

TRUCKING NEWS YOU CAN USE

Variable Speed Limits

A few weeks ago, we sent out proposed DOT legislation that would have allowed variable speed limits on adjacent freeway lanes. I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to those companies who responded. I am pleased to report that the DOT has decided to withdraw this legislation.

Staff Contact: Larry Pursley, larry@wtassns.com

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Columbia River Crossing

The Urban Design Advisory Group has adopted a design concept for the new Interstate 5 bridge, and will be seeking comments later this year. Please click the link for the latest Columbia River Crossing Update to review. Please take the time to review it and contact me with any comments at larry@wtassns.com.

Columbia/Snake River Extended Lock Outage

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, beginning in December of 2010, is undertaking a 14-16 week major maintenance effort on the lock systems at The Dalles, John Day, and Lower Monumental locks. Columbia Snake River System Extended lock outage. If the Corps makes good on this effort; grain, forest products, bulk minerals and auto imports -- which normally use the river system -- will be shifting to either trucks or rail, for the duration. We will keep you apprised of developments. Please contact me with feedback or questions, larry@wtassns.com.

ATRI Survey on Industry Concerns Shows Change over Previous Years

Results of the ATRI annual survey, published this month, can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Please contact me with comments or questions, larry@wtassns.com .

Implementing Alternative Transportation Funding Methods

The Washington State Joint Legislative Transportation Committee is reviewing alternative transportation funding methods to either replace the fuel tax or supplement it. I would caution you not to be too alarmed by some of the early assumptions, as they are based on throwing everything against the wall and seeing what sticks.

You can review their work at the following links:

Evaluation Criteria & Funding Method Implementation

Estimated Impacts of Potential Funding Scenarios, Based On Vehicle Type

Evaluation Criteria & Funding Method Implementation Draft White Paper

For questions or comments, please contact larry@wtassns.com .

2010 Proposed Hourly Base Rates for Workers' Compensation

On September 21, 2009, L&I announced an average 7.6 percent proposed rate increase for 2010. The announced proposed rate is based on adoption of pending new rules regarding unassigned occupational disease claims for Retrospective Rating. Staff Contact: Sheri Call, sheri@wtassns.com

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Reseller Permits Replace Resale Certificates on January 1, 2010

The way businesses buy items for resale changes in 2010. In the last legislative session, a new law passed -- changing the rules for buying products without paying sales tax. On Jan. 1, 2010,

reseller permits issued by the Department of Revenue replace self-issued resale certificates. Staff Contact: Sheri Call, sheri@wtassns.com
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Use of Aldergrove-Lynden Port of Entry

The Aldergrove-Lynden port of entry is one of three cross-border truck routes between Lower Mainland British Columbia and Western Washington State. Unlike the other U.S.-Canadian border truck crossings, the Aldergrove-Lynden border crossing only operates from 8 a.m. to noon daily.

There is presently an Aldergrove-Lynden Border Crossing Project under way to assess current and future trade and travel transportation demand at this border crossing, both northbound and southbound, and to identify resulting needs for infrastructure and operational changes. This assessment will be coordinated through the International Mobility and Trade Corridor Project to provide results that are useful to the multiple participating organizations on both sides of the border.

The Washington Trucking Associations would like to learn from its members how useful the Aldergrove-Lynden Port of Entry is to your operations. Please respond to the "Poll Question" found in this issue of the WTA e-Hot Topic News. Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

Haney Truck Line Acquires Additional Assets

Haney Truck Line, LLC, has acquired the assets of Puget Sound Truck Lines, out of Tacoma; and Nickel Plate Express (NPE), out of Eugene. The operations are very similar, and will position Haney very well to continue providing excellent service in the Pacific Northwest. Haney Truck Line is based in Yakima. Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

Operation Safe Driver Planned for October 18-24, 2009

Each year, approximately 40,000 people die on the roadways throughout North America -- many as a direct result of unsafe and aggressive driving by both passenger and commercial vehicle drivers. Nearly 5,000 of the fatalities are related to large trucks and buses. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance -- in partnership with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, state and local law enforcement, and the trucking industry -- launched a new campaign in 2007, which was dubbed Operation Safe Driver. This year, Oct. 18-24 will be the 2009 campaign of "Operation Safe Driver." Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

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WSDOT to Bring Smarter Highways to I-5, SR 520 and I-90 Beginning in 2010

