AAMVA Congratulates Colorado on a Successful S2S Launch

AAMVA congratulates Colorado on successfully implementing the State-to-State Verification Service (S2S) during the weekend of January 25, 2020 and becoming the 27th participant using the new service. All migration activities have completed on schedule. CDLIS and S2S services are fully operational now. AAMVA would also like to thank volunteer states Kansas and Rhode Island who assisted with Colorado's migration. Montana is scheduled to begin using S2S on June 22, 2020. Other jurisdictions will also begin using S2S in the upcoming months and AAMVA looks forward to supporting them during their onboarding process. Read more here.

DMV Announces Non-Binary Gender Markers for Driver's Licenses (Connecticut)

Something new is taking place at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Starting on Monday, Connecticut drivers' licenses and ID cards are available to those who don’t identify themselves as male or female. The non-binary licenses are also being processed at AAA. Connecticut residents now have the option to select “X” on their application for a driver’s license. Read more at wfsb.com.

MVA Expands Hours to Allow for More REAL ID Appointments (Maryland)

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration is adding more hours over the weekend to give people more chances to make appointments to get their Real IDs. Starting March 7, the following MVA branches will extend Saturday hours to 8 a.m. to 3 p.m...The MVA said the additional hours will create 190 more appointments to help customers comply with the Oct. 1 deadline to get their Real IDs. Read more at wbaltv.com.

Ticket Stands for NJ Biker Who Turned License Plate Upside Down Because It Was ‘Cool’ (New Jersey)

A motorcyclist cited for turning his license plate upside down because he thought “it was cool” has lost another bid to rescind a traffic ticket he received. In a ruling issued Tuesday, a state appellate court determined that the ticket and the $139 penalty Scott DiRoma received in municipal court were both justified. The ruling upheld a decision issued by a Somerset County judge. Read more at nbcnewyork.com.

Rhode Island’s Autonomous Car Shows Promise for
Nation’s Future

The six electric vehicles known collectively as Little Roady navigate a 5-mile loop in regular traffic and steer themselves into 10 curbside stops, giving lawyers and laborers alike a free ride. The five-passenger cars being tested here by Michigan-based MayMobility are among several autonomous vehicle (AV) experiments across the country. The lessons learned might one day be applied in Washington state. Read more at governing.com.

Uber Is Trying to Bring Its Self-Driving Vehicles to the District (Washington, DC)

This month, Uber announced plans to bring its self-driving vehicles to D.C. The transportation company began collecting data in the District on Jan. 24 to do so. Danielle Burr, head of Uber’s federal affairs, made the announcement in a Medium post, along with an in-person announcement from Eric Meyhofer, CEO of Uber Advanced Technologies Group (ATG), during the annual Washington Auto Show last week. Read more at technical.ly.

Kentuckians Travel to Regional Offices to Get REAL ID Ahead of Deadline (Kentucky)

Just days after Gov. Andy Beshear announced Kentuckians can obtain a Real ID at any of the state’s four regional offices, residents from all over the state are making the trek to their nearest location...After several delays, Kentucky finally rolled out the Real ID program in 2019 but it was plagued with problems as circuit clerks found themselves unable to handle the additional duties. The state eventually opened four regional offices in Frankfort, Somerset, Bowling Green and Paducah. Read more at wlky.com.

DMV Plans More ‘Express Days’ to Make Getting a REAL ID Faster and Easier (North Carolina)

If you’ve been thinking about getting a REAL ID this year, the state Division of Motor Vehicles is trying to make it easier. The DMV will hold a series of REAL ID Express Days where DMV offices are devoted to processing REAL IDs and other simple transactions. The first express day of the year will take place Saturday, Feb. 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the East Durham office at 101 South Miami Blvd. The DMV plans to hold more express days across the state this winter and spring, including ones in Garner and Raleigh in April and May. Read more at newsobserver.com.

Smooth Sailing for Those Obtaining REAL IDs at DMV Mobile Office on Thursday (South Carolina)

The DMV was back in the Lowcountry helping sign people up for REAL IDs on Thursday. Workers brought their mobile office to the Cane Bay YMCA in Berkeley County. Our crew said people were able to get through pretty easily during the day...Folks who showed up said they were surprised with how smoothly it went. Read more at abcnews4.com.

