

## GOVERNOR DAVIS ANNOUNCES \$38 MILLION IN TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS

**G**overnor Gray Davis awarded \$38 million in traffic safety grant funds to local communities throughout the state at news events this past fall. The grants are determined by California's Highway Safety Plan, the state's annual assessment of traffic safety needs on roads and highways. The funds will be administered through the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). In announcing the grants, Governor Davis noted, "Traffic safety impacts every aspect of life in our state. These traffic safety grant funds will help ensure that all Californians are safer on the road, and in their own communities."

The first announcement of year 2000 grants was made by Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency at an Inland Empire luncheon in September 1999. Speaking on behalf of Governor Gray Davis, Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet emphasized the Governor's support of this important quality of life issue.

In October 1999, Secretary Contreras-Sweet again represented Governor Davis, at a news conference at Arlington Heights Elementary School in Los Angeles. The news conference also provided a special look at the "Make Children Traffic Safe" program, which will provide bicycle and pedestrian safety education, and distribute 100,000 bicycle helmets to students at 125 elementary schools in Los Angeles.

Of the \$38 million in traffic safety grants, \$10.9 million is for traffic safety programs in Los Angeles and Orange County; \$3.4 million will fund projects in the Inland Empire; \$14.4 million will fund grants in Northern California communities; \$7.1 million will fund projects in Central Valley and Central Coast Counties; and, \$2.2 million in funds will support programs in San Diego and Imperial Counties. These grants fund a variety of traffic safety programs including DUI prevention, occupant protection, roadway safety, bicycle/pedestrian safety, emergency medical services and more.

While any loss of life due to traffic crashes is too much, the statewide goal of OTS is to reduce California's mileage death rate (MDR) to 1.0 by 2001. California's current MDR of 1.19 is one of the best in the nation. MDR indicates the number of fatalities per 100 million miles driven.

For more information on OTS' grant program, visit the OTS web site at [www.ots.ca.gov](http://www.ots.ca.gov).

## SAN DIEGO HOSTS SUPER SUMMIT 2000

**S**an Diego will be the site of Super Summit 2000, the first Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Summit of the 21st century. The OTS Summit, the largest gathering of traffic safety professionals in the nation hosted by one state, attracted more than 800 traffic safety professionals from all over the country in 1998, and even more are expected for this Millennium event. Super Summit 2000 will take place April 24-27, 2000 at the San Diego Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The OTS Summit addresses, through innovative workshops, expert speakers and lively discussion, a wide range of traffic safety topics and issues including underage drinking and driving preventative programs, aggressive driving issues, bicycle and pedestrian safety, staged collision insurance fraud, child passenger safety laws, traffic calming, red light running and new technologies. In addition, the OTS Super Summit also will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting for the newly-formed coalition, Traffic Alliance for a Safer California (TASC). *See cover box for details on this coalition.*

Register for Super Summit 2000 today by calling 800/858-7743 or 916/278-4960.

For reservations at the San Diego Hyatt Regency, call 800/233-1234 or 619/232-1234 by March 31, 2000 to secure the group room rate of \$109 for single or double occupancy.

See the Summit information box on page 5 for further registration information.

## TRAFFIC ALLIANCE FOR A SAFER CALIFORNIA (TASC)

The California Coalition Against Driving Under the Influence (CaDUI) was created in 1991 as an information-sharing coalition and to unite people and organizations working towards reducing alcohol-related fatalities and injuries. The coalition had an original goal of reducing alcohol-related deaths to 43 percent by 1996. That goal and subsequent others were met and the coalition continued to meet quarterly in sections and annually as a group. For the last few years quarterly newsletters have been published and sent out to a membership of more than 300 in California and across the country.

The good news is that alcohol-related crashes, deaths and injuries in California have continued to drop every year for the last six years. CaDUI has achieved the original goals that were set forth - reducing alcohol-related deaths, serving as an information-sharing organization and allowing those in the anti-DUI arena a place to network and share ideas. The coalition's chair for the last two years, Merry Banks, has been an incredibly supportive and energetic leader of the effort to recruit new board members and increase the overall membership.

Last year, however, members found themselves at a crossroads. On August 12, 1999, a new name, logo and direction were unveiled at the annual meeting in Sacramento. The Traffic Alliance for a Safer California (TASC) will be all-encompassing of traffic safety issues, including bicycle safety, pedestrian safety, child passenger safety, teen driving, speeding, red light running, fatigued driving, road rage, safety belt use, rail safety, DUI and so on.

