AAMVA Testifies Before House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on School Bus Safety

AAMVA Board Member and Chief of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, Sue Fulton, and AAMVA President and CEO, Anne Ferro, testified before the United States House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Highways and Transit on the issue of school bus safety. After recent high profile crashes involving school buses, the Subcommittee expressed interest in evaluating the role of the federal government in further protecting school bus transport. The panel included additional experts from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the National School Transportation Association, and Teamsters Local 384. New Jersey provided testimony on their proactive efforts to ensure school bus safety, and AAMVA provided additional details on the national landscape of employer notification systems (ENS) and current medical certification requirements. For additional information, including submitted written testimony and a link to the archived hearing, click here.

Managing Data Privacy Working Group Surveys

AAMVA’s Managing Data Privacy Working Group needs your input to help jurisdictions implement best practices aimed at strengthening privacy, while addressing the operational data sharing responsibilities. To assist the Working Group, we request your agency's input with two surveys. One survey focuses on agreement with other organizations that request data, data governance and personnel. The second survey focuses on data requests and audit & accounting procedures. Please respond to these surveys by July 31. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Knittle. Thank you for your assistance.

Bill Would Toughen Commercial Driver Rules in Massachusetts

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker is filing legislation aimed at toughening regulations for commercial drivers...Under the bill, those applying for a commercial driver’s license would have to demonstrate a history of good driving and would be ineligible if they have been suspended or disqualified from driving at any time in the prior three years. Read more at boston.com.
PennDOT Seeking Feedback on Driver Safety in Online Survey (Pennsylvania)

PennDOT wants drivers’ opinions on traffic safety and their fellow motorists’ behavior in an online highway safety survey. The results of the survey, found at www.PennDOT.gov/Safety, will help the agency better understand drivers’ habits and their approach to safety. ‘Safety remains our top priority, and we are grateful for the public’s continued engagement in making our roadways safer,’ PennDOT Secretary Leslie Richards said in a statement released Tuesday. Read more at ellwoodcityledger.com.

FSU Police Win Traffic Safety Award (Florida)

The Florida State University Police Department has been recognized for its commitment to traffic and pedestrian safety. FSUPD placed first in traffic safety in the University Police Division of the 2019 Florida Law Enforcement Challenge, a Florida Department of Transportation program rewarding agencies that are leaders in traffic safety. The challenge supports the goal of encouraging increased statewide enforcement of traffic safety laws to reduce traffic crashes, serious injuries and fatalities. Read more at fsu.edu.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Granted REAL ID Extension

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has been granted another extension on compliance with the REAL ID Act. This will allow current state driver’s licenses to be used for air travel until October 2020. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has determined that the Commonwealth is fully compliant with the new ID regulations. This follows a pilot launch of new driver’s licenses, permits, and IDs in Franklin and Woodford counties. Read more at wkyufm.org.

Two Mississippi Men Plead Guilty in Odometer Fraud Scheme

Two Long Beach, Mississippi, men pleaded guilty...for their roles in a long-running odometer tampering scheme, the Department of Justice announced. Oscar M. Baine, 41, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to alter odometers and one count of odometer tampering. Jeffrey Lyn Savarese II, 35, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to alter odometers. Both defendants appeared in federal court in Gulfport before U.S. District Judge Louis Guirola Jr. The court set sentencing hearings for both defendants for Oct. 17. Read more at justice.gov.

State of Oklahoma Testing Digital Driver's Licenses

Oklahoma driver's licenses could be going digital in the near future. Right now, the state is testing out a new program that would put your I.D. on your phone. According to Oklahoma's Secretary of Digital Transformation and Information, the digital license would be more secure and help stop I.D. fraud and scams. This would also change how we interact with police. Read more at kswc.com.

Northam Speaks at Driver's License Reinstatement Event in Norfolk (Virginia)

More than 34,000 Virginians are back on the roads since a new law went into effect July 1 that lets people with unpaid fines and court costs have their licenses reinstated. Governor Ralph Northam attended a reinstatement event at Gethsemane Community Fellowship in Norfolk on Tuesday. State lawmakers voted that courts can no longer suspend people’s licenses over unpaid court costs and fines. Read more at wavy.com.
**Mayor Lori Lightfoot Announces Plan to Stop Suspending Driver’s Licenses for Parking Tickets (Illinois)**

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot proposed Tuesday an end to the city’s punitive practice of suspending driver’s licenses over unpaid parking tickets and said she would support legislation to change state law, moves that are likely to bring relief to tens of thousands of mostly black, low-income motorists and lead to a reduction in bankruptcy filings here. Read more at wbez.org.

