January 3, 2020

Regional News

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JANUARY

8-9 | 2020 January Board of Directors Meeting
San Diego, CA

8 | 2020 January Industry Advisory Board Meeting
San Diego, CA

8-9 | 2020 January Autonomous Vehicles Working Group
Henderson, NV

21-23 | 2020 January Third Party Agent Working Group
San Antonio, TX

29-31 | 2020 January License Plate Standard Working Group Meeting
New Orleans, LA

FEBRUARY

Fewer DMV Visits, Beer Tax Highlight New CT Laws (Connecticut)
Trips to the Department of Motor Vehicles for new licenses will be less frequent, sales taxes on some services will increase, and certain medical tests and devices must be covered by health insurance under some of the new laws that take effect on Jan. 1, 2020. Read more at middletownpress.com.

Pedestrian Deaths Creep up Again in 2019 in Maine
Maine public safety officials are going to launch another program to promote pedestrian safety following a deadly year on roads and highways. The state recorded 154 traffic deaths in an unofficial tally for the year that ended Tuesday, officials said. Of those, there were 16 pedestrian deaths, compared with just six the previous year, said Lauren Stewart, director of the state Bureau of Highway Safety within the Maine Department of Public Safety. Read more at therepublic.com.

Transportation Czar Pushes for Tougher Safety Requirements on Commercial Drivers (Massachusetts)
A bill Gov. Charlie Baker filed in July (H 3980) increases suspension periods for commercial licensees, requires commercial drivers to notify both the Registry of Motor Vehicles and their employers for any traffic infraction or suspension in another state, and requires three years of clean driving history to acquire a commercial license. [Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack] said at a Transportation Committee hearing that the bill “addresses critical issues” brought into the spotlight by the crash in New Hampshire, but that the RMV cannot make the regulatory changes without an update to state law. Read more at sentinelandenterprise.com.

Biennial Motor Vehicle Inspections Come Into Force [January 1st] (New Brunswick)
Personal passenger vehicles in the province will have to be inspected every two years instead of one under changes to the Motor Vehicle Act coming into effect Jan. 1. New Brunswick has been one of the only provinces to require yearly inspections. The new inspection regime applies to “personal passenger vehicles, family motor coaches, antique vehicles, light commercial vehicles and farm trucks with an unladen curb mass of 3,000 kilograms or less,” according to the provincial government. Read more at cbc.ca.

NH Traffic Fatalities Down by More Than 30 Percent in 2019 (New Hampshire)
Traffic fatalities in New Hampshire were down by more than 30 percent in 2019, state safety officials said. As of Dec. 31, there were 99 traffic-related fatalities and 88 fat crashes, state police and the Office of Highway Safety said. At the same time last year, there were 143 traffic-related fatalities and 130 fatal crashes. Both categories were down by more than 30 percent. Read more at whdh.com.

State DMV Blasts Otsego County’s ICE Tip-Line Signs (New York)
The state Department of Motor Vehicles has condemned the placement of Immigration and Customs Enforcement tip line signs next to signs mentioning the Green Light Law in the Otsego County DMV in Oneonta. The Green Light Law, which took effect Monday, Dec. 16, allows anyone in the state 16 years and older to apply for a driver’s license or learner permit, regardless of their citizenship or lawful status in the country. Read more at thedailystar.com.

Vanity License Plate Requests the State Rejected (New York)
While none of them were "IL3GAL," New Yorkers had some pretty creative strategies for getting their preferred personal license plates — but the state Department of Motor Vehicles decided some of them were “ASIN9” and gave them the bureaucratic equivalent of the “MIDLFNGR.” Read more at timesunion.com.

Following Fatal Geneva Wreck, ALEA Reminds Parents About Alabama’s Graduated Driver’s License Law
Following the deaths of three Geneva High School students in a Christmas evening accident, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency is encouraging parents to follow the Alabama Graduated Driver’s License Law that only allows one non-family passenger in a vehicle when the driver is 16. Read more at dothaneagle.com.

Arkansas Driver License Skill Testing Is Almost One ‘Click’ Easier
Beginning next week anyone with a valid Arkansas driver learner’s permit can begin using an online scheduling tool to arrange the final step toward becoming a motor vehicle licensed driver. The scheduling tool will be accessible beginning Monday, January 6th through the Arkansas State Police Driver Exam web site at ar.gov/aspdrivertest. Online scheduling will make it easier for permit holders and anyone who must accompany the skills test applicant to set a specific date and time for the skills test and avoid waiting in line or possibly being turned away due to unexpected large numbers of applicants at a testing location and impending closing hours. Read more at txktoday.com.

