



# MTEA NEWS

## NEW TRAFFIC LAWS TAKE EFFECT OCTOBER 1, 2015

The 2015 Legislative Session had its ups and downs, highs and lows. One of the lows was seeing driver education funding voted down again. And, one of the highs, for some people anyway, was the hike to 80 mph on Interstate highways 15, 90, and 94. The speed limit increase to 80 mph on some long stretches of rural interstates in Montana will likely bring in additional revenue due to increased fines, but we hope crashes will not increase as well. Stay safe out there.



With permission from the Montana Department of Transportation, we are reprinting an article from the MDT Newslines of September 15, 2015.



This May, a bill was signed into law that allows a speed limit change on Montana Interstates from 75 miles per hour (mph) to 80 mph. This change is consistent with surrounding states such as Wyoming, Idaho, and South Dakota, and will become effective October 1, 2015.

An important note is that not all sections of the interstate will increase to 80 mph. Interstates going through cities with a population greater than 50,000 will remain at 65 mph. Also, the new law allows for some areas of the interstate that are not suitable for the increased speed limit to be set at a lower limit, such as mountain passes and canyons. Until MDT conducts engineering studies in these areas to set the speed limit and changes are approved by the Transportation Commission, those sections will remain at the current speed limit.

On October 1, MDT maintenance personnel will install over 350 new signs. Although the speed limit has increased, MDT asks drivers to use caution when driving, stay alert, be aware of changing road conditions” due to weather, and drive at an appropriate speed for condition. <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/newsletters/newsline/2015/newsep15.pdf>

See page 6 for a detailed summary of other new traffic laws in effect on October 1.

## Driver Feedback—Instructor App

Reviewed by Steffani Grogan, Driver Instructor, Forsyth



State Farm Insurance has recently released a smart-phone app called **Driver Feedback—Instructor Edition** which can be downloaded free from the iTunes store or Google Play store for Androids.

The app allows instructors to enter all their student drivers into the reporting field and then place the drivers in groups.

On the day of the drive, the instructor calls up the driving group and taps the individual name to record the drive.

Each trip results in an overall trip score and individual scores for three key driving behaviors: Acceleration, Braking, and Cornering.

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## MTEA Executive Board

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## MTEA News

This newsletter is published by the Montana Traffic Education Association in the fall, winter, and spring. Mailing address: PO Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425. Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, (406) 278-7856. Web: [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org).

**MTEA News** is mailed to members and active contributor/sustainers. The spring issue is mailed to all traffic educators in Montana to provide annual conference registration information.

To submit an article, photo, or letter to the editor, contact newsletter editor Steffani Grogan at [sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us](mailto:sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us).

Newsletter deadline for articles:

**Fall issue—October 1**

**Winter issue—December 1**

**Spring issue—March 1**

## President's Message



Dear Fellow Traffic Educators,

Wow, it's hard to believe that it's already my time to write the President's message for the newsletter for a second time! Thank you for your trust in me, selecting me as the President of this tremendous organization. I hope everyone is well and settled into their school routine.

I just want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to teaching our novice drivers.

Whenever I chat with a parent about Traffic Ed they always say that they don't know how we do it, that they can't be in the car longer than five minutes with their new driver because it is too stressful on them and the kids.

You never can give too much praise or thank you's. You are a dedicated group and have a tremendous impact on students' lives.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me and I will help you get the answer to your question. I hope you have a great school year and we will be looking forward to seeing you down the road.

~ *Charlie Brown, MTEA President (2015-16)*

## Executive Board Meeting Summary

Here's an overview of the Executive Board meeting held April 27 in Great Falls:

- Minutes, finances, and correspondence were reviewed.
- Reports from newsletter, awards, OPI, auction, insurance, and scholarships were heard.
- Classification reports were heard.
- Site options and possible theme for the 2016 conference was discussed.
- A Legislative wrap-up was heard.
- President-Elect and Classification Director nominations were reviewed.
- Donations to the David Huff Scholarship fund and Operation Lifesaver were approved.
- Observations from our conference presenters were heard.

The next meeting was tentatively planned for late October or early November. Anyone having items for discussion should contact Charlie Brown, President, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, as soon as possible to be included on the agenda.

## MTEA Membership

### *New members are always welcome!*

Send us the name of a teacher or someone involved in traffic safety, and Executive Secretary Jim Carroll will send them an invitation to join.

Annual membership dues are \$45, payable to MTEA.

An active full membership includes:

- Annual Traffic Education conference (registration fees are extra) that brings up to 200 teachers together with experts in the field, opportunities for ongoing professional development, and the latest research and resources for traffic educators.

