2019 AAMVA Workshop and Law Institute Wraps Up
The 2019 Workshop & Law Institute took place this week at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor. Attendees learned about a variety of topics facing jurisdictions and met with industry leaders providing products and services to improve business. Many of the presentations from the event are available for download at the event's Download Center online. Pictures from the event are available on Flickr, and you can also watch a wrap-up video on YouTube.

AAMVA and FMCSA Hold CDL Coordinators/IT Meeting
Last week, AAMVA and FMCSA held the 2019 CDL Coordinators/IT meeting in Orlando, FL. AAMVA Test Maintenance Subcommittee Chair Larry Boivin (ME) and AAMVA President and CEO Anne Ferro welcomed attendees to the meeting, and emphasized the important safety role that the jurisdictions, law enforcement, the courts, and FMCSA play in achieving commercial driver's license (CDL) uniformity and compliance. The three-day meeting provided a forum for federal, state, and court officials to share expectations, challenges, and achievements regarding the CDL program. FMCSA Administrator Raymond Martinez was on hand to address participants. More than 300 state, federal, and court CDL experts were in attendance to discuss national CDL issues. The meeting also emphasized the importance of partnerships between jurisdictions and the courts and federal partners to improve highway safety. Presentations and materials from the meeting are available on the AAMVA download page. Click here to view photos from the event.

Missouri to Begin Using AAMVA’s State-to-State (S2S) Verification Service
Missouri will begin using AAMVA's State-to-State Verification Service (S2S) on Monday, March 25, 2019. Tasks related to on-boarding Missouri will be conducted during the weekend of March 23, 2019. During this process (Saturday evening to Monday morning), there will be periods during which the CDLIS/S2S Central Site will be in inquiry-only mode or unavailable (over and above the regularly scheduled maintenance window of 2:00 am to 5:00 am (ET) on Sunday, March 24, 2019). AAMVA is taking all steps possible to minimize service interruptions and will be sending alerts notifying states of Central Site availability throughout the process. Read more here.

AAMVA Hosts Scandinavian Delegation
AAMVA was pleased to welcome a delegation from Scandinavia to our
Put the Phone Away, Troopers Cracking Down on Distracted Driving Utilizing Unconventional Vehicles (Delaware)

The Delaware State Police and the Delaware Office of Highway Safety (OHS) have joined forces to address the issue of distracted driving by conducting a series of statewide enforcement initiatives utilizing unconventional vehicles. The last of four initiatives were conducted in Sussex County on Saturday, March 16, 2019, during the mid-afternoon time frame. The area targeted during this initiative was secondary roadways in the Lewes area. During this operation, Troopers utilized a stationary unconventional vehicle to spot distracted driving violations as well as seatbelt violations. Once a violation was observed, the Troopers were provided with a description of the vehicle and operator, along with a detailed description of the violation. The Troopers then conducted a traffic stop. During the four hour initiative, a total of 19 citations were issued for infractions including cell phone usage, seatbelt and child restraint violations and a civil possession of marijuana. Read the article at firststateupdate.com.

Boston Launches Online City Registry for Birth Certificates (Massachusetts)

The city of Boston has created an online registry to allow people to directly order their birth certificates. Officials say the move will help residents comply with the REAL ID Act that takes effect in October. The Boston Globe reports the Department of Innovation and Technology launched the web application in response to the 30 percent increase in requests for Boston-based birth certificates in the past year. The REAL ID Act will require people to possess enhanced drivers’ licenses to travel and enter federal buildings. The city says residents will need their birth certificates to get the new license. Read the article at wcvb.com.

Distractology: A Simulator Showing Why You Shouldn't Text and Drive (Massachusetts)

Massachusetts is in the midst of a debate over whether to follow other states when it comes to hands-free mobile phone use while driving. Governor Charlie Baker has proposed legislation that would ban drivers from handling their cell phone with anything more than a single swipe or tap. One insurance company is among those who support the bill and is taking to the road to show new drivers just how dangerous distractions can be...The Arbella Insurance Foundation created the mobile classroom 12 years ago when they noticed a significant increase in claims being filed after crashes involving texting and driving. But they’ve had to update their program -- managing playlists, Snapchatting and even Facebooking while driving have all become added distractions. Read the article at boston25news.com.

Major Change to Reporting Minor Car Crashes Coming to Staten Island Monday (New York)

Staten Island is the first borough of New York City to test a pilot program where

drivers don’t call police if they’re involved in a minor motor-vehicle crash with only property damage. ‘This pilot has the potential to improve response times to serious emergencies, and save time for busy New Yorkers,’ said Assistant Chief Kenneth Corey, the NYPD borough commander. ‘We are looking forward to rolling it out in Staten Island and working closely with the community to evaluate success.’ The pilot, which starts on Monday, is intended for non-injury fender benders if there is only property damage, according to information supplied by the NYPD’s Deputy Commissioner of Public Information. Read the article at silive.com.

