



First Passenger Airline Fatality Since 2009



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BUREAU OFFICIALS INSPECT THE DAMAGED ENGINE OF THE SOUTHWEST AIRPLANE. IMAGE SOURCE: NBC PHILADELPHIA

A Southwest airplane had to make an emergency landing after an explosion of one of its engines that led to a broken window and a passenger death. The debris from the airplane shattered a window where the passenger sat, almost flushing her out of the cabin because of the difference in air pressure.

The woman who died was identified as Jennifer Riordan from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Passenger eyewitness accounts say

that nearby passengers helped Riordan back into the cabin before someone performed CPR on her. Meanwhile, other passengers contemplated how to spend what they feared were their final moments of their life. In the aftermath of the incident, passengers hailed pilot Tammie Jo Shults for how she handled the emergency, noting that things could have ended much worse without her quick judgement.

This accident marks the first onboard passenger airplane death since 2009, and the first onboard passenger death ever for Southwest Airlines. The National Transportation Safety Bureau (NTSB) has opened an investigation into the engine failure. Although passenger deaths aboard planes are rare, there have been mechanical issues of Southwest airplanes in the past, including a cabin fire just this past February, and an engine blowout in 2016. In a ten-year period from 2007 through 2016, the NTSB has logged 273 accidents related to passenger airlines.

Source: NBC Philadelphia. [Available online at www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Airplane-Makes-Emergency-Landing-at-Philadelphia-International-Airport-480008613.html]; National Transportation Safety Bureau [Available online at www.ntsb.gov/_layouts/ntsb.aviation/index.aspx].

iOS “Do Not Disturb” Feature

An update released late last year in iOS products introduced a “Do Not Disturb While Driving” (DNDWD) feature that enables users to stop notifications when the cell phone is in motion. A recent study by insurance company EverQuote stated that phone use decreased by eight percent when users enabled DNDWD.

While DNDWD feature is only available on iOS devices, drivers can download third-party apps onto their non-iOS device, such as EverQuote’s app “EverDrive”, to

enable similar Do Not Disturb features.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reading a text for five seconds is equivalent to blindly driving the length of a football field at 55 miles per hour. While state laws can somewhat enforce distracted driving laws, it is difficult to catch scofflaws. EverQuote and Apple hope to see continued decrease in distracted driving behaviors as more people implement this feature.

Source: USA Today [Available online at www.usatoday.com/story/tech/talkingtech/2018/04/18/distracted-driving-feature-inside-do-not-disturb-while-driving-feature-inside-iphones-help-keep-you/527613002/]; EverQuote. [Available online at www.everquote.com/blog/car-insurance/do-not-disturb-phone-feature/].

DO NOT DISTURB WHILE DRIVING

Did you know that on your iPhone, you can enable a “Do Not Disturb” feature for when you are driving? Here is how to do it:

1. See if the icon is on the control center menu by swiping up from the bottom of the screen. If it does, tap the icon to enable it. If not, continue to step 2
2. If the icon isn't there, go to Settings > Control Center > Customize Controls
3. Tap the icon next to the Do Not Disturb While Driving feature. This will add the feature to the control center menu.
4. Swipe up from the bottom of the screen to open the control center and tap the icon to enable Do Not Disturb While Driving.

If you do not own an iOS device, there are third-party apps that you can download to enable similar features!

Source: Apple Support. [Available online at support.apple.com/en-us/HT208090].

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Lawsuit May Determine Direction of Amendment

SPIKE IN INTERSTATE PEDESTRIAN DEATHS

March ended with a spike in pedestrian deaths on Illinois roadways. These deaths serve as powerful reminders of how dangerous it is to get out of vehicles after pulling over. Drivers are discouraged from exiting the car when pulled over because of the risk of being struck by oncoming traffic.

The Illinois State Police suggests the following if you are involved in a crash or find yourself stranded on the roadway.

- Stay in the vehicle if you can.
- Engage your vehicle's hazard lights.
- If you can safely move your vehicle to a shoulder or off of the road, do so intently.
- Call 911 to report the crash first before calling your insurance company or any other contacts.
- If you must exit the vehicle, keep your eyes on traffic and maintain a safe distance from the roadway.
- Do not attempt to direct traffic or wave down help.

Source: Our Quad Cities. [Available online at www.ourquadcities.com/news/3-pedestrian-deaths-prompt-reminder-from-illinois-state-police.]



A Cook County lawsuit involving the newly passed Safe Roads Amendment could determine the course of transportation funding. A March 6 lawsuit requests the Cook County Circuit Court to consider ordering the county to invest the full \$250 million revenue from transportation-related taxes in transportation-related projects. The lawsuit claimed that the county misused the revenue and spent it on other public safety projects ungermane to transportation.