Driver’s Beware: Texting While Driving Fines Begin in Florida
You've been warned. Now motorists in Florida can be ticketed if caught texting while driving. The new law went into effect July 1, but law enforcement only handed out warnings for six months. Starting Wednesday, there are no more warnings...There are exceptions. Drivers can use GPS and text at red lights. Read more at fox10tv.com.

Gov. Justice Appoints Frazier as DMV Commissioner (West Virginia)
Gov. Jim Justice announced the appointment of Everett Frazier as Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles. “Everett Frazier brings decades of successful experience and leadership to this job,” Gov. Justice said. “I am confident
he will help us to improve the operation and services provided by the DMV." ..."I would like to thank Governor Justice for appointing me to a position that presents a real opportunity to make a positive impact on our great state," Frazier said. "My goal is to treat everyone who comes through the door of the DMV as a guest. Read more at woay.tv.

**REGION 3 NEWS**

**New Illinois Laws 2020: Transportation, Vehicle Regulation**
Review the new laws that will take effect on Jan. 1, 2020. Illinois Vehicle Code-School Buses (HB 1873) - Raises the mandatory fines for illegally passing a school bus from $150 to $300 for an initial violation and $500 to $1,000 for a future violation...Electronic Title System (HB 2856) - Requires the Secretary of State to implement an Electronic Title System by July 1, 2021 that will permit a lien holder to perfect, assign, and release a lien. Read more at patch.com.

**Grant-Funded Patrols See Hundreds of School Bus Stop Arm Violations (Indiana)**
Increased police patrols surrounding school bus stops paid for by a grant program has nabbed more than 400 Hoosiers running stop arms of stopped buses. Nearly 40 police agencies used SAVE grants to pay for extra patrols surrounding schools and bus routes. In total, the state says 2,675 tickets were issued and 1,430 warnings given. Read more at news.wjct.org.

**Only 40 Percent of Iowa Licensees Have REAL IDs**
Looking to escape Iowa’s chilling winds and throng of presidential contenders with some refreshing out-of-state travel? For those who plan on flying, the clock is ticking for them to get their driver’s license upgraded...More than 1 million Iowa residents have upgraded their licenses so far. The Iowa Department of Transportation has issued 1,044,851 Real IDs as of Dec. 17, or to 40.64 percent of the state’s 2,570,981 total licensees, the most recent agency data shows. That percentage represents a small increase from the 36 percent of Iowans who obtained Real IDs as of late September 2019. The state Department of Transportation began issuing them in 2013. Read more at thehawkeye.com.

**Kansas Department of Revenue Encouraging Use of Online Scheduling Platform at Driver’s License Offices in Mission, Overland Park**
Kansas Department of Revenue encouraging use of online scheduling platform at driver’s license offices in Mission, Overland Park. The Kansas Department of Revenue’s Division of Vehicles is encouraging visitors to begin using its online scheduling platform so that visitors can create an appointment and know “exactly” when they will be served at a driver’s license office, according to a press release. The state department had piloted the scheduling platform this fall in its Topeka offices and is offering the service at several other offices, including those in Mission and Overland Park. Records indicate that for 95% of the visitors who scheduled an appointment using the platform, the wait time is less than 15 minutes. Read more at shawneemissionpost.com.

**Ohio School District Brings Back In-School Driver’s Ed Class**
An Ohio school district has brought back in-school driver’s ed classes to help more students earn licenses before they turn 18 as a way of finding employment. Akron city schools is piloting the program, which takes place after school at a discounted cost, with scholarships available to help students further defray the cost. Some businesses told the district that students’ lack of a license was a deal-breaker when
it came to hiring, the Akron Beacon Journal reported. Read more at abc6onyourside.com.

2020 Brings New Laws to Ohio

“We passed bills through the House and 18 have been signed into law,” said Ohio Rep. Don Jones, R-Freeport. “Some things became law through the budget process or it was a bill that was all inclusive, such as for a specific city.” One law that has been controversial will go into effect as of July 1. The new law repeals the bill requiring vehicles registered in Ohio to have a front license plate. “I know the governor is not real crazy about it,” Jones said. “It was part of the budget, so that’s how it passed. Law enforcement likes the front license plate. Ohio is one of the only states left that still requires the front license plate.” Read more at mariettatimes.com.