**Study: More Fatal Crashes in State Involve Drugs (Indiana)**

A new study conducted by the Indiana University Public Policy Institute shows that more fatal vehicle crashes result from drug-impaired drivers than drunken drivers in Indiana. Among drivers killed in fatal collisions that had reported drug test results, 45% tested positive for one or more drugs compared to just 38.4% for alcohol-impaired drivers. Among drivers who survived fatal collisions that reported drug test results, 35.3% tested positive for one or more drugs compared to just 9.1% for alcohol-impaired drivers. Read more at duboiscountyherald.com.

**Professional Drag Racer Coming to Wichita to Teach Safe Teen Driving Course (Kansas)**

A professional drag racer is coming to Wichita this weekend to teach teens about safe driving. Doug Herbert’s two sons died in a car crash less than a mile from home in 2008. Herbert wanted to teach his sons’ friends about defensive driving. Eleven years later, he’s taught 40,000 teens and their parents in 44 states. Herbert says the course uses data about what causes teens to crash. He says the biggest cause in rural states is dropping a wheel off the side of the road, then over correcting. Read more at kwch.com.

**Driverless Shuttles Officially Launching in Grand Rapids This Week (Michigan)**

The city of Grand Rapids is taking a big step toward the future of transportation this week. The city will officially launch its driverless vehicle transportation system Friday, July 25, which will feature four autonomous shuttles with five passenger seats each. Dubbed the Grand Rapids Autonomous Vehicle Initiative, the system will take passengers along a downtown Grand Rapids bus route spanning from the east to the west side of the vicinity. Read more at mlive.com.

**Study: Drivers at Higher Risk in Hi-Tech Vehicles (Ohio)**

A recent online survey conducted by State Farm Insurance has shown that Americans who drive vehicles with advanced driver assist features use their smart phones at higher rates than those without the latest tech, and Hillsboro State Farm agent Amatha Farrens told The Times-Gazette she feels the new driver-assisted technology is giving drivers a false sense of security behind the wheel. Read more at timesgazette.com.

**Ohio Extends Program to Help Low-Income Drivers Get Licenses Back, Some Lawmakers Seek to Make It Permanent**

A program that is helping low-income Ohioans get their drivers’ licenses back post-suspension has been extended until the end of 2019, and some lawmakers are seeking to make the program permanent. The Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative is a bipartisan plan that waives or reduces license reinstatement fees for eligible drivers...’The main reasons [drivers owe money to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles] are outstanding reinstatement fees resulting from a suspension; the main one we see is related to non-compliance fees,’ Lindsey Bohrer, the assistant director
of communications for the Ohio Department of Public Safety, told The Center
Square via email. Read more at thecentersquare.com.

REGION 4 NEWS

California DMV Hires New Director, Outlines Technology Roadmap
The 'strike team' California Gov. Gavin Newsom tasked with investigating problems at the state's Department of Motor Vehicles has reported back..."We're not going big here," Newsom said. "We are looking to modernize, but at the same time do it in a very systematic and sequential way... And we found a new director of the DMV..."
The new director is Steve Gordon, a private-industry IT veteran who spent 18 years with Cisco Systems. Read more at statescoop.com.

Advocates Call for Traffic Safety State of Emergency After Recent San Francisco Pedestrian Deaths (California)
Advocates are calling for San Francisco city leaders to declare a state of emergency on traffic safety, following the deaths of two pedestrians on city streets in the past week. Walk San Francisco, along with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and Supervisor Matt Haney, are expected to rally in front of City Hall Tuesday morning, less than two days after the driver of a Tesla hit two tourists at the intersection of Taylor and O'Farrell streets....Sunday's death was the 14th fatality this year involving a pedestrian or a cyclist, according to Walk SF. Read more at sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com.

How Legal Weed Companies Are Starting to Address Driving While High (California)
A new survey found that most people think driving while high is totally fine. The industry is starting to try to make sure people know it's not—before it becomes a bigger problem that invites more regulation. In early July, the state of California signed into law legislation granting the California Highway Patrol the right to study the effects of cannabis on driving behavior...Because the drug is federally controlled, however, testing to determine how high is too high (or even how to spot that) has been severely limited. Read more at fastcompany.com.

