Annual International Conference Wraps Up

AAMVA's 2019 Annual International Conference (AIC) took place last week in Omaha, Nebraska. Special thanks to outgoing Chair of the Board Rhonda Lahm for hosting this unique networking and educational event; she has this special message to share: “AAMVA Community: It was an honor to host all of you in Omaha last week for the Annual International Conference. Thank you to all of the attendees, presenters, facilitators, sponsors, exhibitors, and staff who made the event successful. We hope you had a chance to enjoy our beautiful city and state. It was an honor to serve as your Chair. Thanks again and remember every day is a great day at the DMV!”

This year's AIC showcased the latest trends in the motor vehicle and law enforcement community and provided a forum for chief administrators to learn and grow from fellow colleagues. You can view photos from AIC, watch the Wrap-Up video, and download presentations from the AIC Downloads Center (available for AAMVA members only). Hope to see you next year at the 2020 Annual International Conference in Austin, Texas!

TPA and MDPEA Working Groups Meet in Bonita Springs, FL

The Third Party Agents (TPA) working group and the Managing Data Privacy and External Access (MDPEA) working group both held an in-person meeting in Bonita Springs, FL on August 6 and 7, 2019. Each group met individually to discuss the tasks assigned to them, and continued drafting respective best practice documents. In addition to the individual meetings, the working groups also met with industry stakeholders for a rich roundtable conversation.

The TPA working group has been researching and drafting a document to provide guidance on administering and auditing third parties and vendors who process on behalf of jurisdiction agencies. The working group intends to draft a best practice document addressing standard performance expectations and the language that should be included in contracts or memorandums of understandings (MOU) including data protection. They also intend to put auditing processes in place when using a third party agent. Third Party Commercial Driver License (CDL) transactions are out of scope for this working group.

The MDPEA working group has been researching and drafting a best practice for jurisdictions to provide guidance to protect driver and vehicle records with data...
Both working groups plan to hold their next face-to-face meeting in January 2020.

**REGION 1 NEWS**

Gov. Hogan to Take Part in Transportation Summit With 3 Other State Governors (Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, Rhode Island)

The governors of Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island and New Hampshire are planning to meet to discuss transportation issues. Republican Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker is hosting the National Governors Association infrastructure summit in Boston on Monday and Tuesday. It's the first of four summits pushed by the organization's chairman, Republican Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, to help explore ways to improve Americans' quality of life with a well-functioning infrastructure. Read more at baltimore.cbslocal.com.

Governor Says ‘PB4WEGO’ License Plate Won’t Be Recalled After All (New Hampshire)

A vanity license plate that has gone viral across the world will be allowed to remain on a Rochester woman’s vehicle, according to the governor. Wendy Auger has had the “PB4WEGO” vanity license plate for 15 years. The New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles recently recalled her plate, which violates a rule that prohibits plates from including language that describes “excretory acts or functions.” Read more at wmur.com.

Governor Cuomo Launches Statewide Survey Allowing New Yorkers to Choose State’s New License Plate Design

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo...launched a statewide survey to select New York State's new license plate design. The voting - which opened...on the Governor's website - runs through Monday, September 2nd and will allow New Yorkers to choose their favorite among the five proposed designs...Beginning April 2020, through the plate replacement program, as customers renew their vehicle registrations over the next two years, those with license plates that are 10-years-old or older will be issued new plates. The current $25 license plate replacement fee will be added to the cost of the vehicle owner's registration renewal. Customers may also keep their current license plate number for an additional $20 fee. Read more at governor.ny.gov.

Annual “School’s Open—Drive Carefully” Campaign Kicks Off (New York)

Speaking in front of a school bus on loan from the Williamsville Central School District, local and state law enforcement representatives and Erie County Clerk Michael Kearns joined AAA Western & Central New York to launch the 74th "School’s Open—Drive Carefully" effort...Despite the longstanding campaign and its ubiquitous yellow signage, New York State Police Trooper and Public Information
Office James O’Callaghan said there are still 150,000 incidents of drivers purposefully passing school buses when the flashing lights are on over the course of a typical school year. Read more at news.wbfo.org.