DMV Urges Wisconsinites to Get Real ID (Wisconsin)

In just 10 months, the regular Wisconsin driver’s license or identification card will no longer be accepted for domestic air travel or to enter a federal building or military base...And the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles is hoping to get the word out now, so people aren’t turned away when they try to board a plane or stop at a federal facility after that date. “Everyone’s ID in their wallet today is real” and is an acceptable form of ID for voting in Wisconsin, said Kristina Boardman, administrator of the Division of Motor Vehicles. However, Boardman said, the standard Wisconsin driver’s license and ID don’t meet the federal standards for verification that REAL ID-compliant products do. Read more at superiortelegram.com.

Starting [January 1st], Idaho Drivers Must Provide Proof of Insurance to DMV or Have Registration Suspended

Vehicle owners will need to provide proof of insurance for two consecutive months or risk having their registration suspended beginning in 2020. The law (Idaho Code Section 49-1234) was passed during the 2019 Idaho legislative session and goes into effect in January. It requires the Idaho Transportation Department’s Division of Motor Vehicles to determine monthly whether the owner of a vehicle has insurance. The law applies only to non-commercial vehicles, and excludes trailers and off-highway vehicles. Read more at eastidahonews.com.

Don’t Forget New Nevada Traffic Laws Heading Into 2020

As 2019 comes to an end, motorists may need a reminder of new laws enacted this year by the Legislature. Although the new regulations went into effect Oct. 1, Las Vegas Valley drivers need to be aware of them to ensure that they’re following the law and save themselves the time and expense of dealing with traffic citations. Here are the new road regulations that kicked in this year, per the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles. Read more at reviewjournal.com.

New Vehicle Fees, Real ID, and More Changes Are Coming for Oregon DMV

New laws heading into the new year will impact the DMV. Here’s a breakdown of changes: Beginning October 1, 2020, every traveler must present a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license, state-issued enhanced driver’s license, or other acceptable forms of identification, such as a valid passport or U.S. military ID, to fly within the U.S. Review the complete list of acceptable identification...Starting in 2020 some vehicle fees in Oregon will be based on miles per gallon. The changes to Oregon vehicle registration, title and trip permit fees will take effect Jan. 1, 2020, as part of “Keep Oregon Moving,” a major transportation funding program. Read more at kdrv.com.
Changes to Driver's License Renewals and 9 Other Utah Laws Go Into Effect New Year's Day
Do you hate having to renew your driver’s license? Starting New Year’s Day, the length between having to renew your license will be extended by three years. While that comes with a fee increase, it will give Utahns fewer trips to renew their license in the long run. Read more at ksl.com.

Do You Really Have to Use Your Turn Signal Every Time? Washington Supreme Court Says Yes
Drivers who have wondered whether they really have to use their turn signals every time — even in a turn-only lane — may want to take note of a state Supreme Court ruling issued Thursday. In a case considering whether state law “compels drivers to use their signal every time they turn or change lanes on a roadway,” the court ruled unanimously, “We hold that it does.” Read more at seattletimes.com.

Washington’s vehicle emissions check program is ending after 38 years. According to the Department of Ecology, vehicle owners will no longer need to have their emissions tested before renewing their registration as of Jan. 1, 2020. Only certain personal and fleet vehicles were required to be tested in recent years. Read more at yaktrinews.com.

Stop Abbreviating 2020. Police Say It Leaves You Open to Fraud and Could Cost You Big
The new year is giving scammers an easy way to forge documents, but you can protect yourself with an easy New Year's resolution: Stop abbreviating the year. Why? This year's abbreviation is easily changeable and could be used against you. The concern is that scammers could easily manipulate a document dated "1/1/20" into "1/1/2000" or even "1/1/2021." Writing out the full date "could possibly protect you and prevent legal issues on paperwork," according to Hamilton County, Ohio, Auditor Dusty Rhodes. Read more at usatoday.com.

US Seeks Review of State DMV Laws on Immigration Enforcement
The acting secretary of Homeland Security is taking aim Tuesday at new laws in New York, New Jersey and other states that allow immigrants to get driver’s licenses without proof they are in the U.S. legally, and restrict data sharing with federal authorities. Chad Wolf sent a memo to all the components of Homeland Security, which include U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Coast Guard and the Transportation Security Administration, requesting a department study on how the laws affect its enforcement efforts for both immigration and other investigations into human trafficking, drug smuggling and counterterrorism. Read more at apnews.com.

CAA Releases Study About Young Canadian Drivers and Cannabis Use
A study recently released by the Canadian Automobile Association found that a quarter of young Canadians admit to either driving high or having travelled in a vehicle with a high driver. We look at societal perceptions surrounding the issue and also get an update from Lethbridge police on their holiday checkstop campaign. Read more at globalnews.ca.