Driving While High: A New Study Wants to Show the Effects of Marijuana Impairment on Driving (Colorado)
Across the country, more states are legalizing marijuana. Now, more people are opening up about getting high and getting behind the wheel...Now, a team of medical professionals is studying the dangers of smoking and driving. 'There's been increasing concern about the potential of public health impacts of people using cannabis while they drive or shortly after,' said Dr. Michael Kosnett of the University of Colorado Denver. Kosnett is teaming up with Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Safety on a study about the effects of cannabis while operating a motor vehicle. Read more at kgun9.com.

Safety Top Priority at DMV's Biennial CDL Training Seminar in Westminster (Colorado)
Safe roads and drivers were center stage at the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles' biennial Commercial Driver License (CDL) Training seminar May 7-8 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Westminster. About 60 third-party CDL testers from throughout Colorado attended the two-day event, which was hosted by the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles Driver Testing and Education CDL Compliance Unit. The seminar focused on safety, providing third-party CDL testers updates on federal and state standards and yet-to-be-implemented changes that affect the licensing process. The updates included topics such as transitioning from paper score forms to tablet
testing while administering CDL skills exams. Read more at colorado.gov.

Nevada DMV Honored for Oct. 1 Shooting Response, Fraud Detection
Following the Route 91 Harvest festival massacre that left 58 dead and over 800 injured, many of the over 22,000 concertgoers left their personal belongings behind, including their driver’s licenses and identification cards, as they fled the dangerous scene. To help those survivors carry out a myriad of tasks, including catching their flights home, use their credit cards and drive, the DMV sent staffers to the family relief center set up inside of the Las Vegas Convention Center to assist with those who needed an ID at no cost to them. Read more at reviewjournal.com.

Bartenders, Reporters and Sales Reps Rank Among Worst Drivers, Study Says
Bartenders, ticket sales representatives and journalists are among the nation’s worst drivers, while postmasters and music composers are among the best, according to an insurance industry study. The study of 1.6 million car insurance applications by Insurify, an auto insurance comparison website, looked at what professions were the most likely to have had moving violations, such as speeding, driving under the influence or driving with suspended licenses. The database of insurance applications includes personal information such as driving history and job. Read more at pilotonline.com.

Breaking Your Car’s Windows in an Emergency Might Be Tougher Than You Think, Study Says
AAA found that more and more cars are being equipped with laminated side windows that are almost impossible to break through...For its study, AAA tested six different emergency tools, three of which were hammer-types and three being spring-loaded. Only four of the six tools were able to break the tempered glass, and none were able to break the laminated glass. Read more at cnet.com.

Equifax Ordered to Find Alternatives to Social Security Numbers to Verify Identity — Your Face and Heartbeat Could Be Next
Equifax’s data-breach settlement will pay out at least $650 million in restitution to consumers and government fines, but it could also help usher in a new era in identity verification — one that doesn’t include Social Security numbers...One security feature that could replace the Social Security number in identifying individuals is 'Voice ID.' ...Other potential identification methods include your phone or laptop’s IP addresses and even a blockchain-created digital ID. Banks and other financial institutions could also look to the Department of Motor Vehicles for better methods of identity verification...Read more at marketwatch.com.

Flashing Your Headlights? You’re Probably Sending the Wrong Signals
You’re driving on a winding, rural highway at night time and a automotive within the reverse lane has its excessive beams on. Do you: A. Flash your headlights to alert the motive force? B. Momentarily look down and to the appropriate on the white line on the highway to keep away from being blinded? C. Turn in your excessive beams? ...Laws about utilizing headlights to speak — in the event that they exist in any respect — can range from state to state, mentioned Brett Robinson, the manager director of the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association in Indiana, Pa. As for a way a few of these practices grew to become a part of driving folklore, it’s a case of ‘your father did it, and his father did it,’ he mentioned. Read more at
Here Are the Deadliest Highways in Every State

Geotab took data from 2008-2017 from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and then adjusted for the average daily traffic counts provided by the Federal Highway Administration to arrive at their numbers. Florida took home the top spot for most crashes, most fatalities, and highest fatal crash rate. Read more at kjzz.com.

Lyft Makes Self-Driving Research Public to Speed Development

Billing it as the largest such trove of data made available to researchers and rivals, Lyft said Tuesday the initiative includes more than 55,000 three-dimensional frames gleaned from cameras, lidar and radar installed on its research fleet. It also includes data from highly detailed maps created by Lyft’s test vehicles, which have been gathering data for nearly two years. 'One way to help accelerate innovation in this space is to have broader collaboration not just with industry, but with academia,' Luc Vincent, executive vice president of Lyft’s autonomous driving unit, said in an interview. 'We don’t care about doing everything in secrecy; we care about accelerating the whole industry.' Read more at detroitnews.com.