**As School Starts, Social Media Becomes the Catalyst to Promote Bus Safety (Pennsylvania)**

“School’s open. Watch for school buses.” Those were the words of Bethlehem police Chief Mark DiLuzio posted to the department’s Facebook page last week as kids around the Lehigh Valley began their first day of classes...The Pennsylvania State Police, PennDOT, and Northampton County Emergency Management Services also took the time to offer tips for drivers, pedestrians and bus riders. The social media blitz comes as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration highlighted alarming statistics on the number of children killed when approaching or leaving a bus.

Read more at mcall.com.

**The Secret Way Some Got a Gender-Neutral PA. Driver’s License (Pennsylvania)**

Last month, PennDOT announced that it would roll out a plan to let Pennsylvanians have a gender-neutral marker — an “X” instead of an “M” or an “F” — on their driver’s licenses, starting in 2020...Eppchez Yes (who prefers the pronouns ey/em/eir in writing) was able to get a driver’s license with a “U” on it in January 2017...Yes decided to try to get the marker based entirely on a rumor.

Read more at whyy.org.

**Multi-State Initiative Looks to Crack Down on DUIs (Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina)**

Law enforcement is wrapping up their anti-DUI campaign with Hands Across the Border, a multi-state initiative where local and state agencies across three states will be cracking down on drunk drivers. According to the Department of Highway Safety, in 2016, 1,554 people died in Georgia from impaired drivers. Last year, nearly 22,000 DUI arrests were made in South Carolina. Law enforcement is working to hold these people accountable with the Hands Across the Border campaign.

Read more at wrdw.com.

**Autonomous Vehicle Company Waymo to Test in Florida Rain**

Google autonomous vehicle spinoff Waymo says it will start testing on public roads in Florida to better experience heavy rain. The Mountain View, California, company says tests will begin this month in the Miami area and include highway driving to Orlando, Tampa and Fort Myers. The Florida test vehicles will be driven by humans. They’ll collect data with laser and radar sensors. Heavy rain can affect image quality.

Read more at providencejournal.com.

**Study Shows North Carolina Drivers Work Over Two Weeks Each Year to Pay for Gas**

GasBuddy predicts a national average of $2.55 per gallon, down nearly 30 cents from last year and the lowest priced Labor Day since 2016. Meanwhile, a new GasBuddy study on how many hours drivers need to work to pay their annual gasoline expenses found that North Carolina drivers had to work 88.1 hours per year to pay that bill. However, Nevada drivers had to work nearly 108 hours per year, the highest, while those in Massachusetts worked just 67 hours per year to pay their yearly gasoline bill, the lowest.

Read more at wcii12.com.

**Lost Your License? You May Be Able to Get It Back:**
**Texas' Driver Responsibility Program Ends Sept. 1**

After years of failed attempts to eliminate it, the Driver Responsibility Program will end on Sept. 1. A measure signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in June, House Bill 2048, shuts the 16-year-old program that left more than 1 million people unable to keep or renew their driver's licenses...Texans had their licenses suspended if they didn't pay or enter into a payment plan within a certain number of days. For many drivers, those surcharges grew to thousands of dollars on years-old tickets and left them without a license for, at times, more than a decade. Read more at kvia.com.

**Gov. Northam: Program Increases Chances to Access Commercial Driver's License (Virginia)**

Governor Ralph Northam on Tuesday announced the FastForward CDL Passway Program to increase opportunities for Virginians to access commercial driver credentialing services. The program is in partnership with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Virginia Community College System...Community college students looking to get a CDL will be able to complete the entire credentialing process at a designated Virginia community college without having to visit a DMV office. Participating colleges are being certified by the DMV to administer third-party testing. Read more at 13newsnow.com.

**Students Skip the Line at DMV, Take Permit Test at High School (Virginia)**

Leaders with Virginia Beach City Public Schools said they are trying out a program that allows students to skip the line at the DMV when it's time to get their permit. It's called Secure-A-Test Program, and it's already available in Norfolk and Chesapeake...On Tuesday, the Department of Motor Vehicles video production crew shot a promotional video about students taking their learner's permit at school, without stopping at the DMV. Read more at 13newsnow.com.