See TASC, page 6



On behalf of Governor Davis, Business, Transportation and Housing Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet announces the first OTS grant at Arlington Heights Elementary School in Los Angeles

# director's column

**M**aria Contreras-Sweet was appointed by Governor Gray Davis as Secretary of OTS' parent agency, the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency last year. In this issue of OTS Tracks, Secretary Contreras-Sweet has accepted an invitation from OTS to share her vision of the importance of traffic safety in ensuring a prosperous California.



**A Message From Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet California Business, Transportation & Housing Agency**

Business  
Transportation &  
Housing Secretary  
Maria Contreras-Sweet

I would like to acknowledge the departure of Arthur Anderson, who served as the director of the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for six years. Arthur returned in November of last year to the California Highway Patrol, where he had served for more than 20 years prior to joining OTS. I would like to express my appreciation to Arthur for a job well done.

OTS will continue its important role within the diverse state agency of Business, Transportation & Housing (BT&H). All departments in the agency share a common goal - that of caring for and serving the people of California. Whether we are discussing affordable housing, business regulations or mass transportation, our primary concern is how we can best serve and improve the safety and well being of the people of California and our communities. We are challenged by an aging transportation infrastructure, enriched by a growing and diverse population and inspired by a citizenry dedicated to a California strong in its history and visionary in its future.

Traffic safety will play a vital role in our state's future success. Automobiles and associated traffic affects the state's economy (the free and easy movement of goods and services), health care and natural environment. In addition, unsafe driving practices are increasing congestion, causing longer commutes and more stress. Traffic safety issues impact every man, woman and child in the state: as drivers, passengers, pedestrians and bicyclists. Today, traffic and traffic safety have moved beyond the roadway to the doorstep of every Californian and have become a major quality of life issue.

OTS, its grantees and partners in both the public and private sector play a vital role in the Davis Administration's vision of safe and affordable communities built from a vibrant workforce and flourishing economy. The Davis Administration places great emphasis on collaboration among our departments, such as the California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, the Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Department of Motor Vehicles with the Office of Traffic Safety to help realize a safer driving environment. This is paramount to managing and enhancing our state's prosperous growth and improving our enviable quality of life.

In coming months, the Governor and I will be exploring new ways to support you in your efforts to save lives and prevent injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes. The Business, Transportation & Housing Agency is committed to helping OTS and its grantees meet their goals of making California's roadways the safest in the nation.

## and trends

□ According to a new Louis Harris poll, Americans want the government to revise Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, focus more on intersection safety, and require frequent license testing for the nation's youngest and oldest drivers. "These results give ample proof that the American people still mean business on highway and auto safety," said national pollster Louis Harris. In conjunction with the poll, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety released the report *Stuck in Neutral: Recommendations for Shifting the Highway and Auto Safety Agenda into High Gear*, which includes 90 solutions to dramatically reduce highway-related deaths and injuries. "The nation is stuck in neutral when it comes to waging a real fight against death and injury on our highways," said Judith Stone, president of Advocates. "Many of the solutions already exist. The resources to make it happen can be found." For more information, contact Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety at (202) 408-1711.

□ The Stop Red Light Running partnership recently conducted a survey that focused on drivers' reports of their red-light running behaviors. Results revealed that while 98 percent of Americans agree that red-light running is dangerous, more than 55.8 percent of drivers admit to committing this violation. Of all red-light runners, almost 50 percent admit to being prompted by being in a hurry. Social scientists speculated that frustration and road rage would be the reason most people perceived as the cause of red-light running, but only 15.8 percent cited those reasons. A majority of drivers (80.5 percent) were more frustrated with discourtesy on the roads than they were with any other traffic problem, including congestion. During 1992-98, the number of fatal crashes at intersections increased by 16 percent, while all other types of fatal crashes increased by only five percent. For more information, call (877) STOP-555 or visit the web site [www.fhwa.dot.gov/stoprlr](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/stoprlr).

□ A new national survey by the Farmers Insurance Group reveals that Americans are spending more and more time applying makeup, shaving, and reading while driving to work each day. More than five percent of men admit to shaving while driving to work and more than 18 percent of women admit to applying makeup. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), inattentive driving is the fourth highest contributing factor related to fatal crashes. Despite the distractions, 48 percent of motorists see themselves as excellent drivers, and 41 percent claim to be good drivers. For further information contact Diane Tasaka, director of Corporate Communications at Farmers Insurance Group, at (323) 932-3018.

