



KIDS IN THE NETHERLANDS MUST PASS A RIDING TEST

Every year in April some 200,000 school children in the Netherlands take a "Verkeersexamen" (traffic test). The 12 year olds will start secondary school in the following school year. An overwhelming majority of these children will get to secondary school on their bicycles. Rides of up to 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) one way are no exception. In an effort to make traffic safer the children have been taught about traffic rules since they were very young. Now it is time for their final test.

[More information](#)



NEW YORK CONSIDERS FINING PEDESTRIANS FOR TEXTING WHILE CROSSING

Bill introduced to state senate would fine those caught using a 'portable electronic device' in crosswalks \$25 to \$250.

In New York City, it seems no one can afford to miss an email or reply to a chat late, even if that means checking their phones when crossing the street. But soon these daredevils could get hit with a fine for their reckless behavior. A bill banning texting while walking has been introduced to New York's state senate. If the bill passes into law, New Yorkers can expect to be fined from \$25 to \$250 if police officers catch them "using a portable electronic device while crossing a roadway". There are some people who would be exempted, including "an emergency response operator" and employees of a hospital, physician's office or fire department, among others.

[More information](#)



SPEED CAMERA VANDALISM IN FRANCE PUTS UP TO 75% OF DEVICES OUT OF ACTION

The French government has announced the installation of 400 new-generation speed cameras, following a spate of attacks on existing devices in recent months.

The interior minister Christophe Castaner announced last month that up to 75% of speed cameras across the country had been vandalised and put out of action. Attacks on speed camera equipment in France have increased dramatically since the reduction of the rural road speed limit to 80km/h last summer and the rise of the Yellow Vest protest movement.

[More information](#)



GERMANY LEGALISES E-SCOOTERS BUT BANS THEM FROM THE PAVEMENT

German lawmakers voted on Friday to allow e-scooters to take to the streets making the UK the last major European economy to still ban them.

The text approved by the Bundesrat on Friday enables battery-powered scooters to circulate on roads and cycle paths but forbids them from being used on the pavements. Users must be 14 or over and must respect a 20 kilometres per hours speed limit.

[More information](#)



MUM'S URGENT CAR SEAT WARNING AFTER SON IS ALMOST 'INTERNALLY DECAPITATED'

Cara Steele has warned other parents about the proper way to use childrens' car seats after her a truck ploughed into her Vauxhall Astra Estate near Chapel en le Frith, Derbyshire.

An 18-month-old toddler avoided decapitation in a crash - because his relieved mum had kept his car seat rear facing.

Little Albie Steele somehow left the shunt with just cuts and bruises on Monday. A pickup truck smashed into the back of Cara Steele's Vauxhall Astra Estate, Manchester Evening News says.

[More information](#)



OECD CITY REPORT RECOMMENDS SHIFT TO CYCLING IN URBAN AREAS TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

Modal shift away from private motor vehicles could significantly improve road safety in dense urban areas, according to a new report on urban road safety by the International Transport Forum of the OECD. Such a shift would also bring public health benefits associated with increased physical activity and improved air quality, according to the authors.

The report benchmarked road safety performance in 72 urban areas, mostly in Europe, and illustrates governance solutions to improve urban road safety with case studies conducted in Lisbon (Portugal) and Riga (Latvia). The report also proposes new road safety indicators to assess the level of risk for each mode of transport.

[More information](#)



SEATBELT REMINDERS IN EVERY SEATING POSITION FROM SEPTEMBER

The EU has formally agreed updated UNECE regulations on seatbelts that will require seatbelt reminder systems in all front and rear seats on new cars from September 2019.

Existing EU vehicle safety rules agreed in 2009 only require seatbelt reminder systems on the driver's seat. The updated requirements also include the front and rear passenger seats.

In the front seats, the systems will need to be able to detect a passenger sitting and make an audible warning at the start of the journey if the belt is not attached. The requirements for rear seats are weaker in that the audible warning will only sound if a belt is unbuckled during the journey.