This lawsuit also comes proximal in timing to the latest report by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute estimating \$4.6 billion worth of infrastructure maintenance needs, including backlogged roadway and bridge repairs.

Ben Brockschmidt, policy vice president for the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and executive director of the Infrastructure Council, and Carol Portman, president of the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois, claim that these litigations are not surprising because of the vagueness of the amendment and discrepancies between organizations on what constitutes "transportation-related". Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association CEO Mike Sturino is hopeful that more officials will become loyal to the amendment with time as more become aware that the amendment is in place. Others, like the University of Chicago's public affairs unit, are suspicious that the amendment will create more conflicts than solve any problems.

Source: Cook County Record. [Available online at cookcountyrecord.com/stories/511370232.]; Crain's Chicago Business [Available online at www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20161101/BLOGS02/161039977.]

Infrastructure Needs Exceed \$4 Billion

The Illinois Economic Policy Institute reported that transportation infrastructure needs in Illinois amount to up to \$4.6 billion. The backlog of transit system repairs, particularly of roadways and bridges, keeps increasing in size. In Chicago, 30 percent of the city's regional transportation authority's assets are in disrepair, costing commuters an average of \$630 per year to cover for vehicle maintenance and an average of nine hours per year from congestion.

Earlier this year, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released a statewide infrastructure report card for Illinois, giving the state a grade of C- for overall infrastructure quality and a D for both roadway and transit infrastructure quality.

Assuming other funding sources constant, Illinois must at least triple fuel taxes and quadruple vehicle registration fees to afford the \$4.6 billion in maintenance costs. This is similar to California's effort to fund \$52 billion worth of state infrastructure maintenance by raising gasoline taxes. As fuel efficient or electric vehicles decrease demand for gasoline, states such as California and Colorado are exploring "per-mile" tax programs that eliminate the need for revenue to depend on gasoline consumption.

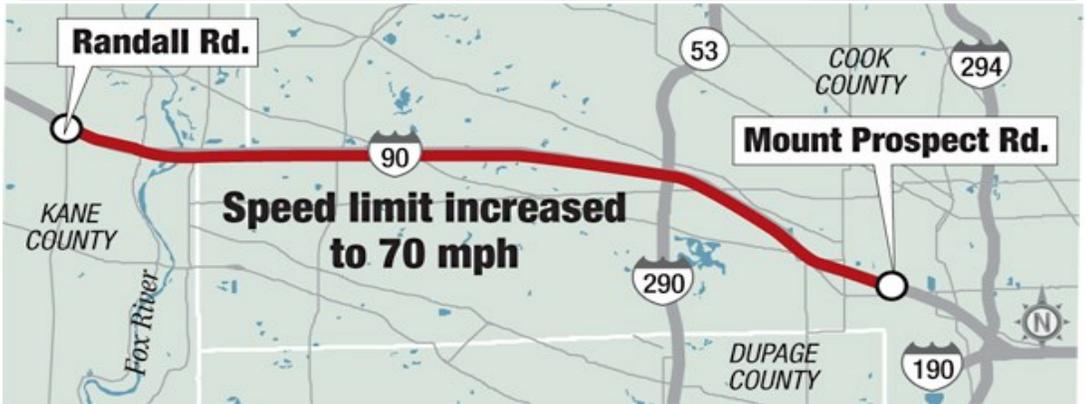
Source: ConstructionDive. [Available online at www.constructiondive.com/news/illinois-needs-almost-5b-annually-to-meet-infrastructure-needs.]

ILLINOIS GRADE SUMMARY



2018 ILLINOIS INFRASTRUCTURE GRADE. IMAGE SOURCE: AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Jane Addams Tollway Increases Speed Limits



LOCATION WHERE THE SPEED LIMIT INCREASED FROM 55 TO 70 MPH. IMAGE SOURCE: CHICAGO DAILY HERALD

The speed limit on Interstate 90 (the Jane Addams Tollway) increased from 55 miles per hour (mph) to 70 mph between Elgin and Mount Prospect late March this year, allowing drivers to lawfully drive faster in the area than before. This speed limit increase is partially a result of the completion of a Jane Addams Tollway widening project. The widening

led to more drivers exceeding 55-mph, prompting tollway officials to increase the speed limit.

Proponents of the increase say that there will be less variability in driving speeds between those obeying the speed limit and those exceeding it. On the other hand, skeptics raise safety concerns as faster speeds are strongly associ-

ated with more deadly traffic crashes. Road segments proximal to on-ramps, off-ramps, and lane mergers are areas especially prone to traffic crashes. Nonetheless, Illinois State Police District 15 may find it appropriate to watch over and monitor the roadway segment as drivers adjust to the new speed limit.