- Three newsletters per year (Fall, Winter, Spring).
- \$5,000 AD&D/life insurance policy.
- Voting status (board elections, annual awards).
- A voice in the ongoing improvement of driver education in Montana through policy and legislative actions.

When you register for the annual spring traffic education conference, your MTEA membership fee is included in the conference registration fee.

If you are not able to attend the conference, download a membership form at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) or contact Jim Carroll at (406) 278-7856. You can also send a note to Jim via the contact page on the website.

## Condolences



### **Barbara Lockman (1956-2015)**

*The traffic education community lost a beloved traffic education teacher and active MTEA board member on September 14.*

*Excerpts below are from the obituary published in the Helena Independent Record on September 17, 2015.*

After a nine-month battle with cancer, Barbara Ann Lockman passed away at the age of 59 in Laurel, surrounded by family.

Barb was born the fifth of six children to Lyle "Curly" and Hazel (Craigie) Lockman on July 7, 1956, in Poplar. She graduated from Poplar High School in 1974 and continued on to Montana State University in Bozeman where she was a member of Alpha Omega Pi sorority and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in physical education in 1979.

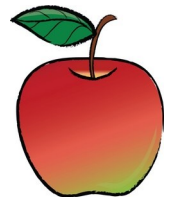
Barb worked as a physical education teacher at Poplar Schools, as the Sidney Middle School librarian, and as a Helena Middle School librarian and driver education instructor for the Helena School District.

Barb was a wonderful daughter, beloved sister, and favorite "auntie" to her nieces and nephews. To her family and friends Barb was a beloved burst of energy, always there to love and serve with fierce devotion, to fill their lives with mischievous smiles and humor and to instill in her nieces and nephews a deep love of nature, adventure and lifelong learning.

Her beautiful spirit has had a profound and lasting impact on the lives of her family and friends and she is deeply cherished and missed by all whom were blessed to know and love her.

## Retiring from teaching?

If you retired last spring or have plans to retire from education this year and have been an active MTEA member, please send Jim Carroll a note at the MTEA address. We would like to honor you at the next spring conference.



Download the Service Recognition/Retirement Award form at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) and send to Jim Carroll by April 1 (prior to the MTEA conference).

### **You can still teach traffic ed!**

If your retirement is based on a termination date of January 1, 2014 or later, **you must wait 150 calendar days before you can return to work as a working retiree** in a TRS reportable position. The 150 calendar day break begins on the first day following your termination.

To comply with IRS public pension qualification standards, an unmistakable interval of time between a member's retirement and their return to work as a retired member is necessary. The break-in-service requirement applies to all TRS members, including members employed by the University System.

For more information, visit the Teacher's Retirement System website: <http://trs.mt.gov/> or call (406) 444-3134 (toll-free: 1-866-600-4045).

**HOW IS YOUR SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY  
CELEBRATING MONTANA TEEN DRIVER  
SAFETY DAY ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20?  
Send this and other items for the Winter issue by  
December 1 to [sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us](mailto:sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us)**





## Fran's Findings

### Reflections on a Losing Season

Montana is both the best and the worst in ratings. We have some of the best teachers, students, communities, parks, and trails. We also have one of the worst reputations for crashes, especially on our rural highways. Every time a single vehicle runs off the road, we ask why.



Some clues are in the details: driving too fast on a curve, overcorrecting, and impairment. But we don't really know what happened in the moments before a crash. It's hard to measure inattention, fatigue, and distractions.

I'm concerned about the recent loss of life on our rural highways. Summer brought tragedy to Montana's communities with one or more traffic fatalities every day between Memorial Day and Labor Day. There is nothing we can do to erase these tragedies, but it is our hope that we can prevent other families from experiencing similar loss. Working together to prevent crashes we need to evaluate the critical errors and try to turn this around. We could alter our approach, set new rules, change expectations. Losses lead to questions and doubts, so ongoing discussions, especially at MTEA's 2016 Traffic Education conference, will provide an opportunity to share experiences and possible solutions.

Coaches and their teams deal with losing sports seasons by considering what worked and what to do next. Encouraging a "never-give-up" attitude, we work to develop skills through practice, coaching, and learning from mistakes.

Research finds driver education reduces traffic citations and crashes.<sup>1</sup> Skill building is a slow process and integrating driver education with GDL has reduced teen crashes. Our safe arrival stories are generally unremarkable, but add up to a winning season. We buckle up to travel millions of miles and usually get where we want to go.



