February 14, 2020

AAMVA Hosts Inaugural NMVTIS State Users Workshop
AAMVA held its first ever NMVTIS State Users Workshop in Tampa, Florida last week. There were 157 participants from 48 jurisdictions in attendance. Georgia Steele, EdD, Chief Performance Officer for the State of Georgia Department of Revenue, and President, AAMVA Region 2, was the keynote speaker. She provided insights on how NMVTIS protects against fraud and theft and prevents unsafe vehicles from being titled, and the role each state plays in that effort. The workshop format enabled Vehicle Titling, Law Enforcement and information technology users to focus on their specific facets of NMVTIS. The workshop targeted people who work with NMVTIS every day in their state. Topics included use of NMVTIS best practices, handling help desk issues, NMVTIS modernization, and vehicle fraud prevention with a focus on small group discussion.

Have You Seen These Tags? Delaware Drivers Give Back Story to Vanity License Plates
As Andrea Rogers pulls up to red lights she has a habit of peeking back at the driver behind her. She often finds them hunched over their wheel, pushing their phone as close to the windshield as possible to snap a picture of her "LEDZPLN" vanity license plate. Although the first state is better known for its obsession with low-digit black-and-white tags, the custom navy and gold variety are every bit as popular. The personalized tags can provide a laugh to passing drivers, while serving as a conversation starter for their owners. Read more at delawareonline.com.

Bill to Let Undocumented Immigrants Get Driver’s Licenses Passes First Hurdle (Massachusetts)
To overcome a veto from Gov. Charlie Baker, supporters of legislation that would make it possible for undocumented immigrants to receive standard driver’s licenses would need to amass two thirds majority support for their bill in both branches. Last week, supporters cleared that threshold at the committee level in the first test of the bill’s strength. Read more at heraldnews.com.

NJ Now Allows Residents to Change Their Gender on Their Driver’s License (New Jersey)
Transgender residents are now able to change the gender on their driver’s licenses without needing a doctor's note. Changing the gender is now as easy as filling out
the gender-change declaration, which can be downloaded on the Motor Vehicle Commission's website, and paying the $11 fee to obtain a duplicate license. The gender declaration form has just a male or female option but later this year the MVC will allow nonbinary people to display their gender as "X" on their licenses and identification cards. Read more at nj1015.com.

She Ran Over and Killed 2 Children. Should She Have Had a Car? (New York)
A driver in Brooklyn with eight violations for speeding or running a red light killed a 5-year-old girl and a 1-year-old boy. An 85-year-old woman was killed by another Brooklyn driver with 10 speeding violations and two red-light violations. In Manhattan, a driver with two speeding tickets crushed a bicycle courier. New York City is struggling to tame its streets. After years of decline, traffic deaths unexpectedly spiked last year. Read more at nytimes.com.

Cuomo Agrees to Give Feds Limited Access to New York DMV Records, but Will Still Try to Prevent Immigration Enforcement
New York governor Andrew Cuomo said on Wednesday that he has partially revised the state’s decision to block the federal government from accessing its motor vehicle records, after the Trump administration responded by announcing that New Yorkers would be barred from federal fast-travel programs. Cuomo, in an interview with a Long Island radio station, said that he had spoken with the Department of Homeland Security after acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf’s announcement that New York’s new law granting illegal immigrants driver’s licenses and blocking the federal government from accessing DMV records would prevent New Yorkers from applying for Global Entry programs, which ensure expedited cross-border travel. Read more at nationalreview.com.

Florida Saw More Than 105,000 Hit-and-Run Crashes Last Year: Report
Hit-and-run: a headline you see time after time in Florida. That’s why Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is leading a Hit-and-Run Awareness Month campaign this February. Their goal? To get drivers to stay at the scene of a crash after it happens...Florida law says drivers must stop at crash scenes where somebody is hurt or killed and if there is any sort of property damage. Leaving the scene is a felony. FLHSMV said there were more than 105,000 hit-and-run crashes in Florida for 2019. FLHSMV said most deadly hit-and-runs happen at night or when it’s darker outside. Read more at wtsp.com.

Bill Would Reduce Driver’s License Suspensions for Failing to Pay Fines and Fees (Florida)
More than 1 million Floridians had their driver’s licenses suspended for failure to pay fines and fees in 2017 alone. “This amounts to 72% of the total drivers license suspension notices that year,” said Ashley Thomas with the Fines and Fees Justice Center...But a bill moving through both the Florida House and the Senate aims to reduce those license suspensions by making it easier for people to get on affordable payment plans. Read more at wctv.tv.