The Washington State Department of Transportation announces new, innovative traffic technology is about to make Puget Sound highways smarter and more efficient than ever. The new system, Active Traffic Management (ATM), features a network of sensors and electronic signs on northbound Interstate 5, SR 520 and Interstate 90 that automatically respond to traffic conditions and give drivers current information that will result in a safer and smoother trip. Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

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Chains Required in Colorado

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) reminds operators of commercial motor vehicles traveling in the state that they must carry chains from September through May when they are operating on Interstate 70 between Dotsero and Morrison; that is, over the mountains west of Denver. Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

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IRS Raises Safe-Harbor Per Diem Rate for Drivers

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has raised the amount per day that the employer of a truck driver may reimburse the driver for meals and incidental expenses when the driver is away from home on travel. This per diem amount, which has been \$52 a day for several years, will go up to \$59 a day. Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

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Viaduct Inspection Closure Scheduled for Oct. 24-25, 2009

Twice a year, crews close the Alaskan Way Viaduct for a weekend to inspect the structure and complete needed maintenance work. Both decks of the Alaskan Way Viaduct will be closed between Spokane Street, in the south; through the Battery Street Tunnel, in the north. The closure is scheduled from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24; and again from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 25. Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

Green River Flooding

The following article, "Green River Flooding: What it means for Federal Way," by Seattle City Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer, is being reprinted here with permission by Councilmember von Reichbauer. The Councilmember's article offers a history and explanation of the issues with the Howard Hanson Dam. The information contained in the article pertains to all members who reside or hold business locations in the Green River Valley. Councilmember von Reichbauer represents the communities of Algona, Auburn, Federal Way, Pacific, Kent and Milton -- who are among the cities who will be impacted most should the Howard Hanson Dam fail. WTA held an informational meeting in September, in which the city of Auburn presented issues with the Dam to participating WTA members. We plan to hold another informational meeting in November; more information will be forthcoming with meeting details. In the meantime, should you have any questions or comments, please contact the WTA office. Staff Contact: Sheri Call, sheri@wtassns.com

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Feedback for the Newsletter ...

We kicked off this monthly publication with the March 2009 issue. We strive to put together articles and information that is timely, informative and useful to you as a business owner or an industry professional. We would love to hear your feedback on what we are doing, what we might do differently or generally your thoughts on the newsletter and content. Please e-mail Sheri Call, sheri@wtassns.com, to offer your comments, feedback, or suggestions. If we can improve the information or the usefulness in any way, we would love to hear about it. Thanks in advance for your input!

WTA Welcomes New Members!

The Washington Trucking Associations would like to say a hearty welcome to the following new members to the WTA. We appreciate their support of the Association and the trucking industry in Washington.

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National Diesel Fuel Pricing Jumps 10.5 Cents This Week!

The national average retail price of on-highway surged 10.5 cents this week, to \$2.705 per gallon. The national average is currently 22.3 percent lower than during the same week in 2008. Nationwide, the average price of a gallon of Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel shot up 10.4 cents, to \$2.708.

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NEWS ON THE MOVE

WMC Membership Approves Changes to WMC By-Laws at Annual Meeting

The WMC membership voted unanimously to approve WMC Board recommended changes to the WMC By-Laws at their annual meeting. For a list of these changes, please click "Learn More." Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

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Are You Taking Advantage of the WMC Industry Forms Program?

If you are not already doing so; you, too, can save money by ordering your industry forms -- Estimates, Bills of Lading, Warehouse Receipts, Inventories, and more -- directly from your Washington Movers Conference. The cost of the forms, in quantities ranging from 250-2,500, includes free "crash imprinting" of your company name, address, telephone numbers, household goods number and sequential serial numbering of your Bills of Lading! Order turnaround time is typically five to seven business days. Just call Sandy at the WMC office at 253-661-8240. Staff Contact: Sandy Johnson, sandy@wtassns.com

Department of Defense "Open Season" for New Participants Cancelled

It looks like those companies who were hoping to get into the military market will need to wait another year. The Department of Defense has decided not to hold an Open Season for new entrants this fall. They weighed this decision heavily, but decided it is not the right time to bring new entrants into the program. It appears this is due to the ongoing difficulty in getting the new DP3 program up and running. Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

Next Regularly Scheduled WMC Board of Directors Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Washington Movers Conference Board of Directors meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, at the Doubletree Guest Suites, Tukwila, WA.

