AAMVA Congratulates Mississippi on a Successful S2S Launch

AAMVA congratulates Mississippi on successfully implementing State-to-State Verification Service (S2S) during the weekend of April 6, 2019 and becoming the 24th 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 Utah and Kansas who assisted with Mississippi’s migration. Rhode Island is scheduled to begin using S2S on June 3, 2019. 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.

The Automated Vehicles Working Group Meets in Washington, DC

The Automated Vehicles Working Group met in Washington, DC last week to participate in several forums. The working group had a number of unique opportunities to advance their knowledge of vehicle technology and supporting public policy. The week began with a roundtable discussion focused on vehicle technology, with representatives from AAMVA, AASHTO, organizations that support state government agencies, and other roadway safety organizations. The working group then attended the Mobility Talks International Conference and discussed how several different countries are preparing for automated and autonomous vehicles. Working group Chair Bernard Soriano of the California DMV and AAMVA Board Member Christine Nizer of the Maryland MVA joined AAMVA President and CEO Anne Ferro in a panel discussion, The States: Laboratories of AV Innovation & Public Safety. Finally, the working group met to continue developing guidance for jurisdictions to help them prepare for the impacts of vehicles with Automated Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) and Automated Driving Systems (ADS). Click here to see photos from the event.

Committee Rejects Move to Eliminate Maine Motor Vehicle Inspections

The Legislature’s Transportation Committee on Thursday rejected a bill that would have done away with Maine’s requirement for a new motor vehicle inspection sticker each year. The committee voted unanimously against the legislation, which would have removed the mandatory safety inspection for all vehicles registered in Maine. The legislation was the culmination of five different proposals that would have curtailed or eliminated the program, which collects about $3.5 million a year in inspection fees for the state. Read the article at pressherald.com.

Maine Unveils New Driver’s License Design That Will Include Real ID Compliant Marking

Your driver’s license will be getting a makeover when it comes up for renewal. The Maine secretary of state’s office unveiled a new design for it on Monday that will also include a marking meant to signal compliance with a controversial federal law regulating state-issued identification. The new design will replace the moose-and-mountain design adopted in 2010 by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, which is overseen by the secretary of state’s office. Read the article at fiddleheadfocus.com.

Distracted Driving AD: 'Don't Be That Guy'

A TV spot urging people not to be ‘that guy’ is anchoring a new public awareness campaign designed to reduce distracted driving. The Baker administration
announced the campaign Thursday, saying research shows that changing attitudes about distracted driving is an effective way to change driver behavior. Citing highway safety experts, administration officials say driver inattention is behind a ‘steady increase’ in pedestrian and bicycle crashes over the past several years. Read the article at sentinelandenterprise.com.

Donate Life Month Raising Awareness About Organ Donation (New York)
National Donate Life Month focuses on encouraging people ‘to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors and to celebrate those that have saved lives through the gift of donation’, according to Donate Life America. On National Donate Life Blue & Green Day, the public is encouraged to wear blue and green Donate Life colors, hold events and partner with local restaurants, malls, media and community organizations to spread awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation...Registering to be an organ donor is a choice that every American has the right to make, and when donors register, a note is put on their drivers license or identification card. Read the article at hilltopmonitor.com.

Kid-Sized ‘Traffic Parks’ Are D.C.’s New Playgrounds With a Purpose (Washington, DC)
The playground at Neval Thomas Elementary in Northeast D.C. looks like a lot of schools. It has slides and monkey bars, but look at the asphalt around it, and you'll see a new paint job that’s fun and functional. It’s full of traffic markings like roundabouts, bike lanes, speed bumps, and crosswalks. Last month, school officials cut the ribbon on what they call a ‘traffic garden.’ The new addition to the playground mimics the complicated streets of the District. Read the article at wamu.org.

Here Are the Most Outrageous License Plates Submitted to the Florida DMV
When Adam Peterson’s white 1976 Toyota Supra was getting repainted, someone stole his personalized license plate. So he went to a branch of the Pasco Tax Collector to request another one. Weeks later, the 38-year-old Tampa man got a letter from the state. Even though he’d driven around with a plate that said ‘SNGLE AP’ for years, his request to replace it with the same message had been rejected. Peterson swears that the meaning isn’t what people probably think — he has a girlfriend. The plate was actually referring to his customized car. Read the article at tampabay.com.

Study: Georgia Cellphone Law Reduced Distracted Driving
A new analysis shows Georgia’s distracted driving law has changed the way some drivers use their phones behind the wheel. TrueMotion, a firm that collects and analyzes phone data for insurance companies, found Georgia drivers spent less time texting and using apps behind the wheel after the law took effect last July. The new law prohibits motorists from handling phones or other electronic devices while driving (you can read the details here). To examine its effectiveness, TrueMotion analyzed the behaviors of more than 21,000 Georgia drivers for seven months — three months before and four months after the law took effect. Read the article at ajc.com.