Georgia Drops Special Driver’s License Requirements for Puerto Ricans
The state of Georgia on Monday agreed to remove an extra layer of requirements for Puerto Ricans to transfer their driver's licenses to the state as part of a settlement in a federal class-action discrimination lawsuit. The Georgia Department
of Driver Services said it had eliminated the knowledge and road test component of the application process for those who moved to the state from five United States territories. People from Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands will now be treated the same as license holders from other states who become Georgia residents, the state said. Read more at nytimes.com.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Releases 2019 Traffic Fatality Numbers

Deaths on Kentucky highways went up in 2019, according to a report from the state transportation cabinet's Office of Highway Safety. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) said 734 people died on Kentucky roads in 2019, which is 10 more people than 2018 but far below the peak of 985 deaths in 2005. Early numbers show 56 highway fatalities so far in 2020, which is down 17 compared to this time last year. Read more at wdrb.com.

‘SIP Plan’ Would Improve DMV Process, Watson Says (Mississippi)

Secretary of State Michael Watson says he has a plan to revamp the way Mississippians get or renew their driver’s licenses. Watson introduced the SIP Plan Tuesday, which he said stands for Service, Information and Professionalism. Watson said he and state Sen. David Parker and Rep. Lee Yancey are drafting a bill that would transfer the Department of Motor Vehicles from the Department of Public Safety to the Secretary of State’s Office. The SIP Plan promises to increase DMV efficiency, accessibility and the use of technology, Watson said. Read more at wapt.com.

REAL ID Rush: Tennessee Hopes to Cut Down the Line at the DMV

In some counties, the wait to get a Tennessee REAL ID has been as long as four hours. With even more expected to rush to the DMV before the October 1st deadline, the state is working on a plan to get everyone in and out faster...So the state is proposing a few solutions. First, they've already added nearly 80 employees at DMVs near Nashville and Memphis which means, now it's more rural locations that are seeing long lines. To help with that, they've allowed County Clerks to start issuing REAL IDs but only Wilson and Cheatham Counties in Middle Tennessee have signed on. Read more at newschannel5.com.

DMV Now Accepting Payment Through Apps on Mobile Devices (Virginia)

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles will now let people pay by using their phones at its full-service offices. According to a release, the DMV now offers Apple Pay, Google Pay and Samsung Pay at all 75 customer service centers and at its DMV 2 Go mobile office. The DMV says this method of payment will allow customers who have payment applications installed on their smartphones to quickly tap and pay for transactions. Customers can also use any device that has such a capability, including smartwatches and tablets. Read more at cbs19news.com.

Bill to Help Ex-Offenders Get Driver’s License Back Clears Senate (West Virginia)

A job is one of the best ways to ensure an ex-offender does not end up back in jail, studies show, but many West Virginians who have served their time struggle to find a job due to one factor: they don’t have a driver’s license. The West Virginia Senate Monday passed a bill to make it easier for some ex-offenders to regain their driver’s license. Senate Bill 678 waives any fees or fines associated with a person’s criminal conviction for the purpose of obtaining a driver’s license upon successful completion of the Getting Over Addicted Lifestyles Successfully Program, or G.O.A.L.S., the
substance use disorder treatment program in the state’s regional jails. Read more at herald-dispatch.com.

**REGION 3 NEWS**

**Waiting for a Michigan Driver's License? Enjoy a Van Gogh**

Some fine art with your license plate? A dozen secretary of state offices in the Detroit area are displaying reproductions of paintings, thanks to a partnership with the Detroit Institute of Arts. Museum director Salvador Salort-Pons said it’s an effort to bring art to where people live. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said most people need to visit a branch office at some point. Read more at clickondetroit.com.

**Former National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Talks Autonomous Vehicle Innovations (Michigan)**

Christopher Hart, former chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, spoke to 70 University of Michigan students and community members at the Ford School of Public Policy Monday afternoon about the innovation of autonomous vehicles...Hart began his presentation by discussing the common misconception of the complexity between aviation automation and automation on the ground...Hart said many of the problems with autonomous vehicles stem from a lack of graceful exits in case of emergency or unanticipated circumstances. Read more at michigandaily.com.

**Nebraska DMV Warns of Scams Asking for Driver's License Information**

The Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles is warning residents of two phone scams targeting licensed Nebraska drivers...The Nebraska DMV is urging residents to not share an image of their driver's license or the information contained on it. They also said that if people are concerned that calls are legitimate, to hang up and call the organization directly. Read more at siouxlandproud.com.