The work to shift our traffic safety culture towards Vision Zero begins with driver education and is ongoing. Teens are aware of driving risks and can look out for one another and influence their peers to do the right thing.

Consider asking your students:

- Have they ever been in a risky situation and acted to prevent a crash?<sup>2</sup>
- What do they do when confronted with friends making unsafe driving decisions?<sup>2</sup>

We have miles to go and some are in a hurry to get there. Laws of physics will still apply as some Montana Interstate speed limits rise to 80 mph on October 1. We need skilled drivers to buckle seatbelts, stay in their travel lane, and control speed for changing conditions.

<sup>1</sup> Read the study [here](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0001457515001943): *Driver education and teen crashes and traffic violations in the first two years of driving in a graduated licensing system*, Duane F. Shell, et al; *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, September 2015.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0001457515001943>

<sup>2</sup> *National Teen Driver Safety Week Resources*, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) [www.teendriversource.org](http://www.teendriversource.org)



*It is an honor to work with our dedicated traffic educators to reduce young driver crashes. Thank you for your service to Montana families and communities. ~ Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education Director*



Montana  
Office of Public Instruction  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)

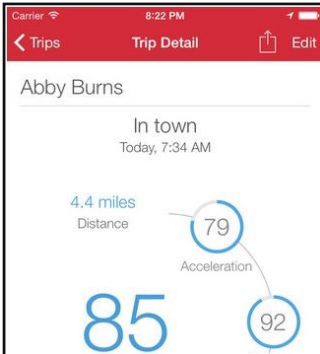
For assistance with your traffic education program, call (406) 444-4432 or email Fran ([fpenner-ray@mt.gov](mailto:fpenner-ray@mt.gov)) or Patti Borneman ([pborneman@mt.gov](mailto:pborneman@mt.gov)).



Teens in the Driver Seat<sup>®</sup> is a Texas-based organization that has excellent resources for peer-to-peer teen driver messages. Download the *Montana Teens in the Driver Seat<sup>®</sup> Guidebook* for seat belt surveys and other great ideas for schools ([http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/plans/young\\_drivers.shtm](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/plans/young_drivers.shtm)). Teens in the Driver Seat<sup>®</sup> has many downloads, such as the campaign graphics shown on this page: <http://www.t-driver.com/downloads/print-presentations/>

## Driver Feedback—Instructor App

*Continued from front page*



The app displays color-coded alerts for these behaviors:

- **yellow**—slight instruction recommended,
- **orange**—moderate instruction recommended, and
- **red**—significant instruction recommended.

The score will vary depending on the type of road and traffic congestion.

Student driver trips can be recorded each time to track student progress and visualize specific areas for improvement. A higher score means better driving. As students master slow and smooth acceleration, braking and cornering, they will see their scores increase.

Students can download the regular **Driver Feedback** app to use as they practice with their parents.

The State Farm agent in Forsyth contacted our school to have the driver education class try this app. My fall class will start driving soon. I plan to record parts of the lesson. Turning at intersections will be the score to focus on throughout the drives so students can get the visual graph of needed improvement.

I hope it can be another tool to reinforce my instructions of proper turning.

## Photo booth at sports events tackles teen seat belt safety

*This story is from a Colorado news report about a way to reach teens who are not buckling up.*

In 2014, 35 teens lost their lives on Colorado roads. Of these, 43% were not wearing a seat belt. To raise awareness of this sobering statistic, and encourage teens to buckle up every ride, every time, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is bringing eye-catching Buckle Booths to high school football games across the state in September.

The Buckle Booth campaign features an open-air photo booth inside football stadiums, complete with safety-related backgrounds and props, including seat belts, car seats, and steering wheels.

In order to get their pictures taken, teens must pledge to buckle up every ride, every time. A street team will engage teens in conversations about seat belt safety and teens are encouraged to share their Buckle Booth photos on social media to raise further awareness of the issue. In addition, 35 black balloons will be anchored to stadium stands to represent teen lives lost in traffic-related deaths in 2014. Staged crashed cars will also be displayed on school front lawns to illustrate the consequences of not wearing a seat belt.

<http://www.9news.com/videos/life/events/2015/09/24/72739890/>

Watch the video on the MTEA Facebook page.

## MDT Teen Peer-to-Peer Traffic Education Partnership Project

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is partnering with the Office of Public Instruction/Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) and the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) to promote teen traffic safety with grant funding. The MBI and FCCLA programs educate teens on leadership, community service, and a variety of high-risk behaviors including distracted and reckless driving.