More Driver License Examiners to Go to Work in N Carolina (North Carolina)
North Carolina’s Division of Motor Vehicles is adding 14 new driver license examiner graduates to its ranks as it tries to improve customer service. DMV officials said in a news release that the graduates will join 11 offices starting Monday after graduating Friday. Officials say they’re hiring more examiners and using express lines to improve customer service. Representatives also help people in line to make sure they have the right documents. Read the article at newsobserver.com.

Virginia DMV Highway Safety Office Publishes 2018 Crash
Statistics
The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) Highway Safety Office is announcing 2018 crash statistics. The final numbers are now available for analysis in the DMV's state-of-the-art automated Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS), the commonwealth's central repository for crash data and related information. For the first time since 2014, the number of overall crash fatalities in the commonwealth decreased, with 819 fatalities reported, compared to 843 in 2017. Although a 4-percent decrease, the number is still far higher than 2014's record low number of crash fatalities (700). Read the article at nbc29.com.

DMV Hosts Real ID Information Session at Local Airport (Virginia)
The Virginia DMV is working to make sure everyone knows about the upcoming changes to the Virginia driver's license. Starting Oct. 1, 2020, people will need a REAL ID to board a domestic flight or enter secure federal facilities or military bases. Brandy Brubaker, Virginia DMV spokesperson, said most people will need a REAL ID to board flights, so that's part of the reason why they spent time at the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport on Thursday. Read the article at whsv.com.

Audit Determines County Driver's License Dept a Top Performer (Iowa)
A recent audit of the Jasper County Driver's License Department identified the agency as one of the most efficient and top performing of its kind in the state, prompting a site visit from the Iowa Department of Transportation to observe the team's methods in the coming weeks...The department, which is located inside the Jasper County Courthouse in Newton, is the third busiest non-state driver's license station in the state of Iowa, Bishop told the board. Only behind the counties of Dallas and Warren, the Jasper County Driver's License Department was reported to have issued 14,125 credentials in 2018 — up from approximately 11,000 the year before. Read the article at newtondailynews.com.

Minnesota House Passes Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Residents
The Minnesota House on Friday, April 5, voted to allow undocumented residents — people in Minnesota illegally — to get legal driver's licenses. The vote was largely along partisan lines, with all or nearly all Democrats present voting in favor and at least two Republicans joining them, while the lion's share of Republicans voted against. Supporters, who include a number of farm and business groups, as well as some law enforcement officials, say the move will allow people already living here to not only drive legally, but it will also improve public safety by ensuring they take driver's education and allowing such drivers to buy legally required insurance. Opponents said it incentivizes illegal immigration, and some argued such an encouragement is inhumane because illegal immigrants are subject to mistreatment. Read the article at duluthnewstribune.com.

MoDOT Uses New Tool in Fight Against Work Zone Construction Traffic Crashes (Missouri)
The Missouri Transportation Department is gearing up for its busy road construction season by rolling out a new safety tool. The automated flagger aims to protect its workers from potential traffic crashes in work zones. At a press conference Monday in Jefferson City, MoDOT officials say many of their workers have had close calls with oncoming traffic, many times as a result of distracted driving. MoDOT engineer David Silvester says the automated flagger device keeps the worker off the roadway and in the trucks. Read the article at missourinet.com.

Phoenix Police, AAA Share Tips, Tricks on What to Do in Potential Road Rage Situation (Arizona)
Have you ever been in a scary situation behind the wheel? On the heels of a 10-year-old girl losing her life in a road rage incident, we've gathered some tips for you if you're behind the wheel and you have an aggressor following you. Read the article at fox10phoenix.com.

Defensive Driving Program Teaches Teens How to Drive Safe (California)
The teen defensive driving program, Be Responsible and Keep Everyone Safe, or B.R.A.K.E.S, returns to Cal-State San Marcos this weekend. B.R.A.K.E.S, a non-profit organization, provides hands-on advanced driver training to teens and their parents. This organization was founded by racing champion Doug Herbert in honor of his two sons who lost their lives in a tragic car crash in 2008. Read the article at
Officials Kick off Annual Distracted Driving Awareness Month (Oregon)
Safety advocates gathered today to voice concern about a growing danger: driving while distracted. In Oregon over the past five years, 95 people died in crashes involving a distracted driver, and more than 18,400 were injured: and these are preventable crashes. These tragedies are occurring all over the country so ...for the first time ever – a nationwide enforcement campaign is taking place. For four hours, law enforcement officers across the country are conducting campaigns where they are on the lookout for distracted drivers, including all over Oregon. Read the article at govdelivery.com.

Utah Department of Transportation Hopes to Reduce Fatalities With New Technologies
This year, Utah was one of 10 states granted $3 million to help fund research and implications of advanced vehicle technology. Blaine Leonhard, the transportation technology engineer at the Utah Department of Transportation, is excited for this grant because it could help Utah lower reckless driving...With the $3 million, UDOT plans to implicate connective vehicle technology research into cars to help vehicles communicate with each other wirelessly. Read the article at upr.org.

Kicking off National Work Zone Awareness Week
According to Federal Highway Administration statistics, 799 motor vehicle drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians were killed in work zone crashes in 2017, which includes 132 highway workers. Reducing those fatalities is the purpose behind National Work Zone Awareness Week, which is being held April 8-12 this year. The FHWA, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Maryland Department of Transportation, and the District Department of Transportation – along with other government agencies and trade groups – are sponsoring this year’s work zone awareness campaign...State departments of transportation are also launching work zone safety campaigns of their own. Read the article at aashtojournal.org.

