AAMVA Mourns the Passing of Robert Rowland

AAMVA member, Bob Rowland, passed away on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at the age of 57. Bob worked for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s Registry of Motor Vehicles for 28 years. He is an alumni of AAMVA’s Leadership Academy, and served AAMVA in multiple capacities over the years, including as Massachusetts’s CDL coordinator. Bob also served on multiple working groups and committees, including the CDLIS Working Group, for which he was Vice Chair, and the Motor Carrier Working Group, for which he was Chair. He actively provided insights on an array of topics, including CDLs & Motor Carriers, REAL ID, and Autonomous Vehicles. A service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers or gifts, should you care to make a donation in Bob’s memory, please consider the American Diabetes Association. AAMVA will share additional arrangements when they are available. Bob is survived by his wife Donna, his children, Molly and Casey, and his siblings, Susan, Linda, Walter, and sister-in-law Julie. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, a great-niece, and a great-nephew.

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

COVID-19, a novel (new) coronavirus, was first detected in December of 2019. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it to be a global pandemic. By March 13, COVID-19 was declared a national emergency by President Donald Trump. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has since expanded on the national emergency declaration in the United States to provide HOS relief for commercial vehicle drivers transporting emergency aid.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has encouraged many preventative measures, but local and state government officials and public health departments, in consultation with federal officials, have been tasked with making decisions based on...
local conditions. Many states have issued stay at home orders. The federal government has taken additional actions to provide up to $2.3 trillion (H.R.748) in loans to support the economy, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was directed to delay the federal REAL ID deadline.

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

**COVID-19 | NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE**

- FTA Publishes Transit Workforce Protection Recommendations
- Federal Waiver Granted to Let 3rd Party Testers Administer CDL Knowledge Tests
- FMCSA Allowing Cameras to Replace People for CDL Road Tests
- FHWA Grants States Broad Emergency Truck Weight Permitting
- Federal Regulators Exempt Expired TWIC Cards Through July 31
- Responding To COVID-19: State DOTs Videos From the Frontlines
- Can COVID-19 Teach Us Something for the Road Safety Epidemic?
- Border Checkpoints Discourage Travelers Between States
- Coronavirus Has Dealerships Moving to Online Sales — and Car Buying May Never Be the Same
- Buying a New Car During Coronavirus Pandemic: What You Should Know
- Low U.S. Traffic Levels 'Unprecedented' Amid Coronavirus
- As Coronavirus Empties Streets, Speeders Hit the Gas
- China Launches Campaign to Improve Freeway Traffic Safety

**COVID-19 | REGION 1 NEWS COVERAGE**

- Dates Extended for Driver's License Renewals (Maryland)
- Coronavirus: Registry of Motor Vehicles Extends Expiring Licenses, Inspection Stickers, More for 60-120 Days (Massachusetts)
- DMV Open for Business Online, State Says (New Jersey)
- New York Streets Are Nearly Empty, but Speeding Tickets Have Doubled
- Motor Vehicle Thefts Rise in New York City Amid Measures to Stop Coronavirus
- DMV Rolls out Online License Renewal (Vermont)
- State Allows Expired Driver's Licenses When Buying Alcohol (Vermont)

**COVID-19 | REGION 2 NEWS COVERAGE**

- As Aggressive Driving Sees Uptick During COVID-19 Pandemic, Officials Will Crack Down (Florida)
- State Office of Motor Vehicles to Reopen Call Center to Handle Driver's License Reinstatements (Louisiana)
- Local Title Companies Offer OMV Services Over the Phone, Curbside (Louisiana)
- FAQ: Here’s How Coronavirus Has Affected Texas Driver's License Expiration Dates, Real ID Requirements and More
- Traffic Is Down, but Fatal Wrecks Continue on Texas Roads
- DMV Employee Dies, 6 Test Positive for COVID-19 (Virginia)
- DMV Turns Weigh Stations Into Rest Stops for Commercial Drivers (Virginia)
- West Virginia DMV Announces 90-Day Extension for Transactions Expiring in May

**COVID-19 | REGION 3 NEWS COVERAGE**

- Secretary of State Extending Driver's License Renewal (Illinois)
- Driver's License Expiration Dates Temporarily Extended During COVID-19 Crisis (Michigan)
- Fewer Dying in Michigan Traffic Crashes
- Michigan OK’s In-Person Driver’s License Renewals for Certain Essential
COVID-19 | REGION 4 NEWS COVERAGE

- Drivers License Tests Temporarily Suspended in Alberta
- COVID-19: Arizona MVD Says Go On-Line for Its Service
- DMV Announces Extension for All Expiring Driver’s Licenses (California)
- Los Angeles Traffic Lights Adjusted To Prevent Unsafe Speeds During Pandemic (California)
- Motor Vehicle Division Responds to Social Distancing Directives (Montana)
- You Can Still Get a Lot Done With MVD Online (New Mexico)
- Car Title Transfers Can Be Handled Online (Oregon)
- Driver’s Tests in Utah Put on Hold Until ’Unknown Date’
- Truckers Exempt From Utah Traveler Declaration Form
- Saskatoon Cycles Asks City for “Unusual Solution” to Open Roads for Active Transportation (Saskatchewan)