## TERESA BECHER NAMED INTERIM DIRECTOR TO THE OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

Lieutenant Teresa M. Becher has been designated interim director of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), effective December 1, 1999. Lieutenant Becher, of Sacramento, has been in the California Highway Patrol (CHP) since 1989. Becher served in the CHP's Office of Special Projects since 1998, where she provided staff support and represented the Commissioner on the Governor's Policy Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, the Office of Criminal Justice Planning and oversaw completion of the CHP's highway safety plan submission to OTS. Previously, she worked in the CHP Legislative Unit and served as Field Sergeant for the Monterey Area Office of the CHP.

# GRANTEES ON THE MOVE

## Santa Ana Pedestrian Safety Project Makes Diversity Outreach

The City of Santa Ana - the second most densely populated city in California, with a large concentration of pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic, hundreds of children walking to and from schools, limited open space and congested residential streets - had a major problem of growing concern to residents. Motor vehicle-pedestrian crashes.

Fortunately, researchers at the University of California, Irvine helped develop a solution: **The Santa Ana Pedestrian Safety Project**.

The OTS-funded project's goal is to reduce the total number of pedestrians killed and injured in traffic collisions in the City of Santa Ana. The program is aimed at building awareness of the problem, educating drivers and pedestrians of the importance of pedestrian safety and mobilizing community action in this multi-lingual and diverse environment.

The project, which began in 1997, has been embraced by the community and met with great success. Building partnerships between schools,

traffic engineering companies, residents, students, parent groups and law enforcement officials has resulted in the **Santa Ana Pedestrian Safety Project Task Force**. The task force meets monthly to address pedestrian safety concerns and affect change locally through stronger enforcement of pedestrian and driver traffic safety laws and training of parent volunteers to cross children safely to and from schools.

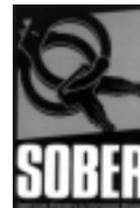
Other program elements include Santa Ana High School students collaborating with the **Santa Ana Pedestrian Safety Project** to produce a multi-lingual educational video for drivers, pedestrians and caregivers, which will show different traffic situations that could be potentially fatal for the pedestrian. The video will stop before the collision occurs and viewers will be asked to find ways to avoid these potentially dangerous situations. The video will be incorporated into the school curriculum. Additional elements include news media outreach, perception surveys to identify resident's concerns about pedestrian safety and the behavior of pedestrians and drivers in neighborhoods, and events such as "Walk a Child to School Day" and the

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Pedestrian Safety Road Show.

"The program has met with great success so far and we're planning a huge public information campaign for the year 2000," said program coordinator Phyllis Agran. "For this type of project to work, we need community buy-in, and fortunately the information is presented in such a way that we've got the community support we need to succeed."

For more information about the **Santa Ana Pedestrian Safety Project**, please contact, Phyllis Agran at 949/824-7410.

## Merced County's SOBER Program



Jack Hampstead (not his real name) was on felony probation when he received his fourth conviction for driving under the influence (DUI). The conditions of Hampstead's probation supervision included abstinence from alcohol and revoked driving privileges. However, while on probation, Hampstead was reported as a suspect in a hit and run incident.

When his description was given to local police, they notified **Merced County Probation Department's** newly-formed **SOBER (Supervising Offenders by Enforcement Response)** team. Not finding Hampstead at home, team members followed up on other leads and soon located and apprehended him at a nearby tavern.

Since July 1999, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS)-funded **SOBER Program** in Merced County, has increased the odds of keeping repeat offenders like Hampstead off the road.



Santa Ana parents and students cross a busy intersection with the help of a Santa Ana Pedestrian Safety Project crossing guard.



cont.

The project uses a law enforcement approach to the supervision of felony DUI offenders who have been granted probation by the Superior Court.

The **SOBER Program** consists of a deputy probation officer and a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer, who are teamed to supervise all Merced County felony DUI probationers. Their daily schedule is anything but routine and has, during the first three months of operation, resulted in more than 100 searches of probationers and their homes, a 10 percent return to custody on violations, clearance of more than three percent of the outstanding warrants and the ongoing enforcement of conditions of treatment.



SOBER team members (left to right) James Rochester, Probation Officer and Paul Speers, Highway Patrol Officer, arrest probationers who violate their felony DUI probation conditions.

**SOBER Program** officers also speak at local schools and service clubs to inform the community of the program and the importance of driving sober.

"The **SOBER Program** works," said Merced Probation Department's Judy LaSalle. "Without it, the numbers of victims injured or killed due to a repeat-offender DUI felon would continue to increase."