Tesla Patents Data Pipeline and Deep Learning System for
Autonomous Driving
As Tesla is working toward deploying an autonomous driving system as soon as next year, the automaker is patenting a data pipeline and deep learning system that could help them develop it faster. The system has been revealed in a new patent application by Tesla called 'Data Pipeline and Deep Learning System for Autonomous Driving'. Tesla's data pipeline is likely one of the biggest in the industry, if not the biggest since it pulls data from a fleet of hundreds of thousands of vehicles equipped with a large suite of sensors. Read more at electrek.co.

2020's New Laws: Gender-Neutral 'X' Licenses, Stronger ID, Wear Your Hair the Way You Want
The new year brings a host of new laws across the nation, from looser restrictions on marijuana to a ban on discriminating against employees because of their hair. But one requirement to be imposed later in 2020 will affect millions nationwide...As of Oct. 1, travelers wanting to board an airplane by using a driver's license for identification must have one that complies with the Real ID Act. Read more at nbcnews.com.

These Are the Most Dangerous Places to Be Driving on New Year's Eve, Study Shows
According to a new study, some states and counties have a much higher crash rate on New Year's Eve when compared to others. The study was conducted by law firm Cannon & Dunphy S.C. and consumer safety advocacy firm Safer America. The study calculated each state and county's crash rate on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day using data from the past five years from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Read more at fox13now.com.

2020 New Year's Resolutions (US DOT)
2020 has arrived and many are carefully selecting New Year’s Resolutions. Establishing challenging yet achievable goals is the essence of New Year’s Resolutions, a tradition that dates back 4,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. While participating in this timeless tradition, I would like to promote a resolution that everyone can do together in 2020: Safer driving. Here are a few ways that could save thousands of lives and prevent hundreds of thousands of injuries in 2020. Read more at transportation.gov.

Scotland 'Open for Business' in Pioneering Driverless Vehicles
Scotland is "open for business" to develop driverless vehicles, says cabinet secretary Michael Matheson. The minister wants the country to spearhead the testing and development of self-driving technology. Transport Scotland’s new "Roadmap For Scotland" sets out plans to put Scottish business at the forefront of innovation. Read more at bbc.com.

TWITTER NEWS
@AAMVAConnection has been watching the twitter feed and decided to highlight some of the tweets here. Links are provided within most of the tweets, and we have also provided a link to each tweet as well. Note that you do not have to have an account or sign in to Twitter to view the message posts, images associated with the post, and the reach of the message (retweets, favorited, etc.).

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community. You may be surprised at what you're missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection.

Check out recent @AAMVAConnection Twitter action.
***Thank you for the @AAMVAConnection mentions!***

**MD State Police @MDSP | View the Tweet**

Between Christmas Eve and #NewYearsDay, @MDSP recorded 149 DUI arrests and 77 criminal arrests, made 10,155 traffic stops and issued 6,015 citations and 7,006 warnings. Troopers also responded to 552 crashes, four of which were fatal over that span.

![Image](mdsp_2019stats_2_949504.jpg)

**NJSP - State Police @NJSP | View the Tweet**

State Police Announce Traffic Fatalities are at a Five-Year Low

For the full press release, go to https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2589532231101303&id=102867543101130

![Image](njsp_fatalities_low_2_949513.jpg)

**Georgia DPS @ga_dps | View the Tweet**

Violation of the Week - Region 1 stopped this unsecured load before it could cause any harm.

#gamccd
The #SCDMV Assistant Branch Supervisor I Graduation Ceremony was held at Headquarters on Friday, December 13th. Congratulations to each of you!

It's heartbreaking to see the overwhelming number of posts beginning with "I lost." These are just a few of the nearly thousand stories Texans shared with us. As we start a new year, think about these families next time you get behind the wheel. 
#EndTheStreakTX (1/22)
OH Bureau Motor Vehicle @Ohio_BMV | View the Tweet

This morning Registrar Norman was on ‘LIVE on Lakeside’ discussing the importance of getting a compliant driver license to be able to travel domestically by air starting Oct. of this year. #LicenseToFly https://bit.ly/2ZL6kQp

Wisconsin DOT @WisconsinDOT | View the Tweet

WisDOT worked with @NHTSA and vehicle manufacturers to alert vehicle owners about Takata Airbag recalls. After the official DMV mailing, repair rates on potentially unsafe airbags in WI were 301% higher than states where DMVs did not send such a letter. #WisDOTsafety #RecallAlert
ICYMI New year, new office! The Lamar Driver License Office's new building at 3505 Main St. is now open five days a week.

Coloradans who have already visited the location have told us:

"The space was very much needed here!"

"The new office is bright and much more functional."

We look forward to serving you in 2020 and beyond! For more, please visit