

# TRAFFIC NEWS

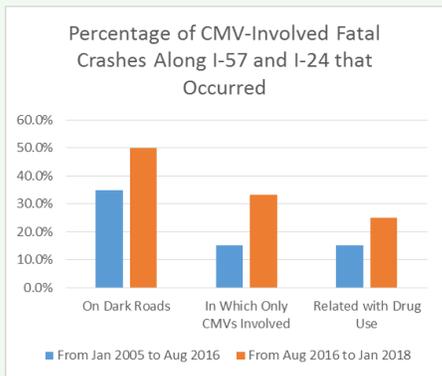
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## Fatal CMV Crashes Frequent Along I-57



COMPARISON OF RELATIVE NUMBER OF FATAL CMV-INVOLVED ACCIDENTS BEFORE AUGUST 2016 AND AFTER AUGUST 2016. DATA SOURCE: IDOT, AS OF MARCH 1, 2018

only CMVs (and no other vehicle type) and greater number of accidents related with drug use have been observed from August 2016 through January 2018. For example, only 15 percent (3 out of 20) of all CMV-involved accidents before August 2016 involved CMVs only, but over 33 percent (3 out of 12) CMV-involved accidents after August 2016 involved CMVs only.

In a time span of 18 months from August 2016 through January 2018, there was an average of approximately one CMV-involved fatal traffic accident every 1.5 months. This frequency is much higher than the frequency between January 2005 and August 2016; with 32 accidents in 157 months, this estimates to approximately one CMV-involved fatal accident every 6.95 months.

Nighttime accidents, drug-related accidents, and single-CMV accidents may play a role in the overall increased fatal CMV accidents; these results can be used to develop safety measures that can potentially reduce CMV-involved fatal traffic accidents along the two interstate corridors in southern Illinois.

Source: Illinois Department of Transportation

## Illinois Tollways Considers Managing I-80



The Illinois Tollway is eyeing Interstate 80 as part of a new project to address traffic congestion and safety concerns along the route. Will County board members say they are ready to collaborate with the Tollway Authority.

Tollway Chairman Bob Schillerstrom states that I-80 is riddled with disrepair, noting the need for improvements as

soon as possible to reduce the risk of infrastructure-related traffic incidents. Up to one billion dollars worth of road maintenance is proposed by the Illinois Department of Transportation for a 16-mile repair project along I-80 in Will County. Schillerstrom ensures that converting part of the interstate into a tollway will increase revenue to make it financially feasible to deliver on its goals for improvement.

Source: Chicago Tribune. [Available online at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-will-tollway-partners-st-0216-20180215-story.html>.]

**QUICK STATS:**  
**FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES**

- As of March 26, 2018\*, there have been 30 fatal traffic accidents involving commercial motor vehicles (CMVs).
- The year-to-date for 2017 is 22 fatal traffic accidents involving CMVs, 8 fewer than the year-to-date for 2018. For all of 2017\*, the number of fatal traffic accidents involving CMVs is 135.
- 2005-2015 records show that the mean annual number of fatal accidents involving CMVs is 148 per year.
- Fatal accidents involving CMVs peak between 14:00 and 16:00 CST.
- October tends to observe the greatest number of fatal accidents involving CMVs.

\*The 2017 and 2018 data are provisional and subject to change.  
 Source: IDOT, as of March 26, 2018

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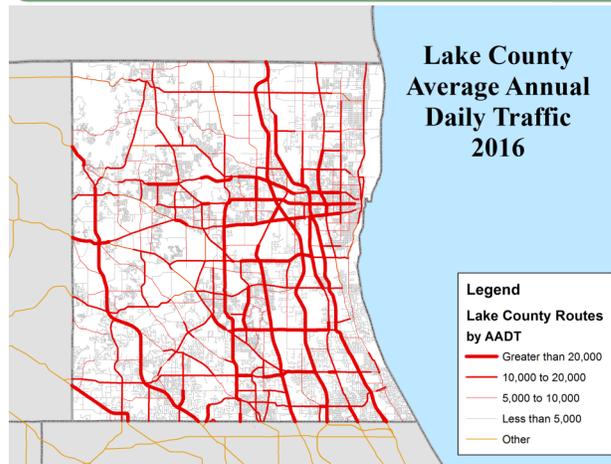
## Long Grove President Speaks Against IL-53 Extension

