

BMTS Article Digest July - August 2021

BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee Members:

The following is a compilation of articles that may be of interest to BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee members. This and past digests can also be accessed from the Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee page at <http://bmtsonline.com/about/committees>.



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Watch the new video simulation of I-81 as a community grid in Syracuse - syracuse.com

Updated Jul 16, 2021; Posted Jul 16, 2021



This idealized image of a proposed boulevard on Almond Street in Syracuse is the final shot in a 5-minute video the state transportation department issued to promote plans for a community grid to replace the I-81 viaduct through downtown. NYSDOT
By Tim Knauss |

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Syracuse, N.Y. -- State transportation officials today released a video simulation that provides an overall visual sense of how a community grid would change Interstate 81 and downtown Syracuse.

The 5-minute promotional video takes the viewer on a simulated ride north on I-81 as it enters the city and reaches a new rotary planned at the junction of Martin Luther King East.

Then the simulation continues north on Almond Street, which would be transformed into a major boulevard. The video also shows plans for a new exit off Interstate 690 to Irving

Avenue and Syracuse University, plus a variety of other changes proposed by transportation officials.

The video is based on plans in the [Draft Environmental Impact Statement](#) released today by the state Department of Transportation. State officials favor the community grid option. The environmental statement is now open to [public comment](#).



<https://www.syracuse.com/news/2021/07/watch-the-new-video-simulation-of-i-81-as-a-community-grid.html>

NBA legend Ray Allen in scary bike crash: 'My helmet saved me from a far worse fate'

By Ryan Gaydos
Published July 20, 2021
Fox News



NBA legend Ray Allen revealed Sunday he was in a scary bicycle crash and credited his helmet with effectively saving his life.

Allen explained in an Instagram post he was riding in his neighborhood and appeared to be distracted by a nearby vehicle when he ran over a tree branch.

"Yesterday as I approached the end of my bike ride, I was cruising through my neighborhood and a car pulled up slowly behind me. I sped up to get out of the way," he wrote. "As I looked back behind me, the car was gone, but, the minute I turned my head back to what was in front of me, it was too late. I ran over a tree branch that was in the road and my front wheel went haywire and threw me from the bike. I landed on my face, shoulder and hip."

Allen said when he got back home he almost passed out.

"I got up immediately and walked about 100 yards back to my house in shock. When I got into the house I lost my breath and almost passed out. My wife immediately took me to the hospital to make sure that I didn't have any internal bleeding," he added.

"Had my vitals checked and a few X-rays taken and all was ok. Thank God for my helmet because as you can see in the picture my head hit the ground and I didn't even realize it. I wasn't riding fast at all but the ground still took its toll. When you're riding you can't take your eyes off the road because something bad could happen! My helmet saved me from a far worse fate. I didn't want to post this at first because no one wants to show their missteps in life, but as you get older, you learn that life isn't always about being cool or perfect. It is ok to be vulnerable! More importantly, I had to post this as a reminder for everyone to please wear your helmets when you ride!"

LeBron James, Allen's former teammate on the Miami Heat, sent his well wishes.

"Glad you're good my brother!!!" James wrote.

The Hall of Famer played in the NBA from 1996 to 2014. He won two NBA titles and was a 10-time All-Star.

Jets assistant coach Greg Knapp, 58, dead following tragic bicycling accident

By Paulina Dedaj
Published July 22, 2021
Fox News



New York Jets assistant coach Greg Knapp has died after being struck by a car while riding a bicycle in California over the weekend. He was 58.

Sacramento State, where Knapp played quarterback for four years before joining the coaching staff for nine, confirmed his passing on Thursday.

"We are heartbroken over the loss of Greg Knapp," Hornets head coach Troy Taylor said in a statement. "Greg was not only a great former Hornet player and coach, but one of the kindest and most generous people that I've ever known. His success and humility have been an inspiration to all of us here at Sacramento State. We will continue to carry on his legacy within our football program and wish his family and friends peace and comfort through this difficult loss."

The Knapp family released a statement through the Jets.



FILE - In this Aug. 4, 2016, file photo, Denver Broncos quarterbacks coach Greg Knapp watches during NFL football training camp in Englewood, Colo. Knapp, currently a New York Jets assistant coach was in a "horrific" bicycle accident last weekend and is in critical condition. Denver TV station 9News reported Monday night, July 29, 2021, that Knapp was hit by a vehicle while riding in California. Agent Jeff Sperbeck confirmed to the station the 58-year-old longtime NFL assistant was hospitalized. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File)

While riding his bicycle near his home in Danville on Saturday, Knapp was struck by a driver. According to reports at the time, the driver of the vehicle swerved into the bike lane. The driver, who police say is cooperating with them, was said to have rendered aid at the scene.

Knapp began a successful career in football at Sacramento State where he is still ranked eighth in school history in career passing yards (3,806) and touchdowns (32). During his almost 10 years coaching there, Knapp received several invitations to NFL training camps.

