AAMVA’s 2021 Virtual Workshop & Law Institute Wraps Up

From March 16-18, AAMVA hosted the first Virtual Workshop & Law Institute. During the conference, members had the opportunity to network and attend sessions on hot topics, including NMVTIS, State-to-State, fraud, data privacy, mDL, driver licensing, e-titling, autonomous vehicles, DMV trends, impaired driving, and more. View photos of the event by visiting our Flickr page. Session recordings are available on the workshop site now (for registered attendees) by going to MY AAMVA, navigating to Manage My Events, then clicking Access the 2021 Virtual Workshop. Powerpoint slide decks and session recordings will also be available to all members on the AAMVA website soon.

If you attended the conference, please don't forget to provide feedback via this survey today. Thank you to our sponsors and exhibitors who made this event possible!

Jurisdiction Response to COVID-19

Click here to view consolidated information and see how motor vehicle administrations are handling driver licensing and vehicle registration. This document will be updated with the most current information on our homepage.

Motor Vehicle Industry Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Below is a selection of news articles regarding the effects of coronavirus on the motor vehicle community.

COVID-19 | NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE

- From Chips To Seating Foam To Plastics, Parts Shortages Continue To Cripple Auto Industry
- Truck Inspections Expected To Rebound in 2021 Following Significant COVID-Caused Sag

COVID-19 | REGION 1 NEWS COVERAGE
PennDOT Commercial Product Extensions To Expire March 31 (Pennsylvania)

COVID-19 | REGION 2 NEWS COVERAGE

- DDS Says: Pay Fines and Reinstate Driver's License Online/Mobile App (Georgia)
- What's the Deal With the Long Lines at the Express Greensboro DMV? (North Carolina)
- Vehicle Registration Waiver Ends April 14, TxDMV Urges People To Renew Before Then (Texas)

COVID-19 | REGION 3 NEWS COVERAGE

- 132k Minnesotans Have 1 Week To Renew Driver's License, ID Card

COVID-19 | REGION 4 NEWS COVERAGE

- Car Scams on the Rise During Pandemic (California)
- Rolling Toward Better Days at DMV (Idaho)
- Nevada DMV Catching up on Backlog Caused by Pandemic
- Oregon DMV Will Start Allowing Online License Renewals in May

Visit cdc.gov for more information on COVID-19, guidance, press releases, press kits, and more.

MILEAGE USER FEE? VEHICLE SALES TAX? PANEL BEGINS WORK ON FINDING NEW WAYS TO PAY FOR PA’S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS (Pennsylvania)

Work has begun on finding new ways to raise more money for road and bridge projects and allow Pennsylvania to phase out its gas tax. The Transportation Revenue Options Commission, or T-ROC as it is called, held its inaugural meeting on Thursday to launch its efforts to identify alternative funding sources. Read more at pennlive.com.

Podcast: USDOT’s Connected Vehicle Pilot in Florida, the New Phase – an Interview With Bob Frey (Florida)

Bob Frey is innovation director and CV project manager at Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) and has helped to oversee the USDOT’s Connected Vehicle Pilot Program in Florida since it began in 2014. In this exclusive interview, he is able to reveal more about the unique fourth stage of the project, involving automotive OEMs. Read more at traffictechnologytoday.com.

Walt Disney World Reveals Design of Florida Specialty License Plate

Fans of Walt Disney World can now take their love of the parks on the road. Disney on Tuesday unveiled the design of the new specialty license plate that Florida registered car-owners can pre-order. The plates celebrate Walt Disney
World’s 50th anniversary, which begins Oct. 1. Read more at clickorlando.com.

What To Expect as Driver's Licensing Services Transition To Regional Offices (Kentucky)
A Kentucky leader says the transition of driver's licensing services from circuit court clerks to regional offices will be beneficial for drivers. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet said by June 30, 2022, licensing services statewide will be performed at regional offices run by KYTC, instead of at the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk in every county. Read more at wpslocal6.com.

New Secretary of Public Safety Appointee Looks To Help Departments Work Together (Oklahoma)
Gov. Kevin Stitt earlier this week appointed Tricia Everest as Oklahoma’s new secretary of public safety, a position with wide-ranging authority and big challenges ahead. The secretary of public safety oversees 55 agencies, including the Department of Corrections, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Pardon and Parole Board and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Read more at koco.com.

