

Transportation Safety Newsletter, April 2021

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Oregon Department
of Transportation

Transportation Safety

April 2021

Park Your Phone



April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and we are reminding drivers to save your "likes" for later. Handling your phone while driving is unsafe and against the law. A distracted driver crash occurs every 2.5 hours in Oregon and ending distracted driving starts with you. Just like buckling up, it's a decision that saves lives. And a distracted driving violation can cost you up to \$2,500. So please, before you start your car, park your phone.

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Stop as Yield Law

Starting in 2020, the 'Stop as Yield' law ([Oregon Senate Bill 998](#)) was put into effect in Oregon. [Watch the video](#) to learn more about the law and how to 'yield' at stop signs and blinking red lights on your bike.

What does this law mean in practice? The law allows people biking to treat a stop sign or flashing red signal as a yield sign. A person riding a bike may now proceed through a stop controlled intersection without coming to a full stop.

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Go Orange Day

Go Orange Day on April 28 is a nationwide effort to keep everyone safe and create awareness of the importance of work zone safety.

Everyone is encouraged to participate by wearing orange and by being safe – wherever we are, whatever our job – in support of National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. Want to show your support? Slow down and pay attention in work zones. Orange is your clue!

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Walk and Roll Into Spring With the Walk+Roll Challenge!

The Walk+Roll Challenge is an event to help students walk and roll to school and in their communities to stay active and healthy. Celebrations will be taking place in Oregon throughout the spring with many big celebrations occurring on National Bike to School Day, Wednesday, May 5. [Learn about our art contest or to sign up to host an event at your school](#) with free incentives to encourage students to walk, bike, skate, scoot, and ride the bus this spring.

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Projected Increase in Pedestrian Traffic Deaths

The projected 2020 U.S. pedestrian death rate is on pace for a record high despite a significant drop in driving. Pedestrian fatalities per mile driven skyrocketed 20% in the first half of 2020 as risky driving increased during the pandemic.



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Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

Warmer weather is right around the corner! You're likely to see more people outside, so be sure to brush up on bicycle, motorcycle, and pedestrian safety.

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Walking and Biking Paths

Building new trails, extending current paths, and planning for future off-road investments are among the projects recommended for funding in the new Oregon Community Paths Program. Altogether, the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee recommends funding 18 projects totaling \$11.3 million. The recommendation now goes to the Oregon Transportation Committee for final approval at its May meeting.

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