MDT is offering grants up to \$1,000 to students who organize peer-to-peer traffic safety projects at their school. This may include social media campaigns, in-school contests (i.e., video messaging contest, poster contest), flyers, seat belt surveys, etc.

Download the application, due before June 1, here: [http://plan2live.mt.gov/teen\\_challenge.shtml](http://plan2live.mt.gov/teen_challenge.shtml).

[www.MTEAOnline.org](http://www.MTEAOnline.org)

## 2016 MTEA Spring Conference

The location and date of the 2016 annual spring conference is still being decided. As soon as we have this information, it will be posted on the MTEA website at [www.mteaonline.org](http://www.mteaonline.org) and the Traffic Education Office at the OPI will send out communications via their email mailing list and on their website.

As always, we will ask for items to be offered at our Silent Auction and as door prizes during the conference. We appreciate your support.

Remember, the costs of attending the conference are considered to be an allowable professional development expense under OPI guidelines.



**MTEA is on Facebook!**  
Search for Montana Traffic Education Association.



## Summary of new traffic laws taking effect on October 1, 2015

**SB 375 Highway Speed Limits: Increases the maximum speed limit on certain federal-aid interstate highways from 75 MPH to 80 MPH and increases the penalties assessed for violation of speed limits up to \$200.**

The Transportation Commission is authorized to establish temporary speed limits on these interstate highway corridors until the engineering and traffic investigation is completed. Implementation of the bill will require the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to collect and analyze safety data or recalibrate existing safety data and update engineering plans for proper placement of curve warning signs only on the interstate highway system and replace existing speed zone signs.



**HB 280 Bicycle Traffic: Generally revise and clarify laws related to bicycle traffic.**

Revises the definition of "bicycle," provides a definition of "electrically assisted bicycle" and mopeds.

Allows bicyclists to overtake and pass on the right shoulder of a roadway, provides circumstances when a faster vehicle may pass a bicycle

within a no-passing zone, revises where bicycles may be ridden on roadways, and revises the requirements for nighttime visibility and braking for bicycles including:

- A faster vehicle may cross the center line to pass a bicycle within a no-passing zone when there is sufficient clear sight distance to meet the overtaking and safe passing requirements in 61-8-325 MCA
- Bicycles shall ride in the right hand lane and far enough to the right as judged safe by the bicyclist. A bicyclist is not expected or required to ride:
  - ◊ over or through hazards at the edge of a roadway, including but not limited to fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or narrow lanes; or
  - ◊ without a reasonable margin of safety on the right side of the roadway
- Lights and reflectors are required for nighttime visibility: white light to the front and red light to the rear. Orange flags are encouraged and are no longer required.
- Every bicycle must be equipped with a brake enabling the operator to stop the bicycle within no more than 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles an hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

**HB 412 MIP: Generally revise minor in possession laws.**

Allows that a person under 21 years of age may not be charged for criminal offenses if they are seeking medical treatment for themselves or another person after consuming intoxicating substances. Also they cannot be charged if the evidence for the charge was a result of seeking medical treatment.

**HB 488 Generally revise DUI laws.**

This bill will fine individuals \$300 when they refuse to submit to a blood-draw test for alcohol, drugs or both. Increases the fine for first DUI violation to \$2,000 if there are passengers under age 16 in the vehicle at the time of the offense. Closes loopholes with current aggravated DUI Statute.

**HB 486 Defines and regulates mopeds.**

"Moped" means a vehicle equipped with two or three wheels, foot pedals to permit muscular propulsion, and an independent power source providing a maximum of 2 brake horsepower.

The power source may not be capable of propelling the device, unassisted, at a speed exceeding 30 miles an hour on a level surface.

The device must be equipped with a power drive system that functions directly or automatically only and does not require clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged.




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### 2016 ADTSEA Summer Conference Portland, OR—July 17-20

The **2016 ADTSEA** summer conference is **July 17-20 in Portland, Oregon**. Check out the ADTSEA website at <http://www.adtsea.org> for more details about registration, room rates, and tentative agenda.

If you can attend, the conference will provide you with a wealth of information and an opportunity to network with other professionals from across the United States.

Remember, MTEA has a scholarship program that will provide up to \$300 per person to offset conference costs. If you can't attend, at least consider joining your national organization.

The American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) is the professional association which represents traffic safety educators throughout the United States and abroad.