### St. Patrick's Day Traffic Safety Crackdown

Several cities and counties performed traffic checks to make sure people were driving safely over the St. Patrick's Day weekend. The city of Evanston reported their numbers for this year's St. Patrick's Day "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" initiative. They issued a total of 195 citations:

- Failure to wear a seat belt: 79
- Speeding: 41
- Mobile phone ordinance citations: 36
- Citations for no proof of insurance: 8
- Failure to properly secure a child: 6
- Driving with no driver's license or a suspended license: 5
- Illegal transportation of open alcohol: 1
- Cannabis: 1
- Other citations: 18

Source: Evanston Now. [Available online at [evanstonnow.com/story/public-safety/charles-bartling/2018-03-19/79471/seat-belts-speeding-cell-usage-keep-cops-busy](http://evanstonnow.com/story/public-safety/charles-bartling/2018-03-19/79471/seat-belts-speeding-cell-usage-keep-cops-busy).]



**AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRAFFIC (AADT) FOR ROADS IN LAKE COUNTY. DATA SOURCE: ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Long Grove Village President Bill Jacob published an editorial against the long-in-the-works Illinois State Route 53 extension proposal. The Illinois Tollway Authority (ITWA) proposal suggests an extension of the Route 53 freeway from its current northern terminus at Lake-Cook Road in Long Grove to Illinois State Route 120 near Grayslake. This proposal also looks to transform the highway into a tollway.

Proponents of the IL-53 extension are mostly business contractors and urban transportation planners looking to help alleviate traffic frustrations within Lake County by providing an alternative route for

automobiles. The effort also hints at improving commutes within Lake County to encourage economic growth.

However, Jacob asserts that the contractors supporting the extension do not understand Lake County and its traffic problems, noting that none of the contractors live in Lake County. Jacob claims that the tollway authority's ambitions for economic opportunity in Lake County have clouded their methodology of solving traffic problems.

Specifically, Jacob believes that the extension will be counterproductive to mitigating Lake County traffic issues because the traffic problems in Lake County are primarily east-west oriented. He believes that the extension will exacerbate the problem by attracting north-

south traffic from the more urban Cook County to the already clogged east-west arterials in Lake County. Jacob offers alternative suggestions to mitigate traffic problems, including expanding state routes 22 and 83 and investigating the congestion problems related to increased Canadian National freight presence along its Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) Railway routes over the past decade.

Jacob's editorial puts the IL-53 extension to the bottom of his list of priorities. He says more direct action can better help solve the traffic issues that are currently present in Lake County.

Source: Daily Herald. [Available online at <http://www.dailyherald.com/submitted/20180315/long-grove-village-president-on-proposed-route-53-expansion>.]

## Changes to Bloomington Air Traffic

Passenger air traffic has been decreasing at Bloomington's Central Illinois Regional Airport (CIRA). CIRA reported a 12.4 percent decrease in passenger traffic between 2016 and 2017.

This change comes after many small airlines began to serve passengers at Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD). The smaller airlines, with its cheaper air fares, compelled major airlines to drive down air fares at ORD. As a result, many travelers are willing to drive to ORD to board cheaper flights.

The single airline with the greatest passenger change was Delta. The airline switched to smaller airplanes

in 2017, which may have been a major contributor to the large decrease in passenger traffic.

However, decrease in passenger air traffic is not the only change that CIRA observed. Air freight traffic, on the other hand, has increased between 2016 and 2017. FedEx has contributed the most to this increase in air freight, shifting air traffic from other regional airports to CIRA within the past few years.