NHTSA Launches Grant Program to Combat Drug-Impaired Driving

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the International Association of Chiefs of Police launched a new $2.3 million grant program on July 15 to fund Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement and Drug Recognition Expert training to state and local law enforcement, judges, and prosecutors. Training courses are expected to begin later this year, the agency added. 'These programs are effective tools to help law enforcement remove drug-impaired drivers from our roads,' NHTSA Deputy Administrator Heidi King said in a statement. Read more at aashtojournal.org.

Older Drivers Are More Likely to Be Distracted by Tech While Driving, AAA Report Says

Older drivers are more likely to be distracted while driving when using in-vehicle technology than their younger counterparts, according to a report released Thursday by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety and the University of Utah. When performing simple tasks like programming navigation or tuning the radio, drivers between 55 to 75 took their eyes off the road an average of eight seconds longer than those age 21 to 36, the study showed. Read more at usatoday.com.

When You Spot 1 Driving Hazard, You May Be Missing Another

When people notice one traffic hazard, they are less likely to see a simultaneous second hazard, according to new research from North Carolina State University. The finding has potential applications for both driver training and the development of automated, in-vehicle safety technologies. 'This is a phenomenon called a subsequent search miss (SSM), which was first described in the context of doctors evaluating medical images -- their ability to spot a problem was hindered if they had already found another problem in the same image,' says Jing Feng, corresponding author of a paper on the research and an associate professor of psychology at NC State. Read more at sciencedaily.com.

Why Motorcycle Riders Shun High-Visibility Clothing

Motorcycle riders are greatly overrepresented in U.S. traffic deaths, with more than 5,000 killed each year. The Governors Highway Safety Association says frequently, when cars and motorcycles are involved in a crash, the drivers of the car said they
didn't even see the motorcycle. The safety group says wearing high-visibility clothing could help to prevent some of those kinds of crashes – but its new study finds many reasons why motorcycle riders don't. Read more at michiganradio.org.

**TWITTER NEWS**

@AAMVACo 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 @AAMVACo.

Check out recent @AAMVACo Twitter action.

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

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**MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet**

Today we celebrated our dedicated and hard-working staff at MDOT HQ for our Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony. Thanks for all you do! #MDOTCares

For more pics visit: http://bit.ly/2Yd3FI0

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**VermontDMV @VTDMV | View the Tweet**

95,000 motorists ran school bus stop arms in one day. Again for the people in the back, 95,000 motorists ran school bus stop arms in one day.

http://ow.ly/xLPp50vcAen
Yep, school’s right around the corner!

Stay alert for school buses making stops and school zones to help keep kids safe.

Got a sober ride? Whether you’re enjoying #tequila on a tropical beach (we’re jealous) or at your local bar, find a sober ride before celebrating #NationalTequilaDay. #ArriveAlive
We join @Faces4 @ILPoliceChiefs @IDOT_Illinois @ILStatePolice @ILTruckCops @ihscdea @AAAChicago to support Illinois Speed Awareness Day. Speeding accounts for 1/3 of nearly 1,100 fatal vehicle crashes in IL. Watch the news conference live at 10a on our FB feed (@ILTollway).
OH Bureau Motor Vehicle @Ohio_BMV | View the Tweet
This morning senior staff members toured our display at the @OhioStateFair! BMV Registrar Norman even got his photo taken as Miles! #ohiofindithere #ohiostatefair

SD Highway Patrol @SDHighwayPatrol | View the Tweet
Even our four legged friend knows the importance of a seatbelt. The owner buckled the seatbelt so the alarm won’t sound and said this guy climbs in behind the strap when he gets in. #keepSDsafe #buckleup
CA DMV @CA_DMV | View the Tweet

Video: Employees at the Sacramento field office take part in a role playing exercise during this morning’s training. Reminder: All DMV offices open at 1 pm today! Visit http://dmv.ca.gov for online services #operationexcellence #dmvtraining
CSP Public Affairs @CSP_News | View the Tweet

We know it's hot out and you may want to beat the heat but that doesn't make the speed limit the same as the temperature outside! Slow down and chill out with the AC in your car!