

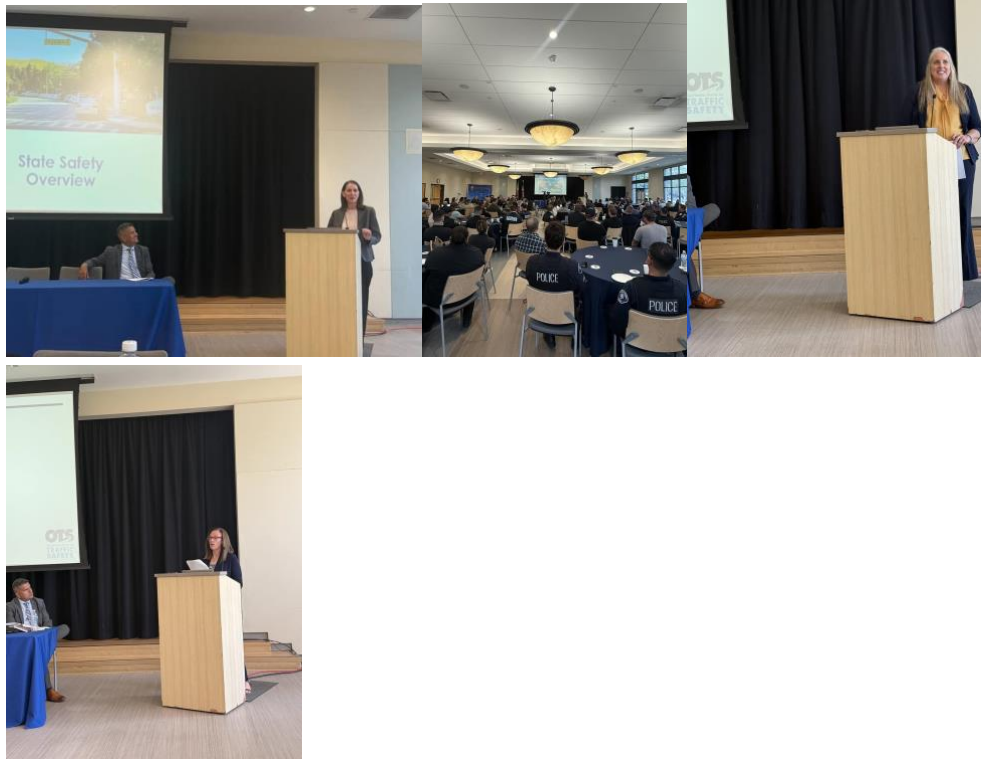


## **OTS TRACKS: May 2026**

May is a big month for traffic safety, bringing national observances like Bicycle Safety Month, Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and the Click It or Ticket campaign. The OTS team has been active across the state, from participating in an e-bike safety symposium in Southern California to helping launch the new Safe Play Park in Northern California.

As we reach mid-year, it's the perfect moment to recharge our commitment to safety. With more people on the road and students heading into summer break, we are gearing up for the 100 Safest Days of Summer and doubling down on our efforts to encourage safe travel for everyone on our roads.

### **Statewide Partners Unite to Address E-Bike Safety**



The OTS Director Stephanie Dougherty joined staff in Huntington Beach on May 13 for the California Electric Device Safety Symposium, where OTS team members Whitney Brazier and Alexis DeLeon presented to more than 200 attendees about funding e-bike safety projects and the precautions e-bike owners should take. The OTS Law Enforcement Liaison Ernie Sanchez served as a moderator, facilitating discussions and workshops. Organized by the Huntington Beach Police Department to address the rapidly evolving safety challenges posed by e-bikes and e-motorcycles, the symposium brought together law enforcement, safety advocates, and families affected by recent tragedies, to discuss best practices aimed at improving electric device safety.

Throughout the event, the OTS highlighted its ongoing work to advance traffic safety through education and targeted countermeasures that address some of California's biggest traffic safety concerns. Speakers, including parents who had children killed in e-bike crashes, underscored the critical need for stronger awareness and safe riding practices. Law enforcement officials also emphasized the importance of parental responsibility to make sure parents understand the dangers e-bikes and e-motorcycles can pose to children if used illegally without proper driver education.

The OTS valued the opportunity to connect with regional partners, share perspectives, best practices, and left the symposium with new insights that will help inform future programs and outreach efforts.

[Watch news coverage of the symposium](#)

## New Safe Play Park in Sacramento Helps Children Learn the Rules of the Road



A new hands-on traffic safety attraction opened May 16 at [Howe Park](#) in Sacramento County, giving children and families a dedicated space to learn essential rules of the road ahead of the busy summer season. The Safe Play Park, created in partnership with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Impact Teen Drivers (ITD), and Fulton El Camino Recreation & Park District, brings real-world traffic scenarios to life through a miniature street complete with stop signs, roundabouts, a railroad crossing, yield signs, and marked crosswalks.