A Perfect Storm at the DMV (Tennessee)

Tennessee has only 44 centers to serve the 130,000 to 160,000 residents who visit these centers each month. And though federal legislation requiring the Real ID — an enhanced identification program requiring individuals to provide documentation of citizenship, residence and any name changes — was passed in 2005, Tennessee only started offering the new ID this past July. Yet, you’ll need a Real ID to fly or enter a federal building beginning in October 2020. That’s stretched the resources of a state agency that was already struggling with staffing issues and technology glitches. It’s a perfect storm. Read more at crossville-chronicle.com.
Governor Northam and Legislative Leaders Highlight Plan to Improve Driver Safety, Modernize Transportation System (Virginia)

Governor Ralph Northam and legislative leaders...announced support for a comprehensive transportation package that will improve driver and pedestrian safety and modernize funding for transit, rail, and roads...This landmark transportation package will make roads safer by establishing a Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program and implementing a number of proven safety policies. These measures include prohibiting the use of handheld cell phones while driving, banning open containers of alcohol in vehicles, making failure to wear a seatbelt a primary offense, enhancing speed enforcement, and allowing localities to lower speed limits. Read more at governor.virginia.gov.

Audi Connected Vehicle Project to Launch in Virginia

Audi drivers in northern Virginia could have more highway data than ever streaming into their cars. A partnership among the Virginia Department of Transportation, Audi of America, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and Qualcomm will allow Audi Q8 SUVs to receive information related to highway work and traffic signal information, as well as process data coming from the vehicles themselves. Read more at govtech.com.

Long Lines Could Prompt Some Locations to Stop Accepting REAL ID Applications Early (Illinois)

Arriving at a driver services facility in Illinois during the scheduled hours for Real ID applications doesn’t mean you’ll get in that day, according to the Secretary of State’s office...“The Secretary of State’s main priority is to serve customers promptly and efficiently. In order to serve the increased volume of REAL ID customers in line, management at each facility makes a determination on where and when to cut off the line in order to ensure service for those in line,” the office said in a statement. “At those times, newly arriving customers may be advised to visit another facility or come back on a different day.” Read more at nbcchicago.com.

Election Officials: Automatic Voter Registration Mostly a Success, Despite Setbacks (Illinois)

State election officials contend Illinois' automatic voter registration system is mostly a success, despite some hiccups. The Illinois State Board of Elections announced earlier this week that nearly 4,700 16-year-olds began the process of registering to vote when they got their driver's license...Separately, 545 non-citizens successfully registered to vote due to a programming error in the automatic voter registration system. Of those, 15 cast a ballot in 2018 and 2019 elections. Read more at peoriapublicradio.org.

Bill Eliminating Indiana BMV License Plate Renewal Stickers Could Save Taxpayers Millions of Dollars

A bill introduced by State Rep. Doug Gutwein’s (R-Francesville) would save taxpayers millions of dollars by eliminating vehicle registration stickers is moving forward. Each year, Hoosiers pay to renew their vehicle registrations and receive the decals from the B.M.V to place on their license plates. The production and postage to mail these decals cost taxpayers more than $6 million dollars annually. However, the state only collects about $300,000 in fines from those driving with expired plates each year. Under the bill, the B.M.V. would be tasked with the responsibility of figuring out how they could make the transition to electronic vehicle registration by August 1, 2020. Read more at wbiw.com.
REAL ID Compliance May Leave up to 85,000 Stranded the First Day; Senators Aren’t Having It (Michigan)

The Real ID Act deadline is fast approaching, and Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., is not convinced Americans are ready. On Jan. 24, Peters co-authored a letter to the Department of Homeland Security to raise concerns about travel interruptions that could arise if travelers fail to present Real ID Act-compliant identification after the Oct. 1 deadline, according to a news release...The main concern of Peters and his colleagues stems from their belief that travelers are not well informed regarding the Real ID deadline, and that DHS does not plan on extending it. Read more atusatoday.com.

Missouri Traffic Fatalities Drop Five Percent

Preliminary reporting for 2019 indicates Missouri traffic fatalities have dropped for the third year in a row. According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, 876 lives were lost in Missouri traffic crashes in 2019 down from 921 in 2018, a five percent reduction. While the modest gains are encouraging, the state still has a long way to go in achieving the ultimate goal – zero traffic fatalities in Missouri. Read more atmodot.org.