SEPTEMBER 27: Matt Ryan #2 of the Atlanta Falcons speaks with quarterbacks coach Greg Knapp prior to an NFL game against the Chicago Bears at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on September 27, 2020 in Atlanta, Georgia. (Photo by Todd Kirkland/Getty Images)

Knapp was hired by the Jets as the passing-games specialist back in January. He spent 23 years establishing himself as a veteran assistant coach,



serving as the offensive coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers, Oakland Raiders, Seattle Seahawks, and the Atlanta Falcons.

He also served as the quarterbacks coach for the Niners, Houston Texans and the Denver Broncos where he coached Peyton Manning to a Super Bowl title.

The Falcons, Broncos and Raiders also released statements.

Knapp leaves behind a wife and three daughters.

Mother of child killed after visiting ice cream truck speaks out as she fights to pass safety laws

By Michael Hollan
Published July 28, 2021
Fox News



A Connecticut mother is speaking out as she fights to pass ice cream truck safety laws in wake of her 10-year-old son's death.

On June 12, 2020, Tristan Barhorst was struck by a car and killed after buying a snack from an ice cream truck in Wallingford, Connecticut.

"Tristan was a [gift](#) to this world," Christi Carrano, his [mother](#), told Fox News. "Every parent would dream of having a kid like him."

Since then, Carrano has been working to increase safety measures on a federal level.

The truck that sold her son his last ice cream had lights, a stop sign and other safety features, but the driver chose not to activate them because it was still daylight at the time.

Carrano explained that Tristan was at a backyard celebration for his father's birthday on the day that he died. When an ice cream truck came driving down the street, a large group of kids went out front to greet it.

Instead of turning around, the truck parked on the opposite side of the street, forcing the kids from the party to cross the street. There were no children on the other side.

Tristan ordered his ice cream first and was crossing the street again by himself when a car came around from behind the ice cream truck and hit him. The driver, a teenager, was going 40 m.p.h. in a 25 m.p.h. zone. Tristan was struck and killed as seven parents witnessed.

Carrano said charges weren't filed against the driver. While she explained that it was the state's decision not to charge him, she suggested that she didn't wish for charges to be filed and she's since spoken with his mother.

In March of this year, an 11-year-old boy sustained serious injuries after being struck by an SUV in Los Angeles, as he ran across the street to catch up with an ice cream truck, KTLA [reported](#).

From 1993 to 2014, there were 16 ice cream truck-related deaths in the U.S., according to data recorded by [KidsAndCars.org](#) – a national nonprofit dedicated to saving the lives of children and pets in and around motor vehicles through data collection, research and analysis, public education and awareness programs, policy change and more.

Kids And Cars shared its data with Fox News. There had been a total of 22 victims amid the 1993 to 2014 timeframe, and six of the victims survived while sustaining injuries, the spreadsheet states.

Janette Fennell, president and founder of Kids And Cars, said the above data is a "serious undercount" and the numbers are likely much higher.

"It's a situation where data has been very difficult to find," Fennell told Fox News.

Fennell said there are several reasons why ice cream truck incidents may not make it into certain databases, or may be difficult to track down with a simple internet search.

One reason being is the incident may not be pegged to an "ice cream truck," and instead may be include the term "slushie, ice-cream, ice cream, icy, snow cone, snowcone, sno-cone, sno cone, popsicle, treat, shaved ice, kona ice or ice," Fennell explained.

In addition, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) may not record the incident if it didn't take place on a public road or highway, among other factors. For example, Tristian's death occurred on what would be considered a public road. However, an incident which occurred in a parking lot where a shaved ice stand is involved, for example, may not have made it into a NHTSA's report.

Now, NHTSA is required under law to collect and maintain information about fatalities and injuries in nontraffic and noncrash incidents, Fennell said.

Fennell used the motto "no data no problem," explaining that until proper data is recorded, people won't realize how severe the problem is. She agreed how accurate data will likely help fuel change and improve safety when it comes to ice cream trucks.

"We need to start thinking about ice cream trucks just like we think about school buses," Fennell said. "As safe as they try to be, if they let their guard down for one second, these tragedies happen."

Carrano said she successfully helped get a law passed in Connecticut that will not only require ice cream trucks to have the proper safety equipment installed (warning lights, stop signs and a crossing arm), but will force drivers to use that safety equipment.

The law was put into practice on a graduating scale on July 1, of this year and will fully go into effect on May 1 of next year.

After that point, drivers not following the regulations in [Public Act No. 21-20](#) will face fines.

Tristan's Law was passed by a unanimous vote, with republican and democrat state lawmakers coming together to make ice cream trucks safer for children.

As a temporary measure, trucks will only be able to sell ice cream to children that don't need to cross the street.

Carrano shared a letter with Fox News that she's been sending to every Senator in an effort to pass federal regulations. Since federal law is different than state law, the federal version would grant a percentage of money from the National Priority Safety Program Reservation Fund to states that implement laws similar to Tristan's Law in Connecticut.

Senator Blumenthal has been working with Carrano to help get the bill passed out of the Commerce, Science and Transportation committee. While the bill met with bipartisan support in her home state, Carrano hopes that the same happens on a national level.

"If we can save just one family from going through this nightmare," Carrano said, fighting back tears, "then it will be worth the work."