The need for the **SOBER Program** was urgent. In Merced County alone, there are approximately 172 felony DUI offenders representing approximately 372 prior convictions for DUI. Before the **SOBER Program**, DUI probationers' cases were mingled with other types of offenders on convention-

al caseloads, or were placed on the unsupervised "banked" caseload, wherein they had virtually no personal contact with a probation officer unless they were re-arrested.

Goals for the **SOBER Program** include an eventual decrease in probation revocations for felony DUI probationers, although it is expected that the initial result will be an increase in violations; clearance of any outstanding felony DUI warrants; and, a decrease in arrests for new DUI offenses, other criminal offenses, and violations of probation.

Thanks to the **SOBER Program**, Hampstead was arrested on new charges of driving under the influence, plus hit and run. A violation of probation also was filed. Hampstead admitted to new charges and the probation violations, and is currently facing probable commitment to state prison.

For more information about Merced County's **SOBER Program**, contact Judy LaSalle at 209/385-7568.

#### **OTS Redesigns Web Site- [www@ots.ca.gov](http://www@ots.ca.gov)**

OTS unveiled its newly reconstructed web site! The improved web site is designed to be client interactive while providing useful grant information. A new section titled "Grant & Program Info" was added to include Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Applying for a Grant, Grant Cycle, Blueprints, Grant Program Volume II, Grant Agreement Forms and Search for Current Grants. Search the web site and provide feedback. Another new feature, the Traffic Safety Quiz allows visitors to test their traffic safety knowledge.

#### **Changes at OTS**

OTS recently changed the manner in which grants were assigned to OTS Program Coordinators. Previously, grants were assigned by specific program area, e.g., alcohol, occupant protection, etc. In an effort to enhance community outreach efforts, OTS is now assigning grants to OTS Regional

Coordinators based on geographical regions. Be sure to visit the Grants & Program Info section of the OTS web site, [www@ots.ca.gov](http://www@ots.ca.gov) to contact your new OTS Regional Coordinator.

#### **Solicitation Letters Mailed**

In mid-November 1999, OTS mailed more than 3,000 invitations to agencies seeking the submittal of memorandum proposals for traffic safety grants for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2000-01. OTS reviews and evaluates all proposals and uses proposals approved for funding to develop California's FFY 2000-01 Highway Safety Plan (HSP). The HSP serves as a program implementation guide and as the state's application for federal funds. In developing proposals, applicant agencies are encouraged to work with community based organizations and incorporate a multi-disciplinary approach to address traffic safety problems. Proposals must be postmarked by January 31, 2000, to receive priority funding consideration for FFY 2000-01 (faxes and e-mails cannot be accepted). For a copy of the solicitation letter and answers to frequently asked questions, be sure to visit the Grants and Program Info section of the OTS web site, [www@ots.ca.gov](http://www@ots.ca.gov).

#### **TASC** (Continued from page 1)

As an organization TASC will continue to be supportive of California's 3D Month and Lights on for Life as well as other anti-DUI activities, but also will focus on specific goals and targeted activities dedicated to reducing all traffic-related injuries and fatalities. TASC will serve to bring everyone in California concerned with traffic safety under one umbrella to network, share ideas and participate in community events, media outreach and policy advocacy.

TASC will also serve as a resource organization that provides information on traffic safety to the public by holding meetings, commissioning studies on and conducting media outreach. The group will meet at least twice a year and publish a quarterly newsletter for members.

For more information about TASC, go to the OTS web site [www.ots.ca.gov](http://www.ots.ca.gov).

# Landmarks in Legislation

The following is a partial listing of those measures being tracked by the OTS Legislative Unit that were signed into law by the Governor during the first year of the 1999-2000 Legislative session. If you wish to download the full text of a particular piece of legislation, you may access the State of California's Legislative search engine at the following address: <<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>>. If you have questions regarding a bill, please contact the author's office or the OTS Legislative Representative, Richard Woonacott, at 916/262-0824 or <[rwoonac@sna.com](mailto:rwoonac@sna.com)>.

**SENATE BILL (SB) 363**, Senator Figueroa (D-Fremont, 916/445-6671); Chaptered 99-0183; Automotive insurance: coverage for damaged child safety restraint systems - Among other things, requires coverage for the

replacement of a child passenger restraint system that was in use by a child during a collision or upset of a covered vehicle or another vehicle.

**SB 681**, Senator Speier (D-Hillsborough, 916/445-0503); Chaptered 99-421; Vehicles: accidents: clearing highway - Among other things, requires that drivers of vehicles involved in a motor vehicle collision move their vehicles to either the shoulder of the highway or the nearest location that is away from the flow of traffic unless that action would create a traffic hazard or cause/aggravate injury.

**ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 15**, Assembly Member Gallegos (D-Baldwin Park, 916/319-2057); Chaptered 99-0648; Schoolbuses: passenger restraint systems: seats - Among other things, requires that schoolbuses, manufactured in California on or after January 1, 2002, be

equipped with passenger restraint systems.

**AB 187**, Assembly Member Hertzberg (D-Sherman Oaks, 916/319-2040); Chaptered 99-0405; Grant Information Act of 1999 - Among other things, establishes the Grant Information Act of 1999, requiring state agencies to make available on their internet web sites a listing of all grants administered by that agency.

**AB 555**, Assembly Member Reyes (D-Fresno, 916/319-2031); Chaptered 99-0556; Farm labor vehicles - Among other things, expands the scope of both registrations and inspections for farm labor vehicles.

**AB 1165**, Assembly Member Florez (D-Shafter, 916/319-2030); Chaptered 99-0557; Farm labor vehicles: safety belts - In addition to provisions similar to those of AB 555, this bill requires

the CHP to develop an "800" telephone number system to facilitate public reporting of violations of specified provisions relating to farm labor vehicles, and to publicize the number, as specified.

**AB 1471**, Assembly Member Havice (D-Cerritos, 916/319-2056); Chaptered 99-0449; Vehicles: air bags: inflatable restraint systems: prohibitions - Among other things, prohibits any person from engaging in the installation, reinstallation, distribution or sale of a previously deployed airbag if the person knows that the system was previously deployed.

**AB 1573**, Assembly Member Strom-Martin (D-Duncan Mills, 916/319-2001); Chaptered 99-0647; Vehicles: Schoolbuses - Among other things, deletes provisions in current law that exempt a driver of a schoolbus from activating the flashing amber warning lights and stop signal arm in cases where the schoolbus is at or near an official traffic control signal.

## SUMMIT 2000 INFORMATION BOX

REGISTER FOR SUPER SUMMIT 2000, APRIL 24-27!!

### WHERE:

Hyatt Regency San Diego Hotel  
One Market Place, San Diego, Calif.  
Hotel Reservations, Call 800/233-1234 or  
619/232-1234

### Request OTS Summit Special Rates

Single and Double Occupancies: \$109/night  
Special Rate Guaranteed before March 31, 2000  
After March 31, Accommodations Based on  
Availability at Prevailing Rate

### HOW:

OTS Summit Registration: Call 800/858-7743 or  
916/278-4960  
Registration On or Before March 31:  
\$175/per person

Registration On or After April 1: \$215/per person

TASC Registration On or Before March 31: \$45

TASC Registration On or After April 1: \$65  
Exhibitor Non-Profit Fee: \$250  
Exhibitor Fee: \$350

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Gray Davis, Governor

BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND  
HOUSING AGENCY  
Maria Contreras-Sweet, Secretary

OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY  
Teresa Becher, Interim Director Ray  
Biancalana, Deputy Director  
Freda Radich, Editor

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<http://www.ots.ca.gov>

OTS Tracks  
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January - March 2000

OTS

# CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

WHAT'S  
AHEAD

January 9-13

**Annual Transportation Research Board Meeting**

Washington, D.C.  
Contact: 202/334-2362

February 20-22

**Traffic Expo 2000**

Phoenix, Ariz.  
Contact: 540/368-1701

February 13-19

**California Child Passenger Safety Week**

Contact: Lisa Hershey, 916/323-3487

March 1

**Using Geographical Information Systems for Traffic Safety Analysis & Improvements - Free Workshop**

UC Berkeley Richmond Field Station, Berkeley, Calif.  
Contact: Kim Doty-Harris, 510/231-5717

March 12-14

**Lifesavers/18, National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities,**

Atlanta, Ga.  
Contact: 415/744-3089

March 19-20

**OTS Grant Writing Made Easy - Training**

Palm Springs Riviera Resort, Palm Springs, Calif.  
Contact: Lorraine Tang, 800/858-7743

March 20-21

**Tricks of the Trade - Demystifying the Media - Training**

Palm Springs Riviera Resort, Palm Springs, Calif.  
Contact: Lorraine Tang, 800/858-7743

April

**National Alcohol Awareness Month**

Contact: National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, 212/206-6770

April 24-27

**OTS Traffic Safety Summit 2000**

Hyatt Regency San Diego Hotel, San Diego, Calif.  
Contact: 916/278-6633



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