[More information](#)



CLICK IT OR TICKET: DAY AND NIGHT

During the Memorial Day holiday, about 10,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide have been out on the roads from May 20 through June 2 to remind drivers and passengers to buckle their seat belts. The annual [Click It or Ticket](#) campaign aimed at enforcing seat belt use to help keep travellers safe as they drive to their summer destinations.

According to NHTSA, 10,076 people who were killed in passenger vehicle crashes in 2017 weren't buckled. Fifty-five percent of those fatalities happened at night (6 p.m.–5:59 a.m.). Law enforcement has been taking a no-excuses approach to seat belt law enforcement during

the *Click It or Ticket* campaign, writing citations day and night.

[More information](#)

ROAD SAFETY IN THE MEDIA

FIA and Motorsport World Mourn Passing of F1 Legend Niki Lauda

The motorsport world is today mourning the death of Formula 1 legend Niki Lauda, who passed away on May 20th at the age of 70. Paying tribute to Austrian legend, FIA President Jean Todt said: “Niki Lauda was a hero of motor sport, who inspired me in my youth. He is a milestone in the history of Formula One. All my thoughts go out to his family, friends and to Mercedes.”

[More information](#)

How Greece turned a deadly road into one of the safest in the country

Tempi Valley was amongst the most dangerous road sections in Greece. But it's now one of the safest highways in the country. The northern section of the A1 highway was completed 2 years ago. It connects the capital Athens to Greece's second largest city Thessaloniki.

Three **new tunnels and bridges** have replaced the old national road –which traversed mountains. Many deadly accidents have occurred over the past decades with 1-2 fatal accidents taking place every year on the old road. In the same area, 21 high school students were killed in a tragic road accident in 2004.

Due to the Greek economic crisis, construction work took six years longer than expected from 2008 to 2017. But now the new infrastructure has boosted the local economy while improving transportation. Through 11 km of the three Tempi tunnels, a network of hi-tech surveillance cameras monitors the situation. Working closely with the traffic management centre which is operational 24 hours a day.

[More information](#)

... POP MUSIC TOPS CHARTS WHEN IT COMES TO DRIVING

Listening to pop music creates 'the perfect atmosphere for smooth and controlled driving', a new study has found.



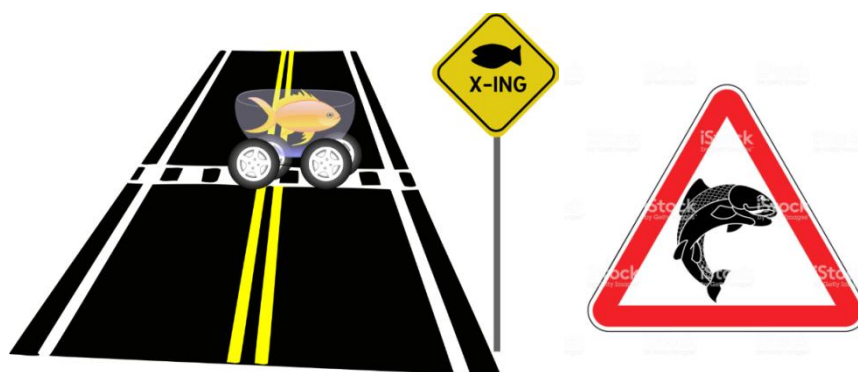
The study, carried out by IAM RoadSmart and Auto Express, set out to discover the effects of different types of music on driving style and safety.

While pop music was deemed to have a positive effect, negative connotations were associated with listening to classical and heavy metal music – with the latter causing motorists to 'lose their cool' behind the wheel.

[Read more](#)

... WHY DID THE CHUM SALMON CROSS THE ROAD?

Every year, these fish block traffic in Washington State.



The annual phenomenon caught the attention of internet users last month when a Washington resident named Diana Kannenberg posted a [short video of the salmon traffic jam](#) online. While wildlife crossing is not particularly unusual in the Evergreen State, the animals blocking traffic are usually not fish.

[Read more](#)