Mayor Bowser Announces Key Appointments (Washington, D.C.)
Mayor Muriel Bowser announced a series of appointments in her Administration, including appointing Lucinda Babers as Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure. Ms. Babers has served as the Director of the District Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) since 2007. She has led the agency through a significant transformation, including the closure and opening of three service centers, elimination of passenger vehicle safety inspections, creation of a more secure credential (along with central issuance), and implementation of REAL ID and Limited Purpose Credentials. Prior to her service as director, Ms. Babers served as Deputy Director of DC DMV and held senior management positions at Amtrak. Ms. Babers holds a Master of Science in Business from Johns Hopkins University. Read the article at mayor.dcgov.

Increasing Speed Limits on Arkansas Highways Closer to Becoming Reality
Despite opposition, lawmakers continue to push to increase the speed limit on certain state highways by 5 miles per hour. On Monday, HB1631 cleared a senate committee, it now heads to the full Senate for a vote on Tuesday. Last week, the bill cleared the House chamber by a 83-2 vote, with 14 lawmakers not voting. The proposed legislation filed by Rep. DeAnn Vaught, R-Horatio, would increase the speed limit to 75 mph on controlled-access highways outside of urban areas. The speed limit for controlled-access highways in urban areas would increase to 65 mph. Arkansas State Police along with the Arkansas Trucking Association oppose this legislation and said this will increase the risk of fatalities, but a cosponsor to the bill said it's time to match what our neighbors are doing. Read the article at katv.com.

Tennessee Is 24th State to Reach 90 Percent Seat Belt Usage
The Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) on Tuesday announced a significant increase in the state's overall seat belt usage rate, compared to previous years. The usage rate rose from 88.5 percent in 2017 to 90.9 percent in 2018. This marks the first year Tennessee's usage rate surpassed 90 percent. Tennessee’s 2018 usage rate also exceeded the national usage rate of 90.1 percent. 'Tennessee is the 24th state to achieve 90 percent seat belt usage,' said THSO Director Vic Donoho. 'We appreciate the substantial efforts made by the legislature, law enforcement, and local communities to reach this milestone. Moving forward, we will continue striving to achieve 100 percent.' Read the article at springhillhomepage.com.

TDCI Warns Consumers Flooded Vehicles Expected to Arrive on Tennessee’s Used Car Market
As Tennessee property owners recover from February’s heavy flooding and severe weather, the Tennessee Motor Vehicle Commission, which is part of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance’s Regulatory Boards, reminds consumers to be on the lookout for flood-damaged vehicles that will likely be popping up for sale. 'After a flood or natural disaster, it’s a common practice for owners of flooded vehicles...
vehicles that have been declared total losses by insurance companies to be allowed to retain damaged vehicles,' officials said. "Instead of sending the flooded car to the junkyard, scammers will attempt to sell flooded vehicles quickly, hoping to stay ahead of computer system updates so that title check systems don't have time to detect a car's history. By the time a consumer discovers the vehicle's history, the seller will be long gone.' Read the article at chattanoogan.com.

How a New Bill Could Lessen the Wait Time for Driver Licenses (Texas)
The scenes inside driver license facilities across Texas are what State Senator Brian Birdwell wants to change. The Republican from Granbury laid out his bill to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Border Security on Wednesday. SB 616 asks for a funded study by a third party that looks at how to move the driver license program from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Motor Vehicles. 'To make sure when it goes from the DPS to the DMV, it's no more complicated to the citizens of Texas than moving the lamp from the living room to the kitchen,' said the senator. Read the article at kvue.com.

Lawmakers Vote to Make Gender Changes on Ids Harder, a Week After BMV Offers Nonbinary Option (Indiana)
Just a week after the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles announced they began issuing driver's licenses and identification cards with a third gender option, state lawmakers voted to make it more challenging for transgender and nonbinary Hoosiers to change their ID cards. The House transportation committee voted to amend the unrelated Senate Bill 182 on Wednesday, requiring Hoosiers to present a birth certificate that corresponds to their new gender if they want to change it on a state-issued ID, instead of just the currently accepted physician's note. The Indiana State Department of Health requires a court order to change gender on a birth certificate, unless a physician entered the wrong gender at birth in an administrative error. Read the article at indystar.com.

