DOT Updates NHTSA's Policy Statement on Autonomous Vehicles, Commits Nearly $4 Billion for Research and Development

Yesterday, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx unveiled new policy that updates the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) 2013 preliminary policy statement on autonomous vehicles. This announcement was made at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in conjunction with a commitment of nearly $4 billion over the next 10 years to accelerate the development and adoption of safe vehicle automation. AAMVA was specifically mentioned in the announcement as a partner, along with NHTSA, states, and other stakeholders, to develop a model state policy on automated vehicles. The new policy is designed to facilitate and encourage the development and deployment of technologies with the potential to save lives. Within six months, NHTSA will propose guidance to industry on establishing principles of safe operation for fully autonomous vehicles (vehicles at Level 4 on the scale established in NHTSA's 2013 preliminary policy statement). For more information, see the Special Alert on AAMVA's Website. USDOT’s announcement generated quite a bit of press coverage, much of it also mentioning AAMVA:

Transportation Department Clears Way for Self-Parking Cars
January 14, 2016
By Rene Marsh
CNN

U.S. Seeks to Clear Autonomous-Car Hurdles
January 14, 2016
By Ryan Beene
Automotive News

Obama Administration Ready to Put $4B Toward Self-driving Cars
January 14, 2016
By Brent Snavely and Nathan Bomey
Detroit Free Press and USA TODAY

Obama Administration Devoting $4B to Jump-start Driverless Cars
January 14, 2016
By Greg Otto

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**OUR EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY**

2-3 | DMV Investigator Integration Working Group Meeting
Phoenix, AZ
By invitation only

**JANUARY**

12, 19, 26 | NMVTIS State Web interface (SWI) 3.0 - Understanding the New Data Elements
2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

20 | Yeah We Do That
2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

21 | New CDLIS Timeliness And Accuracy - Summary Workbook
2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

**OUR WEBINARS**

**FEBRUARY**

2, 9, 16 | NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) 3.0 - Understanding the New Data Elements
2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

**OUR SURVEYS**

Please respond to these surveys from Wisconsin, Florida, Kansas, Alberta, Illinois, and Georgia.

REAL ID Residency Documents (Ends 02/08/2016)
Paperless DMV (Ends 02/12/2016)
CDL Driver Improvement Program (Ends 01/29/2016)
Third Party Testing for Non-Commercial DL (Ends 01/26/2016)
Driver Licence Requests from Outside Jurisdiction (Ends

Fedscoop.com

Department of Transportation Spending $4 Billion to Test Connected Cars
January 15, 2016
By Nick Jaynes

Mashable

White House Pushes to Make Driverless Cars a Reality
January 14, 2016
By Heather Caygle

Politico

Google Releases Self-driving Car Performance Report as U.S. Proposes $4 Billion in Funding
January 15, 2016
By Bill Snyder

CIO.com

Federal Government Invests $3.9 Billion Into 10-year Plan for Autonomous Driving
January 14, 2016
By Hope Reese

TechRepublic

President Obama Injecting $4 Billion Into Self-Driving Cars
January 14, 2016
By Kyree Leary

IGN.com

U.S. Government to Invest $4B in Self-driving Cars, DOT to Set Nationwide Rules for Public Testing
January 15, 2016
By Collen Kriel

SiliconAngle

Obama’s FY17 Budget Proposal Invests $4B in Autonomous Vehicles, DOT Announces
January 14, 2016
By Greg Watry

R&D Magazine

US To Spend $4 Billion To Fill Roads With Autonomous Vehicles
January 14, 2016
By Bryan Lufkin

Gizmodo

AAMVA Awards Submission Deadline is February 1st

AAMVA’s Awards Program is a great way to recognize individuals, teams and organizations in the motor vehicle administration and law enforcement community for their commitment and hard work. With a February 1st submission deadline quickly approaching, you’ll want to act now to give credit where credit is due. View the 2016 Awards Promo Video to learn more about the awards, and visit the Awards Page on AAMVA’s Web site to download the 2016 Submission and Nomination Packet and Entry Form.

2016 Workshop & Law Institute

AAMVA's 2016 Workshop & Law Institute is scheduled to take place in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 9-10, 2016. Watch the promo video to learn more, and visit the Workshop & Law Institute Web site to register today.

REGION I NEWS

Maryland May Soon See Strict New Drunk Driving Laws

A Montgomery County police officer was struck and killed by a drunk driver while he was on DUI patrol. His death has led to a major push for strict new laws about drunk driving in the state of Maryland. Read the full story at Baltimore.CBSLoca.com.