**'Safer Ohio' App Helps Troopers Find Stranded Motorists**

Safety on Ohio's roadways is always a concern for state highway patrol, which is why they have launched an app making it easier for you to request their help if you are stranded. Troopers have been using the Safer Ohio app for years, it helps them find stranded drivers quickly no matter where they are. Trooper Sheldon Goodrum said. “Anything from if a crash occurs, your vehicle becomes disabled, you ran something over, you ran out of gas,” Trooper Sheldon Goodrum said. “It's been a huge resource, getting a motorist that help quicker is really what we’re looking to do.” Read more at dayton247now.com.

**State Senate Oks Spanish Driver's License Tests; House to Consider Next (South Dakota)**

For South Dakota to be able to develop its workforce, it needs to be able to offer driver’s license exams in Spanish. That was one of the arguments the Senate heard Monday as it endorsed SB70. Sen. Arthur Rusch, R-Vermillion, said offering state materials in a language other than English was not new. He said the state’s founders thought it was important for German and Norwegian speaking citizens to be able to read the state constitution, so copies of it were distributed in those languages. Read more at rapidcityjournal.com.

**DMV Scales Back REAL ID Outreach in Rural Alaska, Saying Alternatives Are Plentiful**
The state is no longer fundraising to send Department of Motor Vehicles employees to 100 rural Alaska communities to implement the Real ID program and will instead visit communities that can finance the visit. "What we realized as we talked to these communities with unique circumstances is that there is less of a need than we initially thought there was because so many of these communities have alternative forms of identification," said Acting DMV Director Jenna Wamsganz. Read more at adn.com.

The City of Peoria, AZ, Is Piloting an Autonomous Shuttle Program (Arizona)
Arizona’s first shared-ride, autonomous shuttle operating on a public street is coming to Peoria. Recently, Peoria’s city council approved the funding for a 60-day autonomous vehicle pilot program with Beep, a Florida-based autonomous mobility solutions company. "This transportation pilot is a unique experiment for our community," said Mayor Cathy Carlat. "We see this as an important step as we seek to understand some of the innovative solutions that exist around the world, and how they bring value to Peoria residents." Read more at recordonline.com.

Rapidly Approaching Federal Deadline Prompts DMV to Remind Residents to Get Star Card (Idaho)
Eight months ahead of the federally mandated deadline, the DMV continues to raise awareness about the importance of getting a Star Card—Idaho’s Real ID. Without a Star Card, passport, or other compliant identification, citizens won’t be able board a plane or enter a federal facility after Oct. 1, 2020. Currently, 268,241 of 1.25 million licensed drivers in Idaho have a Star Card. That figure is significantly higher than it was in Feb. 2019, when just 70,000 residents had the Star Card. Read more at lcvalley.dailyfly.com.

More Than 80 Specialty License Plates Revoked Under New Rules (Montana)
A list from the state Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) includes 85 plates from nonprofits and other organizations that are no longer available to drivers. Several animal shelters in Western Montana were among the list of non-profits. The Humane Society of Western Montana, AniMeals, The Stafford Animal Shelter, and the Bitter Root Humane Association all lost their licence plates, and in turn, major funding...The legislature approved the new rules in 2019 and starting this year any specialty plate with less than 400 plates out on the road will be discontinued. Read more at abcfaxmontana.com.

Nevada Removes Parallel Parking From Driving Test to Decrease Visits to DMV
The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles has taken out what many consider one of the most intimidating parts of the driving exam—the parallel parking skill. Public Information Officer Kevin Malone said the changes took effect on Jan. 13, KLAS reported. He said that this change is expected to cut down on revisits to the DMV, since most are able to pass all other portions of the exam except the parallel section, thus, obligating them to return to the DMV. Read more at fourstateshomepage.com.

DHS Considered How to Punish States That Deny Access to Driver Records, a Memo Says
The Trump administration drafted a slew of plans to consider not only circumventing state laws limiting the Department of Homeland Security’s access to driver records, but to retaliate against states that are refusing to provide the information they seek,
according to government documents obtained by BuzzFeed News. According to a DHS memo, the administration considered using ‘friendly’ states to discreetly collect information for federal immigration authorities that would otherwise be inaccessible by law. The plans also include retaliation measures against states that limit access to records, such as closing down DHS offices there, refusing to accept their state identification, cutting TSA PreCheck services, and potentially subpoenaing for drivers’ licenses provided to undocumented immigrants. Read more at buzzfeednews.com.

US Lawmakers Hear Arguments for New Safeguards for Self-Driving Cars
A U.S. House panel on Tuesday heard from advocates of imposing stricter safeguards for self-driving cars as part of any effort to speed the adoption of the vehicles on U.S. roads. At the same subcommittee hearing, groups representing automakers and tech companies touted benefits of autonomous vehicles and warned the United States risks falling behind China and other countries without new legal backing. Read more at nytimes.com.