Michigan Traffic Safety Summit to Highlight Distracted, Drugged Driving
The 24th annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit will kick off Tuesday in East Lansing. The state's traffic safety community will learn what is being done to limit distracted driving crashes and how the legalization of recreational marijuana will impact drivers as part of the two-day summit...The summit is sponsored by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning and is largely supported with federal traffic safety funds. Read the article at wilx.com.

Mattawan Teen's Distracted Driving Campaign Earns Her State Honor (Michigan)
A teenager in Mattawan was honored for her work to raise awareness against the dangers of distracted driving. Brooke Hinz, a junior at Mattawan High School, received an award Wednesday, March 20, from the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission, the state's forum to address traffic safety challenges, according to a press release from the organization. Hinz, daughter of Michigan State Police Inspector Dale Hinz, helped lead a school campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving as part of the Strive for a Safer Drive initiative, the release said. Hinz's campaign, 'Every Distraction Limits Reaction' reached more than 1,200 students in her high school. She used posters, guest speakers and driving simulators to educate her classmates about the consequences of driving distracted, the release said. Read the article at mlive.com.
California Has Cheap Speeding Tickets, Study Finds. The Reality Is More Complex — and Costly

Does California have some of the lowest speeding tickets in the nation? That's the finding of a study from car insurance website GoCompare, which looked at the penalty in all 50 states for a first-time offense driving 13 mph above the speed limit. But, as is often the case, the reality is more complicated. At $35, California is the sixth best state in the nation to get busted with a lead foot, GoCompare found. Taking the top five are Oklahoma and Alabama (tied at $20), New Mexico ($30), Delaware ($33) and Idaho ($33.50). Read the article at sacbee.com.

Denver Drivers Urged to 'Slow the Funk Down' (Colorado)

Advocates for change and safer roads in Denver have turned to colorful and eye-catching lawn signs and a new mural urging drivers to 'Slow the Funk Down.' 'We heard from the community, and one of their biggest concerns around traffic safety is speeding of vehicles through neighborhoods,' said Jill Locantore of WalkDenver..."Part of the problem with traffic fatalities is that we've just become numb and used to them happening," said Locantore. 'So it takes a bit of a jolt to get people out of that rut an think about "wait a minute, this isn’t acceptable for people to be dying on our streets every week."" The Slow the Funk Down yard campaign is part of the City of Denver’s Vision Zero Program, which was established to eliminate traffic fatalities. Read the article at thedenverchannel.com.

Fourth DMV Location Can Now Serve Undocumented Immigrants (Colorado)

Illegal immigrants in Colorado are now able to get full-service appointments at another DMV location. First-time applicants can sign up to get identification cards and drivers licenses. Colorado Springs, Grand Junction and Lakewood already have in-person appointments. Now people can visit the DMV in Aurora for these services. The change is being made to accommodate higher demand. The documents created for this purpose are not valid as a federal identification, for voting purposes or for public benefits. Right now there is a bill moving through the Colorado General Assembly to require the Department of Revenue to issue identification documents, such as driver’s licenses, to people who are temporarily undocumented, at 10 or more offices throughout the state. Read the article at koaa.com.

Nevada Considers Technology to Scan Cellphones After Crashes

Most states ban texting behind the wheel, but a legislative proposal could make Nevada one of the first states to allow police to use a contentious technology to find out if a person was using a cellphone during a car crash. The measure is igniting privacy concerns and has led lawmakers to question the practicality of the technology, even while acknowledging the threat of distracted driving. The future of the Nevada proposal isn't clear. A similar measure introduced in 2017 failed in the New York Legislature, but lawmakers are considering it again. Read the article at kfdm.com.

NHTSA Wants Your Opinion on Driverless Cars With No Steering Wheels

U.S. regulators will ask the public if robotic cars should be allowed on streets without steering wheels or brake pedals as they try to set the first legal boundaries for their design in the world's second largest vehicle market. The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has delayed action for 15 months on General Motors'
request to deploy a limited number vehicles on U.S. roads without steering wheels or other human controls such as a brake pedal. In GM's petition, NHTSA will for the first time compare a vehicle in which all driving decisions are made by a computer versus a human driver. NHTSA called it 'an important case of first impression,' presenting 'novel and important issues.' Read the article at autoblog.com.

Safety Advocates Push Congress to Put Ignition Interlocks in All New Vehicles to Prevent Drunk Driving
The former head of a federal traffic safety agency on Thursday accused the auto industry of dragging out the implementation of a technology that could keep thousands of drunk drivers off the road. Joan Claybrook, a former administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, urged Congress to pass a law that would require automakers to include passive ignition-interlock systems in all new motor vehicles within as little as three years. She said the notion of using technology to effectively immobilize drunk drivers has been around at least since 2006 and has been in use for several years now. The systems should be incorporated into all new vehicles, along with seat belts, rearview cameras and other lifesaving devices, she said. Read the article at chicagotribune.com.