New Jersey Considering Move to Electronic Driver's License

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security provided the state of New Jersey with a nine-month extension to update its driver's license requirements in compliance with the federal Real ID Act, a post-9/11 measure passed in 2005 to enhance security, authentication and issuance procedures for state identification cards. Read the full story at PhillyVoice.com.

Man Arrested for Bribing DMV Representative (New York)

The New York State Police, in conjunction with the New York State Dept. of Motor Vehicles Investigations Unit, arrested Homero Rodriguez, age 64, of New York, NY, on January 7, 2016, for Bribery 3rd Degree. Read the full story at HudsonValleyNewsNetwork.com.

State Agencies Push App to Help Prevent Drunk Driving (Pennsylvania)

State agencies are promoting a free mobile app meant to keep drunk drivers off the roads. Called SaferRide, the easy-to-use software allows users to find a taxi service or call a friend for a ride home if they've had too much to drink. It also allows them to find a map of their location by selecting the app's "Where Am I?" button. Read the full story at MyInforms.com.

REGION II NEWS

Three Arrested in Sarasota for Craigslist Car Scam (Florida)

Three people are behind bars in Sarasota after being accused of manipulating car odometers to make the vehicles appear more valuable. Read the full story at WTSP.com.

State Delegates Proposing Laws that Could Stiffen Fines for Slow Drivers (Virginia)

Two Virginia State Delegates are proposing laws that could stiffen fines for slow drivers. It's a law already on the books in Virginia, but many drivers don’t realize that they can be fined for driving slow in the left lane. In fact, drivers in the commonwealth can be slapped with a $250 fine for driving in the left lane, if they're not passing other vehicles. Read the full story at WTVR.com.
DMV email Now Available for Customers Should Decrease Wait Time (West Virginia)
Attention licensed drivers and motor vehicle owners. Do you have a question for the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles and would prefer not to wait in queue? Until now, the direct line to DMV has been through the DMV Call Center number, 1-800-642-9066. In an effort to better serve customers and decrease wait times on the phone, you may now email your questions directly to DMVCallCenter@wv.gov. Read the full story at Theet.com.

New Specialty Plate Aims to Decrease Distracted Driving (Indiana)
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, distracted driving kills nine people a day in the United States and some of those are a result of people using a cellphone while driving. Thursday morning, state leaders unveiled a new specialty license plate that aims to decrease that statistic by spreading awareness. Read the full story at WLFI.com.

Manitoba Plans to Combine Drivers' Licences, Health Cards
The Manitoba government is planning to combine drivers' licences and health cards into an all-in-one identification card. Read the full story at Winnipeg.CTVNews.ca.

Wisconsin State Patrol Recruit Class Begins Training
The Wisconsin State Patrol welcomed 49 recruits to the State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy on Sunday, Jan. 10, to begin an intense 25-week training program that will culminate in their graduation as troopers or inspectors on July 1, 2016. Read the DOT press release.

Tiny License Plate Proposed for Drones (California)
A wave of laws aimed at drone users has struck in the last year. In the city of Los Angeles, for example, you can't fly your done within 5 miles of an airport like LAX without permission. And the Federal Aviation Administration requires you to register your drone if it weighs a little more than half a pound, even if you bought it at Toys"R"Us. Read the full story at LAWeekly.com.

California Received a Federal REAL ID Extension
Transcript: Your California driver's license is an essential key to get through TSA airport screening. But KTUV has learned that the department of homeland security has added California to 11 other states whose citizens may be required to present another form of acceptable id such as a passport to clear security. Read the full story at TVEyes.com.

Autonomous Car Makers Hand Over Data on Glitches and Failures to California DMV
If you want to build a self-driving car and test it on public roads in California, the state's Department of Motor Vehicles says that every year you have to submit a disengagement report—basically a list of every time the human driver had to take...
over for the car. This year, Bosch, Delphi, Google, Nissan, Mercedes-Benz, Tesla, and Volkswagen Group were required to submit disengagement reports, and the results are largely what you’d expect from a novel and complicated technology. Read the full story at ARSTechnica.com.

Sacramento-Based Dealers Group Continues to Pursue Legal Action Against TrueCar
The Sacramento-based California New Car Dealers Association, which bills itself as the nation’s largest state association of franchised new car and truck dealers, continues to pursue legal action against a popular Golden State car-buying site. Read the full story at SacBee.com.

Number Of ID Theft Investigations DROP After California Allows Illegals Driver’s Licenses
New figures show that the number of identification theft investigations collapsed by 30 percent in California after a program allowing illegal aliens to apply for driver’s licenses was implemented in 2015, according to a FOIA request obtained by The Daily Caller News Foundation. Read the full story at DailyCaller.com.