Safe Play Park is one of many tools that help emphasize the importance of early safety education, with young people disproportionately impacted by serious traffic crashes. In 2023, nearly 17% of those severely injured in crashes in Sacramento County were 20 years old or younger. The mock-street environment is fully closed to vehicles, allowing children to walk or bike through realistic road features in a safe, controlled setting.

[Read the press release](#)

[Watch news coverage](#)

## May is Bike Month Leadership Ride



More than 100 riders joined California Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin, state and local leaders, and community members on May 7 for the May Is Bike Month Caltrans Leadership Ride in Sacramento. The 7-mile ride highlighted biking as a fun and sustainable way to travel while demonstrating California's commitment to safer streets for all.

OTS Director Stephanie Dougherty emphasized that everyone, whether walking, biking, rolling, or driving, deserves to arrive to their destination safely. Whether it is beginner-level bike rodeos, proper helmet fitting education, distributing helmets to children in need, or adult community bike ride classes for more experienced riders, the OTS grant programs continue to support more bike-friendly options where everyone at any age can travel safely and confidently.

The May is Bike Month leadership ride encourages people to leave the car at home and choose biking for short trips. With millions in local, regional and statewide investments that have expanded bike lanes, crossings and connections to transit, Californians have more active transportation options and events like this build awareness, inspire new riders, and strengthen a shared safety culture.

[Learn more about the May is Bike Month Leadership Ride](#)

### Safety Snapshot of the Month: Bike to School Day



Students across the state enjoyed a safer and more welcoming trip to class this week thanks to the many [Bike to School Day](#) events held in local communities. In several neighborhoods, dedicated community groups and volunteers installed temporary

pop-up bike and pedestrian lanes, giving children clearly marked, protected routes to campus. These quick-build demonstrations not only encouraged families to have children walk or bike to school but also showcased how small, low-cost interventions can make a noticeable difference in safety and comfort.

Bike to School Day continues to be a powerful tool for engaging families, schools, and community partners in conversations about long-term safety improvements. By testing new configurations in real time, communities can observe what works, gather feedback, and build momentum for spaces that support safe walking and biking.

This year's events also highlighted the importance of modeling safe riding habits, such as wearing helmets and following traffic signs and signals. Bike to School Day helps children gain a sense of independence and fun when they head to school and reinforces the importance of making safe routes to schools for kids of all ages.

## Fans Encouraged to “Think Before You Drink,” Use Public Transit Ahead of World Cup Matches in California



In June and July, California will take center stage as soccer fans from around the world watch the [2026 FIFA World Cup](#), with matches kicking off at [SoFi Stadium](#) in Inglewood and [Levi's Stadium](#) in Santa Clara.

With hundreds of thousands of fans expected across the Los Angeles region and the Bay Area, the OTS and its traffic safety partners are encouraging fans to “think before you drink,” and have a go safely game plan before they travel to fan celebrations, events, watch parties, or SoFi or Levi's Stadium. The OTS will participate in fan events in the Bay Area and is partnering with Casa Mexico and the Mexico Consulate in Los Angeles to share important traffic safety information in Spanish at watch parties in downtown Los Angeles on June 11 and 18. Messaging will highlight impaired driving prevention, pedestrian safety around transit hubs and fan zones, safe travel planning, and the availability of public transit for game-day transportation.

The OTS will also run paid media messages encouraging people to choose a sober way to go and use public transit, where transit agencies like [LA Metro](#), [CalTrain](#), [Valley Transportation Authority](#), and [Bay Area Rapid Transit \(BART\)](#) have expanded service, including shuttles.

To make the matches fun and memorable, the OTS offers the following tips for fans:

- **Designate a Sober Fan/Driver:** Before you leave, have someone in your group who will be the sober driver or sober point person responsible for navigating the group to and from stadiums or watch parties.
- **Pre-Plan Your Route:** Use local public transit apps or ride-share. Know exactly where your pick-up or drop-off points are.
- **Look Out for One Another:** Be extra careful and watch for heavy foot traffic, especially in busy parking lots, around buses, and transit stops.
- **Stay Visible:** Wear bright or reflective clothing when walking at night.

[Download the World Cup Social Media Toolkit](#)

## OTS Attends CAPIO Annual Conference in San Diego



Members of the OTS Communications team attended the 2026 California Association of Public Information Officials ([CAPIO](#)) Conference in San Diego, joining more than 1,200 government communicators for a week of hands-on learning. From workshops on social media strategy, crisis communications, graphic design, public engagement, branding, and storytelling, our team gained valuable ideas and networking opportunities to bring back to our work.

This year's theme, *Making Waves*, carried throughout the conference and highlighted innovative and impactful storytelling to break through the news and deliver on-brand messaging that makes a difference.

