



Waze, Caltrans Team Up as Traffic-Fighting Super Duo

An App Partnership Made in Congestion-Free Heaven

(**Los Angeles Magazine**) Waze is a godsend when it comes to driving in L.A., and as the real-time traffic app improves, so do our lives (no exaggeration: there are 1.7 million monthly Waze users in this city). The



technology's latest upgrade is a collaboration with the California Department of Transportation, which handles the maintenance and repair of our streets and freeways. In a new agreement, the two behemoths will now freely share information. [Read More](#)

Four Caltrans Heroes Honored by Governor

State Employee Medal of Valor Awards Awarded to Employees Showing Courage in Face of Danger

The State Employee Medal of Valor Award is the highest honor California bestows on its public servants.



(Left) Caltrans Senior Photographer Steven Hellon earned the gold Medal of Valor for rescuing a fallen woman from the Merced Amtrak station train tracks - just seconds before the train rolled over the tracks on Dec. 16, 2014.

(Right) Caltrans Equipment Operator II Mark Johnson earned his gold Medal of Valor for rescuing a pregnant woman from a blazing car after she had crashed it into his Caltrans skip-loader on State Route 14 near Agua Dulce on June 22, 2015. Johnson also extinguished a resulting grass fire.



Caltrans Equipment Operators Dave Ackley (left) and Dain Hartman (right) earned silver Medal of Valor awards for risking their lives to rescue an injured flight instructor from a burning crashed aircraft, and putting out the resulting grass fire near State Route 36 in Humboldt County on Feb. 2, 2012. Photo courtesy of Caltrans.

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A Departure From Decades of Highway Policy

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx is Urging Communities to Think More Carefully About Where They Build Roads

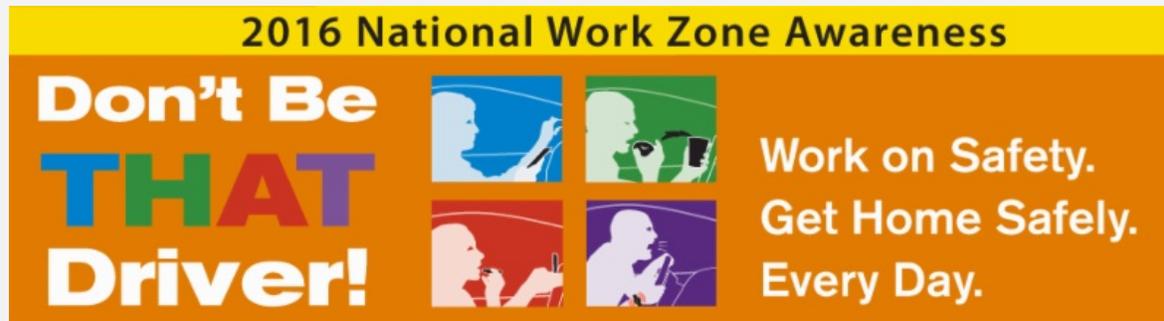
(The Atlantic) Foxx [has launched] an effort to push federal, state and local transportation decision-makers to make transportation projects more inclusive. He wants local decision-makers to agree to "connect people to opportunity" when they make decisions about building

transportation.

To do this, Foxx wants decisions-makers to keep in mind three principles as they make these decisions. Principle one: While transportation needs to connect people to opportunities, it should also "invigorate opportunities within communities." Two: Projects need to take into account communities that "have been on the wrong side of transportation decisions," and figure out ways to make them stronger. And three: The projects should be built for and by the communities they go through. [Read More](#)



Brittany Peterson, McClatchy



Don't Be That Driver! - Only You Can Prevent Work Zone Fatalities

This Week Marks "National Work Zone Awareness Week" and is a Reminder to All Drivers to be Safe During this Construction Season

(**Transportation.gov**) National Work Zone Awareness Week is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones. This year's theme is "Don't Be That Driver!" to remind drivers that work zones require them to stay alert and be prepared for sudden changes that distracted drivers may not notice in time to prevent a crash. We must do everything we can to protect drivers and highway workers alike. [Read More](#)

On Duty with the CHP: Move Over, Slow Down

(**Fresno Bee**) Good Tips and Reminders about Leaving Plenty of Space When Passing Anyone Working on the Side of the Road [Read More](#)

VIDEO: Caltrans Kicks Off Employee BikeShare Program

On-Site Bicycles Reduce Emissions, Increase Choices for Staff

Caltrans continues to reduce its carbon footprint through the launch of its employee BikeShare Program, which makes on-site bicycles available for staff as a transit option. See how employees plan to use the bicycles and the excitement surrounding the added choice of going green in the video below:



Caltrans Makes Room For Taller Trucks By Raising I-80 Overpasses

Seven Overpasses Raised, Task has been Delicate and Required Creative Approaches

(Sacramento Bee) After a year of heavy lifting, Caltrans is nearly done with an improbable task on Interstate 80 in Placer County: raising seven freeway overcrossings between Loomis and Weimar, in some cases by more than 2 feet.

The \$36 million "Raise 80" project has involved jacking up and repositioning 1,000-plus ton overpasses, many of them a half-century old, to comply with federal 16-foot-6-inch standards so modern supersized trucks and military vehicles can squeeze under them. [Read More](#)



Randy Pench, Sacramento Bee

VIDEO: Students Show Safety Smarts in Distraction Zone School Challenge

Caltrans challenged California high schoolers to create their on-campus traffic safety events to educate peers about safe driving and become ambassadors for reducing and eliminating deaths caused by distracted driving near highway work zones. See how California's kids rose to the task in the Distraction Zone School Challenge in the video below:



What If We Got Rid Of The Gas Tax And Charged You For How Far You Drive?

New Programs in CA and OR are Looking to Possibly Make up for Declining Gas Tax Revenues with Road Usage Fee



(Fast Company Magazine, Co.Design) The gas tax system worked extremely well for decades. It was a perfect tax that charged people in proportion to how much they drove. But today that system is at the early stages of a breakdown due to the growing popularity of fuel efficient, electric and alternative fuel vehicles.

This is why a concept that was once thought too controversial is gaining more currency: instead of taxing gasoline purchases, tax drivers by how many miles they drive.

[Read More](#)

There is Still Time to Become a Volunteer! Sign Up to be a Part of California's Road Charge Pilot Program

- [Learn More About the Pilot](#)
- [How to Sign Up](#)

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