New Law Gets More Oregonians to Vote Via the DMV
A trip to the Oregon DMV will now automatically register you to vote, if you are not already. The brand new law started on Jan. 1. Oregonians believe in the ballot, with participation among the highest in the country. It helps that we have a vote-by-mail system. But there were up to a million of us eligible to vote, who just were not registered. Read the full story at KATU.com.

DOT, Automakers Agree on Proactive Safety Principles
This is a very exciting time for the auto industry, maybe even historic. Yesterday, I announced DOT’s efforts in 2016 to support the safe deployment of autonomous vehicles that carmakers have been developing. And today, DOT and the 18 automakers below took a strong stand --together-- for a new proactive, collaborative approach to safety... Read the full blog post on the DOT blog.

Military Bases No Longer Accepting Driver’s Licenses from 5 States
Federal facilities no longer accept driver’s licenses from five states as valid identification for individuals seeking entry without an escort, but some military bases are offering workarounds, granting grace periods, or continuing with current access rules that require more than an ID. Read the full story at ArmyTimes.com.

Google Cars Crash Less than Conventional Vehicles: Report
A latest study shows that it is safer to travel in one of Alphabet Inc.’s (NASDAQ:GOOG) Google Cars, which has been involved in fewer accidents as opposed to human driven vehicles. This finding can prove essential, as currently a number of tech giants and automakers strive to establish self-driven cars as primary mode of road and highway transportation. Read the full story at Bidnessetc.com.

DID YOU KNOW?
On Twitter
@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 “Twitter-town talk”. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection. (http://twitter.com/#!/AAMVAConnection)

- **Anthony Foxx** ASecretaryFoxx | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/SecretaryFoxx/status/626010129633285184)
  Even better for #consumers than yesterday's #automatedvehicles announcement? Today's #safety principles! [http://1.usa.gov/1WeFbwx](http://1.usa.gov/1WeFbwx)

- **TransportationGov** @USDOT | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/USDOT/status/625086386995483648)
  Per @SecretaryFoxx, historic auto #safety principles agreed to by @NHTSAgov, 18 automakers at @NAIASDetroit [http://1.usa.gov/1WeFbwx](http://1.usa.gov/1WeFbwx)

- **Indiana BMV** @INBMV | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/INBMV/status/626230235600632321)
  Our Operator Knowledge Test is available in 11 different languages! Visit [http://ow.ly/AHEFL](http://ow.ly/AHEFL) for #INBMV branch locations

- **Safe Roads Alliance** @Safe_Roads | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/Safe_Roads/status/626307954200024064)
  #crashnotaccident will be discussed on @beatthepress - 7 pm tonight on @wgbh @mrichtel @APStylebook @onthemedia @Bobosphere @tomvanderbilt

- **IIHS** @IIHS_autosafety | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/IIHS_autosafety/status/626245073186897408)
  RT @PeterCBigelow: U.S. is "on course for a future in which congestion will only get worse than it already is," warns @SecretaryFoxx.

- **Rachel** @AskObrella | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/AskObrella/status/626246936450565377)
  Safest States for Driving: Find your state to see where you stand! #safety #driving #USA [http://bit.ly/1ZxHVug](http://bit.ly/1ZxHVug)

- **VirginiaDMV** @VirginiaDMV | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/VirginiaDMV/status/626245527228796673)
  #DYK your #VirginiaDMV business can be done from a smartphone? It's true! We're mobile friendly; get started today: [http://ow.ly/X29Mr](http://ow.ly/X29Mr)

- **PennDOT** @PennDOTNews | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/PennDOTNews/status/626246201010031107)
  No immediate impact to Pennsylvanians expected from updated @DHSgov REALID guidance: [http://ow.ly/X4Cra](http://ow.ly/X4Cra)

- **Autosinsider** @Autosinsider | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/Autosinsider/status/626245647885836288)
  Budget proposal includes $4B for autonomous research: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced the news... [http://detne.ws/1lb5HcM](http://detne.ws/1lb5HcM)

- **Georgia DDS (DMV)** @GeorgiaDDS | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/GeorgiaDDS/status/626250333470806656)
  Thank you @LifeLinkGA for honoring us for helping with Organ donations. #givelife #becomeadonor

- **KDOT** @KDOTHQ | [View the Tweet](http://twitter.com/KDOTHQ/status/626252508802201344)
● NTSB @NTSB | View the Tweet
  .@NTSB Chairman Hart announces 2016 Most Wanted List of transportation safety improvements #NTSBmwl