Ohio to Send Driver’s License Renewal Reminders

Beginning Friday, Jan. 31, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will begin sending driver license renewal reminder emails to customers. “We understand that drivers have a lot of obligations and deadlines in their everyday lives,” said Gov. Mike DeWine. “We hope these new email reminders serve as a convenience for those who are approaching their driver license expiration date and remove the stress of remembering to renew at the last minute.” Read more at wnewsj.com.

South Dakota’s 2019 Traffic Deaths May Be State’s Lowest

Public safety officials say South Dakota may have recorded its lowest number of traffic deaths in state history. The South Dakota Department of Public Safety said Tuesday that so far, 102 traffic fatalities have been recorded for 2019. Since the department began keeping records in 1947, the previous low was 111 fatalities in 2011. In 2018, South Dakota recorded 130 fatalities. Read more at newscenter1.tv.

DMV Offers Free Voter ID (Wisconsin)

Wisconsin requires a valid ID in order to vote and, with the Spring Primary just weeks away, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation wants you to know that they’ll help you get proper identification free of charge. Valid ID for voting purposes includes a driver license, identification card, military or student ID card and the like, but they emphasize that there’s no separate “voter ID.” Read more atwhbl.com.

California DMV Settles With Soccer Fan Over Vanity Plates That Come off as Offensive

A California soccer fan has won in his attempt to honor his favorite soccer team with the vanity plate “COYW” -- an acronym for the slogan “Come On You Whites.” The state Department of Motor Vehicles initially said the tagline has offensive connotations. The DMV said on Tuesday it would give Jonathan Kotler the license plate after settling a free speech lawsuit in federal court. Kotler supports London-based Fulham, whose fans often chant “Come On You Whites” for their players in white jerseys. Read more at fox10phoenix.com.

Colorado Cops Defend License Plate Readers as Tech Spreads
For about the last five years, the Greeley, Colo., Police Department has been steadily expanding its use of a not-so-widely-known technology that provides officers with certain pieces of personal information with the simple scan of a license plate. On the one hand, law enforcement officials credit automatic license plate readers, or LPRs, with helping officers recover stolen property and remove violent offenders from the streets. On the other hand, opponents see license plate readers as a violation of an individual’s right to privacy. Read more at govtech.com.

Hawaii Considers Ways to Combat Traffic-Related Deaths
Hawaii lawmakers have proposed initiatives to help reduce the number of traffic-related fatalities after transportation officials confirmed more than 100 deaths in the last year. Those initiatives include installing traffic cameras to capture drivers running red lights and enforcing zero-tolerance policies for drinking and driving. Read more at hawaiitribune-herald.com.

New Proposal Would Ban Drivers From Using Handheld Cellphones (Idaho)
Police chiefs from across the state of Idaho joined with insurance interests, motorcycle groups, Sen. Chuck Winder and more on Thursday to back a proposed new statewide hands-free law for drivers. The Senate Transportation Committee voted unanimously to introduce the bill, which was proposed by United Heritage Insurance with Winder as its lead sponsor. Read more at postregister.com.

Distracted Driving Penalties on the Rise on Feb 1st (Saskatchewan)
Saskatchewan is once again sending the message to not drive distracted. On February 1st, 2020, the first offence for distracted driving will go from $280 to $580. In 2018, SGI saw 6,000 collisions, 774 injuries and 22 deaths as a result of distracted driving. "The message really has to go out that distracted driving has been a bad idea. It's a leading cause of collision, injuries and deaths on Saskatchewan roads, but the penalties are about to get much harder," said Tyler McMurchy, manager of media relations at SGI. Read more at discoverhumboldt.com.

WYDOT Starts Issuing New, More Secure Driver Licenses and ID Cards (Wyoming)
Wyoming's driver licenses and identification cards will now be more secure and harder to counterfeit. The Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) recently started issuing new state driver licenses and ID cards that have extra security features. Those whose cards are expiring will receive a new driver license or identification card, which look different from the current licenses and ID cards. WYDOT started issuing the new licenses and ID cards in December. Read more at sundancetimes.com.