Here’s What Some Electric Vehicles Will Sound Like to Warn Pedestrians
The American rock band Linkin Park is helping Mercedes-AMG come up with just the right sound for its electric performance car. That's not a joke. At the Geneva Motor Show earlier this month, Mercedes executives said the music group would develop the sound the normally quiet battery-powered vehicles would make when driving to alert pedestrians. That's because electric vehicles are pretty much silent, and dangerously so, regulators say. Think about your cellphone or other electronic device — you don't hear much noise coming from it when it's on and running. Now think about your gas-powered car and all the vrooms, hissing, and revs it makes when the engine is on. An EV is more cellphone-like than you'd think. Read the article at mashable.com.

Study Shows It’s a ‘Reach’ That Makes Teen Drivers So Dangerous
Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and disabilities among drivers 15 to 20 years old. A new study reports that teens who reach for objects while driving, such as food or makeup, increase their risk of crashing nearly seven times. The National Institutes of Health study also found that teen drivers who manually dial, text or browse the web on a cellphone double their risk of getting into an accident. Researchers followed 82 newly licensed teen drivers in Virginia over a one-year period, equipping their vehicles with cameras and GPS technology to track the driver's activity and environments. After one year, 43 of the drivers had not experienced a crash, while 25 had one crash and 14 had two or more crashes. Read the article at noozhawk.com.

Volvo Will Use In-Car Cameras to Combat Drunk and Distracted Driving
Volvo said on Wednesday it will use cameras installed inside its vehicles to monitor driver behavior and intervene if the driver appears to be drunk or distracted. It's a risky move by an automaker, even one with a reputation for safety like Volvo, which could raise concerns among privacy advocates. Volvo's in-car cameras will monitor eye movements to gauge driver distraction and / or intoxication. If a driver looks away for a period of time, such as at a smartphone, or fails to keep their hands on the steering wheel, a representative from Volvo's on-call assistance centers will call them to check in. Drivers who aren't watching the road, or even have their eyes closed, will be warned as well. If they don't respond, the car will slow and even stop. The system will roll-out to all Volvo cars by early 2020. Read the article at theverge.com.
WA’s Road Safety Commission Launches Humorous New Motorcycle Safety Campaign
Research shows that the majority of motorcyclists don’t need to be told what to do and how to stay safe on the road because deep down they already know – they just don’t practice it. So rather than trying to tell them again, this campaign for the Road Safety Commission takes a less confrontational approach by using humour to get motorcyclists talking about their own safety. The three executions see a reputable motorcycle shop rigged with hidden cameras and stocked with a variety of ridiculous, fake safety products such as adult training wheels and an airbag fitted to the handle bars of a bike. The candid cameras captured real motorcyclists’ reactions – and started their own conversations about safety. Read the article at bandt.com.au.

**TWITTER NEWS**

@AAMVACConnection 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 @AAMVACConnection.

Check out recent @AAMVACConnection Twitter action.

***Thank you for the @AAMVACConnection mentions!***

**MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet**
Congratulations to Dr. Gina Pervall, Chief of our Medical Advisory Board, for being named one of @TheDailyRecord ‘s Top 100 Women! #WomensHistory #MDOTcares
FLHSMV @FLHSMV | View the Tweet
Can you identify the dignitary pictured with this 1940 #FHP patrol car? Troopers provided security escorts on her visits to FL. See more FHP history at FLHSMV’s Behind the Drive exhibit, on display at the Florida Historic Capitol Museum until 6/2! #BehindTheDrive #FlashbackFriday
NCDOT @NCDOT | View the Tweet
The #NCDOT is making it easier to get a #REALID with express days being held around the state.

Improvements are coming to regional airports.

Those stories and more on #NCDOTNow coming Friday.
TN Highway Patrol @TNHighwayPatrol | View the Tweet
1st MATCHUP

Left Lane Loiterers
-VS-
Not Obeying "Move Over Law"

Place your votes before the polls close at 4:00 p.m.!
(Cross-posted on our Facebook. Votes will be combined.)
#MarchMadness

☐ Left Lane Loiterers

☐ "Move Over Law"

Vote 167 votes • 4 hours left

Nevada DMV @NevadaDMV | View the Tweet
The DMV was honored to have Governor Sisolak tour DMV Headquarters today!

He also had time to tour the Nevada License Plate Factory, where they produced over 1.4 million plates last year!

Thank you again, @GovSisolak!