SCDMV: Hearing Impaired Notation for Drivers (South Carolina)
South Carolinians who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, or who have people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing drive their vehicles, will be able to add special notations linked to their license plates. This notation will only be available to law enforcement in the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles’ (SCDMV) online database. Read more at abcnews4.com.

Gov. Abbott Appoints RGV Native and Two Others To Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (Texas)
Governor Greg Abbott announced the appointment of Brownsville resident Gilberto Salinas and Julio Gonzalez to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority, and Miguel “Mike” Rodriguez as Chair. These terms are set to expire on February 1, 2027. Read more at valleycentral.com.

WV DMV Warns Public of Text Message Phishing Scam (West Virginia)
The West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles is warning residents of a text message phishing scam that fraudulently poses as a message from the DMV. The DMV issued a release on Monday to warn its customers of the text message scam that is currently circulating. Read more at wboy.com.

Helping Hoosiers With Suspended Licenses Drive Again (Indiana)
More than a million Hoosiers have their driver’s license suspended. And about 80% of those cases are tied up in fees people can’t afford to pay. That’s why lawmakers are creating a program to help. House Bill 1199 gives the green
light to drivers who got caught in an unfortunate cycle after a minor infraction, like a traffic ticket. Read more at fox59.com.

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**Holcomb Announces Spring School Bus Safety Enforcement Campaign (Indiana)**

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb says police agencies across the state will be stepping up enforcement to protect students going to and from school. Over the next couple of months, officers will be positioned along bus stops and routes watching for stop-arm violations and unsafe driving behavior. Read more at wendu.com.

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**North Dakotans Are Urged To Switch To REAL IDs ASAP**

The North Dakota Department of Transportation is urging North Dakotans to schedule appointments for Real IDs sooner rather than later...Now, we are six months from the new deadline, and fewer than half of North Dakotans have switched to the Real ID. Read more at hot975fm.com.

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**REGION 4 NEWS**

**Public Pushback Puts Pause on DMV Proposal (Alaska)**

A proposal to close six Division of Motor Vehicles locations in rural Alaska was canceled after public outcry from citizen groups and lawmakers who say the closures would hurt seniors and rural communities. The House Finance Committee Administration Subcommittee voted to deny the budget action request that would close DMVs in Haines, Tok, Valdez, Eagle River, Homer and Delta Junction. Read more at juneauempire.com.

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**Report: California Needs To Better Track and Test Drugged Drivers (California)**

Nearly five years after California voters legalized cannabis, a new state report is recommending a series of changes to better track and test for drivers impaired by marijuana and other drugs. Those recommendations from the California Highway Patrol’s Impaired Driving Task Force are expected to trigger a series of new and revived bills in the state legislature over the coming months. Read more at ocregister.com.

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**Standing Watch: Record Boat Sales Make Headlines Again, Vessel Registration Down in 2020 (California)**

While the exact reason for vessel registration numbers being down in the state in 2020 compared to the year prior is unclear, possible reasons could include the fact that California vessels are registered in two-year cycles in odd years; more sales of used boats transferring with the existing slip; The existence of undocumented vessels on the water; or a completely different reason altogether. Read more at thelog.com.

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**OTHER NEWS**

**A (Virtual) Test Ride in a Waymo Long-Haul Truck**

Earlier today, around 10 a.m. in Phoenix, a baby blue Peterbilt truck pulled onto a westbound lane of Interstate 10 southeast of the city. At the wheel was...
an “autonomous specialist,” as Alphabet Inc.’s self-driving vehicle unit Waymo calls him, named Dave. A few seconds after merging onto the interstate, Dave released his grip on the wheel and let the truck begin driving itself. Read more at bloomberg.com.

Pay as You Drive: More States Explore Mileage Tax
Building and maintaining roads is always a thorny issue, when it comes to how to pay for it. The most common way is through gasoline taxes, which are unpopular and often diverted to non-transportation items...Now, some states are experimenting with another way of funding roads and transportation projects---a road-user fee, often called a vehicle miles-traveled or VMT tax. Read more at ktrh.iheart.com.