This Company Could Turn Every Home's Camera Into a License Plate Reader
For years, license plate readers have been used by police to collect information on millions of people, whether it's for criminal investigations, racial profiling or illegal blackmailing. Now Rekor Systems wants to put that technology in your neighbors' hands. On Thursday, the company launched Watchman, automatic license plate reader technology it says can be installed on any home security camera. Rekor's software, known as OpenALPR, then can analyze streaming video and find license plates captured in a recording. The product has been publicly available since 2015, but this is the first time Rekor is specifically marketing to individual homeowners.
FMCSA Pumps the Brakes on Entry-Level Driver Training Rule, Punts Compliance Date to Feb. 2022

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is delaying the implementation of a federal rule establishing, for the first time, training standards for entry-level truck drivers. The Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) rule was slated to take effect in just over a week — Feb. 7, 2020. It will now take effect Feb. 7, 2022, with FMCSA preparing to file a notice in the Federal Register in the coming days to announce the new compliance date. Read more at ccjdigital.com.

International Roadcheck Set for May 5-7 by CVSA

The high-volume, high-visibility International Roadcheck event will take place May 5-7, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance announced Jan. 27. This year, the 72-hour, stepped-up enforcement effort, which highlights the importance of commercial motor vehicle safety through roadside inspections, will focus on the category of driver requirements. Of the 3.36 million inspections conducted last year, 944,794 were cited in the driver requirements category, according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s fiscal 2019 data. A total of 195,545 of those driver violations were for out-of-service conditions, CVSA said. Read more at ttnews.com.

State DOTs Detail Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

It’s common knowledge that transportation plays a key role in the movement of people and goods. But few think about the role transportation can play in rescuing people who are being moved against their will by traffickers...Transportation’s role in combating human trafficking has not escaped the attention of state department of transportation leadership. Education, collaboration, and public outreach are some of the key tactics three state DOT executives said they are using as building blocks to help thwart human trafficking activity...Sec. Chao also announced at the event that USDOT will provide $5.4 million in new grants via the Federal Transit Administration’s Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative to 24 organizations across the country to fund projects aimed at helping prevent human trafficking and other crimes on public transportation. Read more at aashtojournal.org.

National Distracted Driving Enforcement Mobilization April 6-13, 2020

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and, in support of this traffic safety initiative, NHTSA will be kicking off its annual "U Text. U Drive. U Pay." national high visibility enforcement campaign to prevent distracted driving. Additionally, NHTSA has developed a robust social media strategy designed to raise public awareness about the consequences of texting and driving. The focus is on the idea that "If you're texting, you're not driving." We anticipate that this message will engage the target audience of men and women 18-34 with creative and persuasive messaging on NHTSA’s social media channels and from our media partners. Click here for campaign materials and here for PEAK Enforcement Kit.

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!***

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**Nevada DMV @NevadaDMV | View the Tweet**

Golden Knights fan @GovSisolak visits the West Flamingo DMV to thank the staff for reducing walk-in wait times by 42 percent.

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**Ohio Dept. of Aging @OhioDeptofAging | View the Tweet**

Ohio’s driver licenses and state ID cards have changed.

Director @UrselMcElroy and @Ohio_BMV Registrar Charlie Norman share a few things older Ohioans should know about getting a new or replacement card.

https://aging.ohio.gov/News/understanding-ohios-new-driver-licenses-and-state-id-cards

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**NC Public Safety @NCPublicSafety | View the Tweet**

Last year @NCSHP members conducted 100,000+ Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspections, which led to savings statewide. These inspections work to reduce crashes, injuries & fatalities involving large trucks & buses. Keep up the great work!

#WeAreNCDPS
Georgia DDS (DMV) @GeorgiaDDS | View the Tweet

#gapol #EndTrafficking

Rhode Island Department of Revenue @ri revenue | View the Tweet

Thanks to @latina1003fm for helping #RhodeIslandDMV staff spread word about #REALID. Gracias por ayudarnos a correr la voz sobre REALID
NYS DMV @nysdmv | View the Tweet

In an effort to improve customers’ experience, DMV Commissioner Schroeder visited downstate offices recently to speak to employees and customers.

MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet

Administrator Nizer spoke at @MDMEMA's Private Sector Integration Program where she discussed #RealID, how to look up your status, and how 61% of MD residents are Real ID compliant! #PSIPSummit2020

DelawareDMV @DelawareDMV | View the Tweet

To ensure you're the first to know, follow us on all our social media accounts! For a chance to win a 5-digit license plate register and activate your free, secure, myDMV account at http://myDMV.delaware.gov. Learn more: https://bit.ly/2tXhANN