Self-Driving Car Company Nuro Wins Federal Safety Approval for Grocery Delivery Robot
Delivery robot company Nuro won the first federal safety approval for a purpose-built self-driving vehicle, advancing the young company’s plans to cart groceries around neighborhoods and marking a milestone for the autonomous vehicle industry. The approval indicates that federal regulators at the Department of Transportation believe specially-built robot cars can safely take to the roads without adhering to all the design standards for regular vehicles. Read more at swtimes.com.

Autonomous EV Completes UK’s Longest and Most Complex Self-Driving Car Journey
The £13.5m (US$17.5m) HumanDrive project was jointly funded by UK government through the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV) and Innovate UK, and nine other consortium partners. The research project has successfully completed two trials: the 230-mile ‘Grand Drive’ self-navigated journey on UK roads using advanced positioning technology; and test track-based activity that explored human-like driving using machine learning to enhance the user experience. The test cars included Nissan LEAF electric vehicles (EVs), featuring GPS, radar, lidar and camera technologies that build up a perception of the world around it, allowing the system to make decisions about how to navigate roads and obstacles it encounters on a journey. Read more at traffictechnologytoday.com.

New PayPal Phishing Campaign Asks for Passport Photo, Driver’s License
A new PayPal phishing campaign is taking a novel but direct approach to fraud by asking users, in good grammar, to provide Social Security and PIN numbers, passport and driver’s license data, and even upload photos of official documents to prove they’re telling the truth. Most phishing campaigns follow the same recipe, with bad actors looking to convince users to share sensitive information, normally consisting of banking data. But this latest PayPal phishing campaign goes further and aims to convince people to upload photos and share other information such as their Social Security number. Read more at securityboulevard.com.

US Department of Transportation Funding Blockchain Research
The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)—a division of the US Department of Transportation—is funding research into blockchain to overhaul highway administration. Funding up to $4 million is up for grabs to any company that can
deliver proposals for a “revolutionary” transformation of highway engineering by the March 20, 2020 deadline. The FHWA is investigating blockchain for several use cases as part of a Broad Agency Announcement issued by its Exploratory Advanced Research Program. Proposed research topics include secure certificate management for vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure applications, and highway pricing—with the agency seeking “dynamic and auction-based mechanisms.” Read more at decrypt.co.

**FMCSA Final Rule Calls for Reduced Commercial Vehicle Registration Fees**

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has issued a final rule that continues to reduce commercial vehicle registration fees in 2020 and 2021, the agency announced Feb. 12. FMCSA said it is reducing the 2020 annual registration fees collected by states for motor carriers, private motor carriers of property, brokers, freight forwarders and leasing companies by 14.45% below the 2018 registration level. The fees will remain at the same level for 2021 and subsequent years unless revised in the future. Reduction of the 2019 registration year fees ranges from approximately $3 to $2,712 per entity, depending on the number of vehicles owned or operated by the affected entities. Read more at ttnews.com.

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**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!***

**DC DMV @dcdmv | View the Tweet**

Director Robinson is at Petworth Library tonight providing residents with an update on #RealID and the many online services DMV offers.
MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet

Today, MDOT MVA employees statewide wore red to spread awareness about women's heart health. Heart disease is currently the leading killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year. #WearRedDay #MDOTCares

New Hampshire DMV @NH_DMV | View the Tweet

Congratulations to NH DMV Deputy Director Michael Todd, who was sworn in by Department of Safety Commissioner Quinn last month in Concord. Mike formerly served as the Strategic Communications Administrator for the Department.

VermontDMV @VTDMV | View the Tweet

Vermont DMV wants your help to create “Safe Selfie Zones” to allow newly licensed drivers to share the news — and not their personal details. #VT #BTV #Vermont #LearnerPermit #DriversLicense @vtprincipals #DriversEd https://dmv.vermont.gov/safeselfie
Paul Gorski @@WinnDemsNews | View the Tweet

Thank you @ilsecofstate for providing a mobile driver facilities unit to our residents, and thank you @iltreasurer for providing the ICASH service! http://dlvr.it/RPm4rx

OHBureauMotorVehicle @Ohio_BMV | View the Tweet

The decision to wear a helmet earned Thomas a Saved by the Helmet Award from the Motorcycle Ohio on Friday. He received a certificate and a new helmet.
Happy #LatinoLegislativeDay! With new ID restrictions for air travel set to take effect Oct. 1, DOL Director Teresa Berntsen (left in facing photo) and outreach team member Anahi Macchiavelli urged presentation attendees to get ready now at http://ID2020wa.com. #REALID #waleg