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

REGION 1 NEWS

Drivers Urged to Keep Eyes on the Road, Hands on the Wheel (New York)

Typically state and local police agencies, along with other law enforcement and public safety organizations, aim to draw attention to National Distracted Driving Awareness month each April. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has led the National Safety Council and these other agencies to postpone their observance of the month, they, along with AAA is calling for drivers to keep their eyes and attention on the road and hands on the wheel when driving. Even with a limited number of motorists out on the road due to the pandemic, every driver must be vigilant when operating a vehicle, AAA said, or they risk becoming of statistic in that dangerous, and often deadly, category. Read more at romesentinel.com.

Need a Tag Renewed? Go to Seminole County Drive-Through Tax Collector’s Office (Florida)

Two years ago, Seminole County Tax Collector Joel Greenberg converted an old bank building on State Road 434 to a drive-through tax collector’s office. Now, the drive-through location is providing a vital service to drivers across Central Florida, Greenberg said. “As far as I know we’re the only tax collector that’s open right now,”...The office is allowing drivers to renew registrations, change tags, obtain handicapped placards, surrender license plates and pay property taxes. Drivers licenses cannot be renewed and concealed weapons permits cannot be taken out because both require fingerprinting. Read more at clickorlando.com.

MDOT Discusses Highway Safety During Storm Recovery (Mississippi)

The Mississippi Department of Transportation is asking drivers to use caution on the roads after Sunday’s deadly storms. Many areas in the state are dark because there’s no power. There are also downed trees from the severe weather. Read more at wjtv.com.

Gov. Northam Signs Several Criminal Justice Reform Bills Into Law (Virginia)

Gov. Ralph Northam signed into law several criminal justice reform legislation, according to a news release. Some of the new laws include measures raising the felony larceny threshold; permanently eliminating driver's license suspensions for unpaid fines, fees, and court costs; raising the age of juvenile transfer to adult court; and reforming parole. Read more at 13newsnow.com.

Virginia Governor Signs New Bills to Expand Voting Access
Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam signed legislation that repeals voter ID laws, makes Election Day a state holiday and expands access to early voting. The six new bills expand access to voting across the state...Voter registration will also be automatic for people getting services at the Department of Motor Vehicle. Read more at nbcwashington.com.

Living Sustainably: Traffic Safety Awareness Needed by All (Michigan)
As people look for socially-distanced recreation close to home, the growing numbers of families and individuals out for walks or bike rides makes this a good time to review bicyclist and pedestrian traffic awareness. The safety of active transportation users depends on traffic awareness by everyone. Bicycle and pedestrian safety advocates often say that you should assume that drivers do not see you and take appropriate defensive actions. Read more at hollandsentinel.com.

Minnesota State Patrol Is Urging Drivers to Slow Down With New Traffic Signs
Even though there are far fewer people driving on Minnesota roads because of the stay at home order, the state patrol said the number of fatal crashes has doubled within the past few weeks, compared to last years numbers. While many of you can stay at home, that's not an option for law enforcement. Sgt. Troy Christianson said troopers are still out there patrolling just as much as they were before the pandemic started. "Nothings changed with the state patrol," explained Sgt. Christianson. "Our staffing has remained the same and we continue to enforce all traffic laws and respond to calls." Read more at kimt.com.

Minnesota Driver's Education Goes Online for Now
A few years ago, Pete Hosmer bought two cameras with the idea that someday he’d be able to use them to offer A+ Driving School’s classroom instruction for novice drivers online. The problem was state law didn’t allow for it. And he wasn’t sure if “having a talking head on a video screen” would go over well with parents. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the cameras came in handy. With the blessing of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS), driving schools like A+ can use teleconferences or other methods of video distance learning in a live setting to teach the next generation of drivers. Read more at startribune.com.

Dangerous Uptick in Speeding in Portland Area (Oregon)
Deputies in Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah counties say they've recently seen a serious increase in drivers blatantly disregarding the speed limit and putting others in danger. Washington County Sheriff's Office Deputy Mark Demmer pulled over a driver who was going 116 mph on I-5 near Highway 217 this week. The driver told the deputy he thought he was going 70 mph. That driver was cited $1,150 for going more than 100 mph and that's just one example of what the past week has
Harsher Distracted Driving Laws Seem to Be Working (Saskatchewan)
The Traffic Safety Spotlight was on distracted driving in February after the new distracted driving laws came into effect on February 1st. There were 562 tickets handed out for cellphone use and 85 for driving without due care and attention. The good news is that it is much lower than the average of approximately 900 a month when numbers were peaking in 2019. Read more at cjwwradio.com.