Source: Daily Herald. [Available online at www.dailyherald.com/news/20180328/you-can-legally-drive-70-mph-on-i-90-between-elgin-and-mount-prospect-now.]

CherryVale Mall to Fully Enforce Traffic Laws

Road Safety and Business



SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE OF A SECTION OF CHERRYVALE MALL. IMAGE SOURCE: KBJR

CherryVale Mall experienced a spike in violent activity within the past two years, including four shootings. To subdue the violence in the Rockford suburb mall and ensure customer safety, the Cherry Valley police department is collaborating with CherryVale Mall to enforce all traffic laws within mall property.

As it stands, the police department can only enforce hit-and-run, driving under the influence, reckless driving, and handicap violations on private property, but CherryVale Mall and the Cherry Valley village board have allowed an exception to the rule to authorize the police to enforce any traffic law within mall grounds. The village hopes that increased police

presence and stronger enforcement will discourage reckless and inappropriate behaviors. The mall has also implemented other safety measures, including additional security cameras and a youth escort policy—children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult after 4:00 PM on Fridays and Saturdays.

Source: WIFR. [Available online at www.wifr.com/content/news/Village-Board-approves-contract-to-allow-police-to-enforce-traffic-laws-on-mall-property-478714703.html.]; MyStateLine. [www.mystateline.com/news/cherryvale-mall-touts-upgraded-security-in-wake-of-recent-shootings.]

Year-To-Date Traffic Fatality Statistics

April 24, 2018

272 Fatal Crashes*
301 Fatalities*

On this day last year:
259 Fatal Crashes
283 Fatalities

18 Above
Fatalities change

* Provisional, subject to change
Source: IDOT

Last Month's Weather Digest

March, 2018
Springfield, IL

Average High: 47.9°F
2.4°F cooler than normal

Average Low: 29.4°F
1.6°F cooler than normal

Total Precipitation: 3.72 in.
0.92 in. wetter than normal

Total Snow: 9.3 in.
6.6 in. more than normal

Source: National Weather Service
Lincoln, IL





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**Distractions decrease
one's ability to move over.
Put the cellphone down.**



www.moveoverillinois.org



April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Several local police departments in Illinois participated in the “Drop It and Drive” campaign the week of April 23 through April 27 as part of the National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Local and county police departments from Arlington Heights, Elgin, Lake County, Oswego, and Rock Island County were just a few of the participants partnering with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the American Automobile Association (AAA) to promote safe driving and to urge drivers to refrain from using a handheld phones and other devices whilst driving. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) grants funding for increased enforcement in recognition of Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

Research by the AAA’s Foundation for Traffic Safety found that in-vehicle technologies, including touch screen and even hands-free features (e.g., voice recognition, Bluetooth), can potentially distract drivers for more than 40 seconds. Furthermore, distracted driving is probably considerably underreported because many drivers do not admit to using cell phones as they drive. The City of Elgin is also strengthening seat belt enforcement at the same time, noting their efforts to encourage proper seat belt use as well.

Source: Quad Cities Online. [Available online at www.qconline.com/news/local/briefs/article_4f9c7812-c604-5057-938a-53b8a868538a.html]; Canton Daily Ledger. [Available online at www.cantondailyledger.com/news/20180412/letter---spriggs]; Chicago Tribune. [Available online at www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/elgin-courier-news/news/ct-ecn-elgin-distracted-driver-grant-st-0411-story.html]; Patch. [Available online at patch.com/illinois/libertyville/distracted-driving-campaign-underway-lake-co and patch.com/illinois/oswego/dont-drive-distracted-oswego-police]; Journal Topics. [Available online at www.journal-topics.com/articles/distracted-driving-on-police-radar].

Illinois Hosts Work Zone Safety Awareness

As construction season rolls in, Illinois hosted the Work Zone Safety Awareness Week during the week of April 9 through April 13. A national kick-off event was held at the construction zone of Chicago’s Jane Byrne Interchange on Tuesday, April 10, with Governor Bruce Rauner speaking at the event.

There, 143 construction cones were displayed, representing the 143 construction workers who have died in work zones across the United States in 2016. In Illinois, more than 1,500 injuries are reported per year from over 5,000 work zone related traffic crashes. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), 765 people died in work zones nationwide in 2016, seven percent more than the 712 deaths reported in 2015. Meanwhile, deaths within work zones have been steadily decreasing in Illinois: Only 29 people died in work zones in 2017 compared to 46 and 44 in 2015 and 2016, respectively. The “Move Over” Law urges drivers to move over for stopped vehicles, including construction workers, trucks, and emergency vehicles.

Source: ABC7. [Available online at www.abc7chicago.com/traffic/national-work-zone-safety-week-aims-to-protect-drivers-construction-workers]; Chicago Tribune. [Available online at www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-construction-zone-crashes-20180410-story.html].

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