# QR Codes Decoded!

By Steffani Grogan

Creating QR codes was a technology I presented at the MTEA spring conference to encourage instructors to use a new teaching strategy that can engage students in their own learning. QR codes take students to websites, videos or text incorporated into a lesson. Students use apps on their cell phones like **Scan** or **QR Reader** to basically take a picture of the code which creates a clickable URL, takes the learner directly to a website, or brings up text.

In my classroom, QR codes are used in different ways.:

- **Fact Finding:** Bring up three different types of media about road rage (YouTube, news article, and word document). Student groups decide two important facts presented in each media to share with the class. Students could also write short summaries of presented media.
- **Wall Matching:** Student scans a term or definition code on one wall, then goes to another wall of codes to scan for the answer. They match and write down the combo such as 2-d, 3-g, etc.
- **Scavenger Hunt Test Review:** At each stop, there are questions to answer on an answer sheet, the QR tag is then scanned to find the location of the next set of problems.
- **Guided Practice:** QR codes can be placed beside certain questions that link to a specific URL with information to help solve that problem
- **Take students to a website from a PowerPoint slide during your presentation:** If I'm using a PowerPoint and want them to go to any website, I always put the QR code on the slide.

Look for and scan the QR codes in this issue of MTEA News!

Google "QR creators" and many sites will pop up. I have included directions for a very basic QR creator. Students need to load an app that can read QR codes and load it on their smartphones at home. Even if some students don't have access to a smartphone, just group students for the above activities and make sure one smartphone is in each group.

Instructors, please load an app like **Scan** or **QR Reader** on your smartphone and read QR codes throughout the newsletter. Important websites will pop up.

## How to Create a QR Code

Open website: <http://goqr.me/>

Choose the **Text type** to create a code that displays up to 300 characters.

- Click **Download** to save QR code to desktop and print.
- Or, choose **Embed** to get the html code to embed or include on a website.

Choose the **Web type** to create a code that opens a website.

- Click **Download** to save QR code to desktop and print.
- Or, choose **Embed** to get the html code to embed or include on a website.

The screenshot shows the 'QR Code Generator' interface. The '1. Type' section has 'text' selected. The '2. Contents' section contains the text: "Celebrate Montana Teen Driver Safety Day on Tuesday, October 20, 2015! Keep two hands on the wheel and two eyes on the road! Everyone wears their seat belt, every trip, every time. Stay safe and share the road. We want to see YOU again." Below this, it indicates '236 characters' and provides a hint: "Hint: The shorter, the better. Some older scanner apps are having problems with texts longer than about 300 chars." There is a security notice: "Your QR code data is encrypted during transmission (TLS/SSL) and not stored." Social sharing options for Like, +1, and Tweet are visible. The '3. Live preview' section shows a QR code and buttons for 'Download' and 'Embed'. A red starburst icon says 'Add a logo!'.

The screenshot shows the 'QR Code Generator' interface. The '1. Type' section has 'url' selected. The '2. Contents' section contains the website address: "http://www.mteaonline.org". There is an option to "Create a dynamic QR code" which is currently unchecked. Below this, it indicates "Your QR code data is encrypted during transmission (TLS/SSL) and not stored." Social sharing options for Like, +1, and Tweet are visible. The '3. Live preview' section shows a QR code and buttons for 'Download' and 'Embed'. A red starburst icon says 'Add a logo!'.

Download a QR reader onto your phone and scan the QR codes on this page!



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# Montana Teen Driver Safety Day

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015



[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)

Visit the OPI's [Traffic Education](#) web page for great ideas, links, resources and downloads. <http://www.opi.mt.gov/programs/driverEd/>



[Impact Teen Drivers](#)—Create Real Impact Contest—Sept 8 to Nov. 5  
<http://www.createrealimpact.com/>



[NOYS Youth Traffic Safety Toolkit](#)—a great resource for youth taking charge of traffic safety and reaching out to peers.  
 Download from the OPI Traffic Education web page (above).



[CelebrateMyDrive.com](#)—Pledge to drive safely and register to win big prizes. <http://www.celebratemydrive.com>



Click on Peer-to-Peer Traffic Ed to apply for teen driver safety funding for your school. Also great videos and ideas for encouraging safe driving from the MDT.  
[http://plan2live.mt.gov/why\\_buckle.shtml](http://plan2live.mt.gov/why_buckle.shtml)

I PROMISE TO PUT MY PHONE DOWN WHILE I AM DRIVING.



I WILL MAKE MY THUMB RED AS A REMINDER

AND I WILL ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO MAKE THE RED THUMB PROMISE\*

**RED THUMB REMINDERS**

PAINT A THUMB

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<http://www.redthumbreminder.com>