AAA Says Experience, Education Will Aid Consumer Acceptance of Autonomous Vehicles
More than two-thirds of Americans of driving age are afraid to ride in fully self-driving vehicles, according to information gathered by AAA Inc., reflecting a number of high-profile automated vehicle incidents in the past year...Experience seems to play a key role in impacting how drivers feel about automated vehicle technology. AAA said. Many cars on the road today are equipped with advanced driver assistance systems, which are considered the building blocks for fully self-driving vehicles. AAA’s survey revealed that regular interaction with ADAS components such as lane-keeping assistance, adaptive cruise control, automatic emergency braking and self-parking improves consumer comfort level ‘significantly.’ Read the article at rubbernews.com.

Distracted Driving up 10% Compared to 2018, Study Says
Does it seem like you're seeing increasing numbers of drivers paying more attention to their phones than the road? The data agrees, with a new study released Tuesday by driving behavior analytics company Zendrive reporting that drivers are 10% more distracted now than in 2018 -- in every city, in every state that Zendrive analyzed. The study is based on anonymized data from 1.8 million drivers covering a combined 4.5 billion miles on the road. The information was collected through Zendrive's phone software, which can monitor driver behavior and warn if a driver is engaging in too many risky activities on their phone. Worse still, the data showed that 'phone addicts' -- people Zendrive characterizes as using their phone more than 10% of the time while driving -- 'actively ignore the road' for about 28% of the time they're behind the wheel. Read the article at cnet.com.

Trailers of the Future Will Be Smarter, Lighter, More Aerodynamic
Dry van and refrigerated trailers will evolve over the next 10 years to become more connected, lighter, more durable and more aerodynamic than today’s equipment, executives at major trailer manufacturers said. These trailers of the future also will detect potential maintenance issues and transmit other important information about the status of the trailer by employing advanced data collection capabilities. 'The trailer is going to become a rolling database,' said Robert Lane, vice president of product engineering at Wabash National Corp. 'There will be more connectivity, more electronics and more data gathering on the trailer. All of this data will help fleets improve operations and be more efficient.' Read the article at ttnews.com.
Advanced Safety Technologies for Cars Come at a Price That Many Won't Pay
The investigations into the fatal Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines crashes have revealed troubling details about safety. For example, Boeing was charging extra for a safety feature - one that might’ve helped the pilots in those flights. Boeing says it will now make that feature standard. We wondered whether the same could be true of safety features in cars. Some new cars have features to avoid collisions or stay in a lane. Depending on the make and model, features like those could come standard or cost extra. David Friedman was acting administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and he’s now on the policy side of Consumer Reports. Read the article at npr.org.

IIHS Says Speed Limit Increases Responsible for 37,000 Deaths in 25 Years
A new study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) shows that rising speed limits over the past 25 years have cost nearly 37,000 lives, including more than 1,900 in 2017 alone. The research, an update of a 2016 analysis, calls attention to the trade-off between a few minutes of saved travel time and the increased risk of fatalities. It comes as IIHS and the Governors Highway Safety Association prepare to host a forum on the speed problem. Read the article at bodyshopbusiness.com.

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!***

CT DMV @CTDMV | View the Tweet
We are proud to support @DonateLifeCT and its visual arts contest! Thank you for inviting us to be there today. Congratulations to all the student winners from across our state. #NationalDonateLifeMonth #CTDMV #DonateLife

![Image of CT DMV event]

New Hampshire DMV @NH_DMV | View the Tweet
Stop by the Concord DMV 8-11 Friday to register as an organ donor. It’s free and takes 5 minutes. @GovernorChrisSununu, proclaimed April as Organ Donation Month at State House with DMV Director Elizabeth Bielecki, Donate Life New England, transplant recipients and families.

WVDOT @WVDOT | View the Tweet
Orange is our favorite color today! Check out all these people who wore orange for Go Orange Day to support Work Zone Safety for West Virginia workers! Remember: Slow down, stay off the phone and give our workers room to get our roads fixed. #WVDOT #WorkZoneSafety #Orange4Safety

Indiana BMV @INBMV | View the Tweet
April is National Donate Life Month! Today some of our Central Office employees got the opportunity to celebrate organ donation. Visit @INDonorNetwork for more information on how to donate life.
Wisconsin DOT @WisconsinDOT | View the Tweet
Secretary-Designee Craig Thompson met with WisDOT employees to stress the importance of safe driving in work zones. This is a fraction of the hard-working women and men fixing roads all over the state. When you see them, please slow down! #GoOrangeDay #DriveLikeYouWorkHere #NWZAW

Nevada DMV @NevadaDMV | View the Tweet
Washington State DOT @wsdot | View the Tweet
The driver was detained for suspected DUI. Another stark reminder to PLEASE be sober, alert and focused before getting behind the wheel, for EVERYONE’S safety. Road workers are counting on your help for them to get home safely.

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