Hauls Act for AG Haulers Reintroduced in U.S. Senate
A bipartisan group of Senators reintroduced the Haulers of Agriculture and Livestock Safety Act, which would expand hours-of-service exemptions for ag haulers...A similar bill was introduced during the previous congressional session. Read more at landline.media.

Rise in ‘Nuclear Verdicts’ in Lawsuits Threatens Trucking Industry
This year should be smooth sailing for Mike Card, president of Combined Transport. The trucking company his dad started in 1980 is busier than ever — trying to meet the nation’s ravenous demand for delivered goods amid a pandemic. But with some 500 trucks on the road across the nation, Card is constantly thinking about highway safety because just one bad crash could put his company on the brink of bankruptcy. Read more at cnbc.com.

Startup ID.me Reaches $1.5 Billion Valuation for Its Identity Software Used by 22 U.S. States
When Californians log on remotely to update their address or change a registration with the local DMV, there’s a good chance they’re using a software tool called ID.me. According to CEO Blake Hall, 38% of the state’s adults have an ID.me account today—some of the million people the service is adding every two weeks. Read more at forbes.com.

Study: AAA Sounds the Alarm as Wrong-Way Crash Fatalities Rise
The number of Americans dying in wrong-way traffic accidents has been creeping up in recent years, totaling approximately 500 fatalities per year between 2015 and 2018, a new AAA study says. That’s a 34% increase compared to the average of the five years prior, the advocacy group warns, and a trend that it expects to continue if nothing is done about it. Read more at autoblog.com.

Study: That 'New Car' Smell Is Bad for Your Health
Commuters could be paying through the nose for that “new car smell” found in automobiles, according to a new study that found the intoxicating aroma raises the risk of cancer and birth defects to unacceptable levels. The study, published in Environment International, said the combination of two chemicals used during the manufacturing process — benzene and formaldehyde — are known to cause cancer beyond a certain level of exposure. Read more at...
Study: These States Had the Most Motor Vehicle Deaths in 2020
CoPilot analyzed preliminary data from the National Safety Council, released on March 4, 2020, to determine the 10 states with the most motor vehicle deaths in 2020. States are ranked according to the number of deaths per 100,000 people, and ties are broken by the state total number of motor vehicle deaths in 2020. Read more at newsweek.com

TWITTER NEWS
Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community on social media. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Here are a few highlights of last weeks’ activity.

Nutmeg State FCU @NutmegStateFCU | View the Tweet
We are proud to share that yesterday’s Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Event for our Norwalk Nutmeg State Financial Credit Union & DMV Express location was a success! Thank you to our Nutmeg team & friends from the DMV, Chamber of Commerce, and Governor’s Office for attending.

MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet
From Hagerstown to Salisbury, MDOT MVA employees statewide share their thoughts on our great state as we celebrate Maryland Day. #MDOTScenes
PA Department of Transportation @PennDOTNews | View the Tweet

Q: If my vehicle has a backup camera, is that OK to use on the skills test?

#TheMoreYouKnow #TeenDrivers #FAQFriday

FLHSMV @FLHSMV | View the Tweet

Yesterday, @FHP TAMPA, @SuncoastCU, @State_Troopers, & @BayCare announced a collaborative effort to provide and properly install car seats for parents in the Tampa Bay area.

We are excited for this great partnership that will help protect Florida’s most precious cargo!
SCDMV @SC_DMV | View the Tweet

Thank you for sharing! #TeamSCDMV

Trooper Bob 🚓 @TrooperBob_SC - Mar 23
A SHOUT-OUT to the employees at the Ladson DMV! I was in line and observed an employee who spoke to each person and made sure they had the correct paperwork, gave out clipboards, etc. Excellent customer service inside and out! Go online and make an appointment!
@SC_DMV
@shwedo

TxDOT @TxDOT | View the Tweet

What kind of driver are you? We’ve compiled a list of questions to tell us just that. Take the quiz to find out! #EndTheStreakTX http://ow.ly/PV5K50E9rLY
CA DMV @CA_DMV | View the Tweet

It’s been a LONG year since the #COVID19 pandemic first began. #CADMV has ADAPTED & remained RESILIENT through:
• New HEALTH & SAFETY protocols
• Expanded #DMV ONLINE services
• Expedited MODERNIZATION projects
& more to come!
Watch our VIDEO to learn more!

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