DUMP TRUCK HIGHLIGHTS

Truck Inspection Scheduled

The WTA Log and Dump Truck Conferences will hold the last voluntary truck inspection of 2009 on Saturday, Nov. 14. The inspection will be hosted by Valley Freightliner and will be held in Mount Vernon from 8 a.m. until early afternoon. Staff Contact: Norm Miller, norm@wtassns.com

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LOG TRUCKERS UPDATE

Fall Chapter Meetings Under Way

The following article highlights information from meetings held earlier this month and provides information for upcoming events planned for the Log Truckers Conference of the WTA. Staff Contact: Norm Miller, norm@wtassns.com

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Truck Inspection Scheduled

The WTA Log and Dump Truck Conferences will hold the last voluntary truck inspection of 2009 on Saturday, Nov. 14. The inspection will be hosted by Valley Freightliner and will be held in Mount Vernon from 8 a.m. until early afternoon. Valley Freightliner will host a barbecue lunch for

participants. For more information, please contact Norm Miller at 800-732-9019 or e-mail norm@wtassns.com

INTERMODAL NEWS

Deadline to Meet New U.S. Chassis Rule Nears

December 17, 2009, is the compliance date that providers of intermodal chassis must have maintenance and recordkeeping systems in place. Yet, there is concern in some areas that many of the involved companies might not be able to meet the deadline. Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

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Port of Oakland Eyes Jan. 1, 2010, Ban on Older Trucks

The Port of Oakland's board of commissioners is expected to give final approval this week to a measure that would ban older trucks, beginning Jan. 1, 2010. Drayage trucks with engine year models earlier than 1994 will not be allowed at the port, while those with models between 1994 and 2003 will have to be retrofitted with diesel particulate filters. Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

SAFETY NOTES

Safety Measurement System (SMS) Methodology

All violations in the new CSA 2010 Program will be used to determine a driver's score. To review the methodology -- and see the specific details on what values are assigned for each violation and how they are weighted -- please click the "Learn More" button. Staff Contact: Mike Southards, mikes@wtassns.com

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CSA 2010: What it Means to You

As we all know, safety regulations that apply to drivers need to be relayed to the drivers so they will have a better understanding of what they need to do to stay in compliance. CSA 2010 regulations -- for the first time -- will be assigning a personal safety rating to each driver as violations occur, and a profile will be collected for at least two years. This profile will follow the driver from job to job. No longer will a driver be able to elude his or her poor driving history by switching employers. Click the "Learn More" link to see a sample letter you may want to use to help educate your drivers. Staff Contact: Mike Southards, mikes@wtassns.com
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WAC Changes for Hulk Haulers

The Washington State Patrol has asked the Department of Licensing to rework the WAC covering Hulk Haulers and exempting "common carriers" from being required to have a hulk haulers license. There will be no enforcement on license plates for hulk haulers until the WAC changes are in effect. The WSP is hoping this will be effective in December of 2009. To read the changes, click on "Learn More." Staff Contact: Mike Southards, mikes@wtassns.com
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What is Fraud?

Fraud costs the Washington State Labor & Industries' worker's compensation system millions of dollars each year. Employers, employees, insurance carriers and the Washington consumers pay the cost of fraud -- in lost jobs and profits, lower wages and benefits, and higher costs for services and premiums. Staff Contact: Donna Fairweather-Airey, donna@wtassns.com
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July and September TACT Program Results

The Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks (TACT) Program is designed to educate drivers about driving around large trucks. The main focus for this education is to educate the motoring public on leaving more space around large trucks; unsafe lane changes; following too close; and speeding. Staff Contact: Mike Southards, mikes@wtassns.com
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Monthly Meetings for Safety Management Council

Reminder -- the WTA's Safety Management Council (SMC) meets the second Wednesday of every month. If you would like more information on the SMC or upcoming meetings, please contact Mike Southards at mike@wtassns.com , or call the WTA office and ask to speak to Mike.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Fleet Safety Certification Courses Coming in January

Washington Trucking Associations, Great West Casualty and NATMI are proud to offer the next Fleet Safety Certification Courses and optional Certification Exam this coming January. Please see the attached flyer and registration form for complete information. Staff Contact: Mike Southards, mikes@wtassns.com

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SUPPLIER ISSUES

New Suppliers Conference Officers Elected at Annual Meeting in Spokane

Members of the WTA Suppliers Conference attending the 2009 Annual Meeting in Spokane elected a new slate of officers for the 2009-2011 two-year term. For a list of the new officers, please click "Learn More." Staff Contact: Jim Tutton, jim@wtassns.com

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