Further changes to CIRA are in the works for 2018. For example, CIRA plans to develop a small customs service to allow for more convenient international flights for corporate travel.

Source: WGLT. [Available online at <http://wgl.t.org/post/cira-looks-customs-service-freight-passenger-traffic-dips>.]

# Uber's Hurdles in Self-Driving Vehicle Operations

## Road Safety and Business

Arizona has suspended Uber's self-driving vehicle testing privileges after a pedestrian succumbed to her wounds in Tempe from a traffic accident in early March involving a self-driving car operated by Uber. This incident is just another of many incidents that have caused Uber scrutiny over its active involvement with testing and operating automated driving systems (ADS). It has also caused locals to question the loose nature of Arizona's executive order legalizing ADS operations, with safety advocacy groups calling out the Arizona Governor for not having enough regulations.

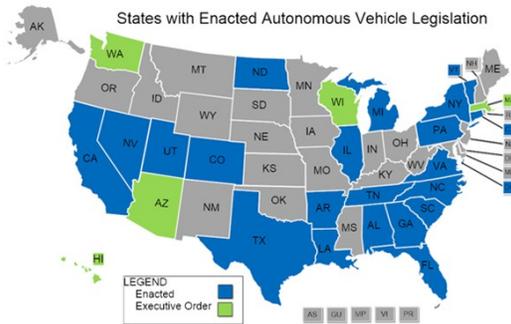
Uber has been testing and operating self-driving vehicles on Arizona highways since 2015, after Governor Doug Ducey signed an executive order authorizing the operations of self-driving vehicles. This endeavor of utilizing self-driving trucks is a major step for ADS technology for both Uber and the states participating in ADS development. Uber used to test their vehicles in California, but moved their operations to Arizona after California, citing safety concerns, limited Uber's testing in San Francisco.

As of March 2018, 21 states have passed legislation that legalized the use of vehicles equipped with ADS, and governors from another 5 states has issued executive orders encouraging the testing of such vehicles. Although most of the states limit the operations of ADS to testing, the legalization allows industries to actively pursue development and perfection of their ADS technology. Automakers are also urging the U.S. Congress to approve of development, deployment, and testing of ADS equipped vehicles.

On August 25, 2017, Governor Bruce Rauner signed a bill into law that legalized ADS equipped vehicles on Illinois public roads, effective June 1, 2018. The state will be working with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), state agencies, and vehicle manufacturers and operators to ensure Illinois a smooth transition to safely allowing automated vehicles on Illinois roads.

The Uber-involved fatal pedestrian accident is undergoing investigation from the NHTSA and the Tempe Police Department. It is difficult to determine who was at fault at this time.

Source: NPR Illinois. [Available online at <http://nprillinois.org/post/arizona-governor-helped-make-state-wild-west-driverless-cars#stream/0>]; The New York Times. [Available online at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/06/technology/uber-self-driving-trucks.html>]; NCSL. [Available online at <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/autonomous-vehicles-self-driving-vehicles-enacted-legislation.aspx>]; I.L. Gen. Assemb. Enrolled. HB0791.; Reuters. [Available online at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-autos-selfdriving/take-up-stalled-self-driving-car-bill-automakers-urge-u-s-senate-idUSKBN1GH33J>]; CNBC. [Available online at <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/03/27/uber-arizona-governor-suspends-ability-to-test-self-driving-cars.html>]



STATES AND TERRITORIES THAT PASSED LEGISLATION OR SIGNED EXECUTIVE ORDERS AUTHORIZING THE USE OF AUTOMATED VEHICLES.