100 Banned Personalized License Plates
In October 2010, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission dispatched a letter to a resident who had received a personalized license plate that read 33MTA3. The letter informed the driver that the plate was issued in error and could not be granted due to the fact it violated Title 39, which stipulates that a vanity plate “offensive to good taste or decency in any language” is prohibited. If you’re wondering how 33MTA3 might be considered offensive, look at it in a mirror. Read more at mentalfloss.com.

Motorcycle Safety Foundation Offers Free Digital Learning Content
The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) doesn’t just want you to sit around on your backside while styling home. The organization has opened up free digital learning courses so that riders can become better and more knowledgable two-wheelers. “The MSF has a wide variety of digital content that can help motorcyclists while many training sites and RiderCoaches are unavailable during this pandemic,” said Robert Gladden, MSF vice president of training operations. “Many riders are still on the road, getting where they need to go, and we want them, and all motorists, to be as safe as possible.” Read more at webikeworld.com.

5 Shocking Motorcycle Accident Statistics
Driving a motorcycle, especially in very busy and packed cities, can be very dangerous. These types of crashes happen more often than we would like to admit and some of the reasons why may be surprising. Here we reveal five shocking statistics about motorcycle crashes that will hopefully make you more mindful next time you hop on your bike. Read more at legalreader.com.

Secure Technology Alliance to Host Lunch and Learn Webinar Series on Mobile Driver’s Licenses
Driver’s licenses are coming to mobile devices – a move that will greatly impact the way identities are securely verified across the U.S. The Secure Technology Alliance is hosting a webinar series to discuss mobile driver’s licenses (mDLs) and the impact they will have on identity verification as more states adopt the technology. Government and industry professionals will come away from this four-part webinar series with a better understanding of mDL capabilities, availability and trust ecosystems. The first webinar will provide an introduction into mDLs and will be held Thursday, April 30, 2020, at 1pm ET/10am PT. Read more at globenewswire.com.

Commentary: Real Trucking Factors in Autonomous Vehicle Development
I was fortunate to be afforded the opportunity to be an operational leader in an autonomous truck development company by the name of Starsky Robotics. Starsky was a Silicon Valley-based start-up with an extremely talented engineering team and clear path for technology advancement. Being a career trucking guy with an inside
track to emerging technology, many people were curious as to what we were actually trying to accomplish. I was frequently asked by trucking colleagues, “How well does it really work and how soon will self-driving trucks take over the trucking industry?” In fact, it’s not only a question asked by trucking executives, it’s a very hotly debated question in both technology and logistics circles alike. Read more at freightwaves.com.

**TWITTER NEWS**

@AAMVACoration 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 @AAMVACoration.

Check out recent @AAMVACoration Twitter action.

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

**Donate Life America @DonateLife | View the Tweet**

Today is National #DonateLife Blue & Green Day! Thank you for honoring donors & sharing gratitude for the gift of life in beautiful blue & green. You are the most incredible #DonateLife champions. Join the contest at http://wshe.es/XgUPwnAP! #BlueGreenDay #DonateLifeMonth

**MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet**

We are happy to partner with the @MDHealthDept to make COVID19 testing available for Marylanders by transforming some of our existing VEIP stations into drive-thru testing sites. For more information, please visit https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/FAQ_covid19_veip_testing.pdf.
Drivers breaking the new Massachusetts #DistractedDriving law were initially given warnings but as of April 1, they now face fines. Since the beginning of the month, 135 first-time violators have received a $100 fine:
https://bit.ly/3a8opLJ @MAHighwaySafety @BrookeCoupal

Proud to have our Edison Inspection Station serve as the site of the nation’s first fast-acting #COVID19 saliva test developed by @RutgersU @GovMurphy gave Rutgers a shout-out on the test, only available by appointment. @GovNJ @MiddlesexCntyNJ
SCDMV @SC_DMV | View the Tweet

We care about the well-being of our customers and employees. Sneeze guards have been added to all customer counters at our #SCDMV branches to help stop the spread of germs.

Indiana BMV @INBMV | View the Tweet

During this #COVID19 emergency, our branches remain closed to the general public, with exceptions only for essential commercial transactions. Commissioner Peter Lacy explains these exceptions and how you can still do transactions while under @GovHolcomb's stay-at-home order.
CA DMV @CA_DMV | View the Tweet

If you are INELIGIBLE to renew your vehicle registration online, try our *NEW* DMV Virtual Office. Upload your documents and a #DMV representative will contact you to complete your transaction. Visit: https://virtual.dmv.ca.gov/vehicle-registration-renewal/
#PhysicalDistancing #Covid19 #CADMV

Colorado State Patrol @CSP_News | View the Tweet

It doesn't quite work when a Motor Officer tries to work from home... We are still out working, along with other essential employees. Please limit your trips to those that are necessary and stay safe by obeying the speed limits. #DoingMyPartCO