welding - This workshop is intended for employees who do the welding in their municipalities or highway garages. It is also designed to update supervisors. All participants will find something of interest and improve their proficiency.

RSMS11 - This workshop is a software product to help with road surface management.

Excavating - This class will teach general construction practices with special emphasis on safety. It will also look at materials during excavation.

Ditching - This workshop will demonstrate the preferred profile of a newly constructed ditch including: check dams, rock lining and other erosion prevention methods.

Please check our website for upcoming dates for the above classes. We hope to have a full schedule of classes beginning January 2016.

www.vermontlocalroads.org



**LUNCHES
HAVE
RETURNED
FOR
ALL
VLR
CLASSES!**

Road Scholar Program

The *Vermont Roads Scholar Program* was established as an enhanced training program aimed at providing hands-on, quality training that allows participants the ability to learn new skills while gaining recognition and achievement across various levels of road management.

The Roads Scholar Program provides:

- Recognition of training and achievement across safety, technical, supervisory and environmental levels
- Coverage of subjects essential to effective road management

Reasons to enroll:

- Receive experienced instruction from dynamic presenters
- Benefit from hands-on learning
- Meet new people
- Share your experience and expertise
- Enjoy some friendly peer competition

Upon graduation you will have:

- Official recognition letter and certificate sent to you and your supervisor
- Feature article in the Vermont Local Roads newsletter
- Award recognition presented among your peers
- Increased knowledge and confidence

Roads Scholar	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Masters
Categories	Hours Required per Category for Each Level			
Equipment	18	30	36	36
Environmental	6	6	12	12
Safety	6	12	18	18
Supervisory	0	6	12	12
Technical	30	42	48	48
Tailored to choice				49
Cumulative Hours	60	96	126	175

Photo of the Month



Blue Angels F-16 threading the needle at Golden Gate

Spring Driving Tips

Winter may be known for treacherous driving conditions, but spring driving can present its own dangerous situations, from wind and rain to abundant wildlife waking up from hibernation. Follow these spring safe driving tips to help you prepare for spring's driving challenges.



- ☑ **Perform Maintenance.** Spring is the perfect time to visit your mechanic. Check fluid levels, tire pressure, suspension system and brakes to help reduce risk of a breakdown.
- ☑ **Watch for Pedestrians.** When weather improves, expect more pedestrians, especially in residential, shopping and recreational areas.
- ☑ **Expect Construction.** When snow melts, road repairs begin. Slow down and be aware of road and traffic conditions when entering work zones.
- ☑ **Anticipate Motorcyclists.** Motorcycle season starts in spring. Watch for motorcycles at intersections and in your blind spots when passing or merging.
- ☑ **Share the Road.** Be prepared to share the road with bicyclists. They have the same rights as other vehicles on most roads.
- ☑ **Prepare for Stormy Weather.** Learn more about driving in spring storms like tornadoes, flash flooding and hail that threaten your area.
- ☑ **Know When to Seek Shelter.** Spring weather can be unpredictable. If caught in a severe storm that makes driving hazardous, find a safe place to park until weather conditions improve.
- ☑ **Check for Icy Conditions.** There may be days in early spring when temperatures still drop below freezing, which can lead to slippery roads. Reduce speed and increase following distance if driving in slippery conditions.
- ☑ **Expect More Animals.** Spring brings more activity in areas where wildlife is common. Slow down so you can stop safely if animals are on or near the roadway.
- ☑ **Travel Safely.** If traveling long distances during spring break, plan ahead to avoid late-night driving and take turns behind the wheel with a fellow passenger.

Vermont Local Roads Word Search

Bridge	Bus Stop
Crosswalk	Distracted Driving
Golden Gate	Mercedes
Public Works	Road Scholar
School Bus	Technical
Workshops	

D I S T R A C T E D D R I V I N G P G L G Y S T R
X B D P V F A P O T S S U B L O O H C S F J E R T
R O A D S C H O L A R P Y V R U L D P M G C D H X
S M C C N Y C D M F K O G F G U D V S F H T E U S
A F V F B P I J O D G H F K R Q E A E N A C C Q S
P W S E C R A X E S L S U D H R N N I Y E L R L W
S K R O W C I L B U P K P T B S G C I D G C E L H
T F J O T T I D I Z C R O S S W A L K W T X M V T
G J U C Q C G E G G W O I X N L T E F C V S K I Q
A S T P T Z D K R E H W I O H P E Z F T F H U P Z

Vermont Local Roads [LISTSERV](http://www.vermontlocalroads.org/list-serv) - Have you joined?

Go to: www.vermontlocalroads.org/list-serv

A message from Vermont Local Roads

Welcome Holly Hayden.....

The Vermont Local Roads Program is very excited to announce that Holly Hayden has accepted the position of Vermont Local Roads Program Coordinator, her first day on board was April 6th. Holly has served the Agency of Transportation since 2002 and is bringing a wealth of knowledge from her past experience as an Executive Office Manager to Commissioner Ide at DMV. She has a solid background in schedule management, event planning and time management. Her talents and skills will provide exceptional service to our municipal customers.

Best Regards,
Vermont Local Roads team



From left - Todd Eaton (Circuit Rider), Kevin Gadappee (Program Manager) and Holly Hayden (Program Coordinator)

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The **Vermont Local Roads** Program is part of the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), a nationwide effort financed jointly by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and VTrans. Its purpose is to provide road and bridge knowledge to municipalities involved with highways. There are LTAP Centers in fifty states and Puerto Rico and six Native American locations.

Vermont Local Roads provides information, advice and referrals to cities, towns and villages in Vermont. This is accomplished through newsletters, seminars and workshops, distribution of publications and by response to requests.

Vermont Local Roads
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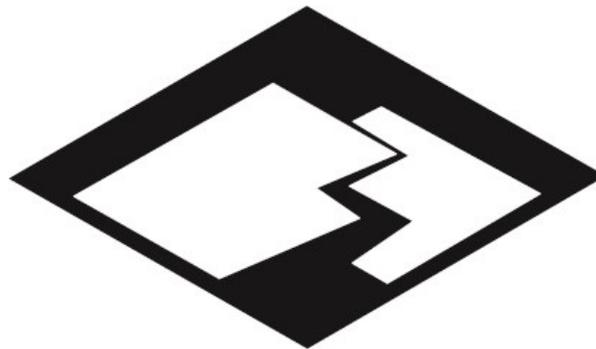
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Address Service Requested



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