## Year-To-Date\* Traffic Fatality Statistics

March 27, 2018

209 Fatal Accidents  
**225 Fatalities**

On this day last year:  
190 Fatal Accidents  
**209 Fatalities**

**16 Over**

Fatalities change

\*Provisional, subject to change

## Last Month's Weather Digest

February, 2018  
Springfield, IL

Average High: 44.0°F  
4.1°F warmer than normal

Average Low: 23.9°F  
1.3°F warmer than normal

Total Precipitation: 4.19 in.  
2.38 in. wetter than normal

Total Snow: 1.3 in.  
4.2 in. less than normal

Source: National Weather Service  
Lincoln, IL



## Residents of Columbia Demand Change after Crash

**ILLINOIS**  
**3**

A community Facebook page calling for safety improvements along Illinois Route 3 in Columbia has experienced a surge in membership after a deadly crash on February 27 killed Kelly Webb and injured her 6 children after a dump truck struck Webb's vehicle.

existence of the Facebook page since 2015. Tara Masidonski originally launched the Facebook after she was involved in an injurious accident along the same route in Columbia. Members of the page share close calls and their experiences driving on Illinois Route 3, as well as note that drivers frequently run red lights.

Membership for the Facebook page "Citizen's Demanding Change on Illinois Route 3, Columbia, Illinois" rose tenfold from about 300 to 3,000 members in the wake of the fatal accident. The Illinois Route is notorious for traffic accidents, hence the

Currently, Columbia is taking steps to work with the Illinois State Police and Illinois Department of Transportation to address safety issues along Illinois Route 3.

Source: KMOV. [Available online at <http://www.kmov.com/story/37653647/community-group-pushing-for-change-in-aftermath-of-fatal-route-3-crash>]; KPLR. [Available online at <http://kplr11.com/2018/02/28/fatal-crash-prompts-citizens-to-call-for-improved-safety-on-route-3/>]



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**TRAFFIC SAFETY INITIATIVES**  
*Tenth Annual "Traffic Safety Days"*



**A STUDENT ATTEMPTS TO UNLOCK A CAR DOOR WHILE WEARING GOGGLES THAT SIMULATE ALCOHOL INTOXICATION. PHOTO SOURCE: WSIL**

The Williamson County Sheriff's deputies held its 10th annual "Traffic Safety Days" campaign, collaborating with the Illinois State Police and partnering with State Farm Insurance. High school students attended the event at the Pavilion in Marion, where Williamson County Sheriff's deputies and Illinois State Police troopers taught and demonstrated the dangers of driving under the influence. Students were given the opportunity to interact with simulations and

equipment that emulated environments akin to driving under the influence and driving distracted.

One of the speakers at this year's Traffic Safety Days was Sydney Walsh, a mother who lost her son in a traffic accident involving a speeding teen driver. She reminisced that if the program had existed at the time, perhaps her son's life may have been spared. Deputies claim that since the launch of Traffic Safety Days, they have observed fewer traffic accidents involving teen drivers.

Source: WSIL. [Available online at <http://www.wsilv.com/story/37769924/10th-annual-traffic-safety-days>.]

*Illinois: C- Road Maintenance Rating*

As part of a report by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to grade each state based on the quality of and investment put into its infrastructure, Illinois received an overall infrastructure grading of C-. Although not a failing grade, it is certainly not a grade worthy of boasts or bragging rights.

The overall C- grading is an evaluation of not only roads, railways, and transit, but also of other aspects of infrastructure, including aviation, bridges, and water. Over 2,000 bridges in Illinois are considered "structurally deficient", and Illinois roads and transit both earned a grade of D, considering the traffic congestions, the lost revenue and excess pollution from such congestion, and poor funding towards mass transit. The lowest grade of D- was given to the management of navigable waterways in Illinois, citing overdue maintenance and repairs for locks over half a century old.

Although the C- grade may draw concerns, the collective grade for the entire nation is a grade of D+. Of the individual states that have been graded, none have achieved an overall infrastructure grade better than a C. The ASCE encourages all states to invest more in their infrastructure.

Source: ASCE 2018. [Available online at <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org>.]; TT News. [Available online at <http://www.ttnews.com/articles/illinois-tepid-infrastructure-grade-product-funding-neglect-asce-leader-says>.]; Chicago Tribune. [Available online at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-illinois-infrastructure-grade-20180223-story.html>.]

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