# THE ROAD REPORT

*Publications, resources, training opportunities, and other relevant updates from our state and national traffic safety partners.*

## **New IIHS Data: Speeding Drivers are Even More Distracted**

A new IIHS analysis of data shows drivers handle their phones more often when speeding, especially on high-speed freeways. [Read the press release](#)

## **New GHSA Guidebook: Intelligent Speed Assistance**

A new GHSA guidebook introduces Intelligent Speed Assistance as a tool to help curb this preventable crisis before the busy summer travel season. Speeding remains one of the deadliest dangers on U.S. roads, claiming more than 11,000 lives nationwide in 2024 alone. [Read the press release](#)

## **NHTSA: 19 Global Innovators Honored for Lifesaving Vehicle Technology**

NHTSA has honored 19 global innovators whose cutting-edge work is shaping the future of lifesaving vehicle technology. The innovators were celebrated at this year's international safety conference. [Read the release](#)

## **Car Advertisements are Glamorizing Speed and Performance**

A new IIHS study reveals how a vehicle's performance is highlighted in ads, such as showing speeding drivers on a closed course. [Read the research](#)



*The OTS participates in community outreach and engagement events to connect with residents, local partners, and stakeholders to share information, gather feedback, and encourage Californians to Go Safely. These events provide valuable opportunities to build relationships, support local initiatives, and ensure our traffic safety efforts are informed by the voices and needs of the communities we serve.*

**El Concilio Cinco de Mayo Multicultural Festival** – The OTS attended the El Concilio Cinco de Mayo Multicultural Festival Weekend at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds in Stockton from May 1-3, 2026. More than 1,000 attendees stopped by the OTS information table to learn about DUI prevention and pedestrian and bicycle safety.



**City of Folsom's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** – The OTS hosted an information table at the City of Folsom's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration on May 9, 2026. More than 2,000 people attended the free event and stopped by the OTS booth to learn about the OTS grant programs, how the OTS serves the Folsom community, the Go Safety California campaign, the Traffic Safety Champion program, the Be Work Zone Alert campaign, and traffic safety tips. Attendees also met and took photos with Safety Sam.



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Breathe Bike Festival in West Sacramento** – On May 9, 2026, the OTS hosted an information booth at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Breathe Bike Festival in West Sacramento. Attendees learned about the Go Safely California campaign, the Traffic Safety Champion program, the OTS grant programs, and traffic safety tips, specifically about e-bikes, bicycles and pedestrian safety.



**Celebrating MLK Blvd for Bike Month Event –**

The OTS joined Streets Are For Everyone (SAFE) and FAITH For SAFER Streets for a bicycle training in South Los Angeles May 16, 2026. Held at the Gilbert Lindsay Park and Rec Center in Los Angeles, the “Celebrating MLK Boulevard for Bike Month” event was an opportunity for residents to learn about infrastructure projects planned to improve safe walking and biking options and receive traffic safety resources. The OTS had an information booth with traffic safety materials about the Go Safely campaign and the Traffic Safety Champion program. The OTS also engaged with residents to solicit input on traffic safety campaign videos, tip cards and other outreach items. Locals provided great feedback and expressed their concerns about traffic safety in their neighborhood, and how the OTS could expand its outreach.





- 📌 May 25-September 7 – [100 Safest Days of Summer](#) (Teen Driver Safety)
- 📌 June 1-5 – [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration \(FMCSA\) Our Roads, Our Safety® Week](#) (Large Truck and Bus Safety)
- 📌 June 6 – [Secure Your Load Day](#) (Vehicle Safety)
- 📌 June 9 – [Ride to Work Day](#) (Motorcycle Safety)
- 📌 June 29-July 3 – [Tire Safety Week](#) (Vehicle Safety)

### Media Toolkits

- \*NEW\* [World Cup Social Media Toolkit](#) (Impaired Driving)
- \*NEW\* [Our Roads Our Safety® Week Media Toolkit](#) (Large Truck and Bus Safety)
- [100 Safest Days of Summer](#) (Teen Driver Safety)
- [E-bikes, E-motorcycles, and E-scooters](#)
- [Crash Not Accident](#)
- [Traffic Safety Champion](#)
- [Empty Chair Club Initiative](#)
- [Vehicle Safety Recalls](#) (General)
- [Vehicular Heatstroke Prevention Social Media Toolkit](#) (Occupant Protection)
- [Child Passenger Safety Law Brochure](#) (Occupant Protection)

Keep an eye on your inboxes for campaign templates and social media assets. Additional outreach materials are always available at [GoSafelyCA.org/MediaToolkits](https://GoSafelyCA.org/MediaToolkits).

[View the OTS Communications Calendar](#)

### Additional Resources

[Release Templates](#)

[Law Enforcement Liaison \(LEL\) Program](#)

[OTS Funding At a Glance](#)

[OTS Logos](#)

[Grant Program Resources](#)

[Traffic Safety Data](#)

The OTS administers traffic safety grants that deliver traffic safety programs to prevent people from being killed and seriously injured in California. The OTS is a department under the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA).

Contact the OTS Communications & Public Affairs Team  
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