



LEGISLATIVE
RESEARCH &
GENERAL COUNSEL

Traffic Safety:

Aggressive Driving, Street Racing, and Wrong Way Driving

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Transportation Interim Committee

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Aggressive Driving

Aggressive Driving vs. Road Rage

Aggressive Driving	Road Rage
Traffic Violation	Criminal Offense
Recklessness	Willful and wanton disregard for safety of others
Tailgating, speeding, weaving, running red lights, improper passing (failure to signal, passing on the right or shoulder)	Swerving into another car, shooting a firearm into another car, forcing another driver off the road, brake checking another vehicle
Reckless driving penalty: Class B misdemeanor	Enhancement: Increase one level of offense up to felony level (Class B to Class A, Class A to 3 rd Degree Felony)



Recent Legislative Action

H.B. 30 – G.S. 2024 (Cutler/Weiler)

- Defined Road Rage
- Created criminal enhancement
- Allowed for vehicle impound and license suspension/revocation
- Created fund for road rage education

S.B. 53 – G.S. 2022 (Iwamoto/Wilcox)

- Added speeding of 105 MPH+ to reckless driving definition





Street Racing

Aggressive Driving & Street Racing



Street Racing/Street Exhibitions as a form of aggressive driving



Behaviors include speed demonstrations, burnouts, donuts, drifting, and street takeovers



Legislation trends: Defining street exhibitions, addressing participants other than the driver, impounding vehicles, and enhanced penalties

Utah Code

Effective 5/3/2023

41-6a-606. Speed contest or exhibition on highway -- Barricade or obstruction -- -- Spectators of a speed contest -- Seizure of non-street legal vehicles.

- (1) A person may not engage in any motor vehicle speed contest or exhibition of speed on a highway.
- (2) A person may not, in any manner, obstruct or place any barricade or obstruction or assist or participate in placing any barricade or obstruction upon any highway for any purpose prohibited under Subsection (1).
- (3) (a) A person who violates Subsection (1) is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
(b) A person who violates Subsection (2) is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
- (4) (a) In addition to the penalty provided under this section or any other section, a person who violates Subsection (1) shall have the person's driver license suspended under Subsection 53-3-220(1)(a)(xv) for a period of:
 - (i) 60 days for a first offense; and
 - (ii) 90 days for a second offense within three years of a prior offense.
(b) The court shall forward the report of the conviction to the Driver License Division in accordance with Section 53-3-218.
- (5) A motor vehicle that is not street legal that is operated or used in a manner that violates this section is subject to seizure in accordance with Title 77, Chapter 11a, Part 2, Seizure of Property and Contraband.





Wrong Way Driving



Concerning rise in fatal wrong-way driving incidents alarms Utah Highway Patrol

Utah Highway Patrol said they're seeing a startling number of wrong-way drivers so far this year. This comes after one person died during a...

Mar 21, 2024



It's only March, but Utah has nearly matched wrong-way deaths of 2023

SALT LAKE CITY — If you're thinking there's been more wrong-way accidents on Utah roadways this year compared to others, the numbers sadly...

Mar 27, 2024



Wrong-way driver airlifted after I-80 crash with horse trailer, UHP says

Wrong-way driver airlifted after I-80 crash with horse trailer, UHP says ... SALT LAKE COUNTY, Utah (ABC4) — One person was airlifted to a nearby...

May 27, 2024



Deputy collides with wrong-way driver on US-40 in Summit County

The deputy was treated for minor injuries. Neither the driver, who had a medical emergency, nor his passenger were injured.

1 month ago



Police: Wrong-way driver crashes into Lexus on I-15 near Port of Entry

ST. GEORGE — Occupants involved in a crash, including three teenagers, escaped serious injury Thursday morning after a vehicle headed in the...

Apr 5, 2024



Driver killed in wrong-way head-on Wasatch County crash

WASATCH COUNTY, Utah — One person was killed late Thursday after a pickup truck drove into oncoming traffic in Wasatch County,...

Jun 21, 2024



Wrong-way driver crash results in one death

SALT LAKE CITY — One person has been reported to have died of fatal injuries after a wrong-way driving accident occurred on Sunday morning.

Mar 17, 2024



I-15 reopened hours after fatal wrong-way crash with military transport bus

SALT LAKE CITY — A fatal crash involving a bus full of ROTC Cadets and a wrong-way driver on Interstate 15 in Salt Lake City Thursday...

Mar 21, 2024



Wrong Way Driving

Year	Fatalities	Wrong Way Fatalities	Total Crashes	Wrong Way Crashes
2010	253	1	47,758	9
2011	243	3	46,396	20
2012	217	1	49,254	15
2013	220	0	55,463	11
2014	256	3	52,090	23
2015	278	4	57,526	19
2016	281	2	62,363	27
2017	273	0	62,855	13
2018	260	3	62,073	28
2019	248	1	62,411	22
2020	276	7	50,605	42
2021	328	5	61,457	25
Average	261.1	2.5 (1.0%)	55,854	21.2 (0.04%)

- High fatality rate
- Correlation between impairment and wrong way driving
- 2023: 6 wrong way fatalities and 22 wrong way crashes
- Infraction under Utah Code 41-6a-701 and 41-6a-707



Questions?

- Rachel Brooks, LRGC
- Colonel Rapich, DPS
- Lisa Wilson, UDOT