**BMV to Conduct ID Saturdays for Residents Without Passports or Driver's Licenses (Virgin Islands)**

During the months of August and September, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) in each district will conduct special operating hours on limited Saturdays, according to a press release issued Friday by Director Barbara Jackson-McIntosh. The BMV will conduct ID Saturdays to issue only new IDs to qualified residents who do not have a driver's license or U.S. Passport. Jackson-McIntosh said, "The ID Saturdays goal is to aid members of the community to obtain an ID. As we are in the midst of the hurricane season, it is critical that community members are prepared in case of a disaster." Read more at stjohnsource.com.

**New Law Allows Illinois Drivers to Choose Gender-Neutral Option on Licenses (Illinois)**

A new Illinois law will soon allow drivers to choose a gender-neutral option to put on their driver's license or ID cards. The law was proposed by Elgin Democrat State Senator Cristina castro. The law will allow drivers to choose between "male," "female" or "non-binary" when defining their sex on their driver's license or ID card. Read more at foxillinois.com.

**New Blackout License Plates Available for Exchange Starting Sept. 3 (Iowa)**

Starting Sept. 3, drivers in Iowa can pick up the new blackout license plates at county treasurers' offices in exchange for old ones. Due to popularity, the Iowa Department of Transportation said it sent supplies of the new plates to local treasurers' offices in order to save time. The new plates feature an all-black design...
AAMVA's Regional News for August 30, 2019

Michigan Program Trains Motorists About Motorcycles
There are many programs out there to train motorcyclists. The prime concept of these types of courses is to train motorcyclist to ride safely and defensively. And now, the state of Michigan is taking training one step further. It has mounted a campaign to train motorists to see motorcycles. The goal of the program is to help motorists how best to prevent crashes with motorcycles. The program includes telling drivers where and when to be more attentive while operating an automobile. Read more at advrider.com.

Driver’s License, Vehicle Registration Fees Increase (Missouri)
New vehicle inspection laws and license fees went into effect Wednesday across Missouri. Senate Bill 89 exempts vehicles up to 10 years old from biennial safety inspections as long as they have fewer than 150,000 miles. The other law going into effect is an increase in processing fees at rural private license offices...Department of Revenue officials say it's been 20 years since Missouri last increased processing fees for driver licenses and vehicle registration. According to the Missouri Department of Revenue, House Bill 499 also requires the Department to revoke an individual's driving privilege upon notification from law enforcement that the driver was involved in an accident in which their vehicle struck a highway or emergency worker in a construction or emergency zone. Read more at abc17news.com.

Review of Facial Recognition Database Finds No Evidence of Misuse (Ohio)
The state database containing photos from Ohio driver’s licenses and law enforcement sources has not been used by federal, state or local law enforcement to conduct mass surveillance, broad dragnets, political targeting or other illegitimate uses, a review by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost's office has concluded. But given concerns about the technology, Yost announced that he will appoint a panel to advise him on how to maintain Ohio’s facial-recognition system as an effective tool for law enforcement while protecting privacy and civil liberties. Read more at highlandcountypress.com.

Now You Don't Have to Lie About Your Weight on Your Driver's License (Ohio)
If you look up "driver's license" and "weight" online, the results will come in waves. Reddit threads abound. There are jokes about "finally getting down to the weight on my driver's license." Colloquially, it is said that Americans underreport how much we weigh, but we overreport how tall we are. Meanwhile, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, or AAMVA, finally called the question. Officially, it said the changes on license design are meant to "update and create realistic and durable standards employed by AAMVA jurisdictions, to enhance the interoperability of DMV and traffic data records, and to provide a voice for the AAMVA community in standards efforts with other organizations." But I know the real reason. They are accommodating the liars. Accurate data is important. Read more at cincinnati.com.

Trucker Blamed in Crash Lacked Proper License (Wisconsin)
Milwaukee County authorities say a truck driver caused a crash that injured three people on Interstate 894 just hours after a state inspector pulled him out of service. The sheriff's office says in a statement that he was driving a full-size semi that rear-ended two cars that had slowed down due to congestion Friday afternoon near Greenfield. Read more at startribune.com.

DOT: 9 out of 10 Wisconsin Drivers Now Wear a Seat Belt
Nine out of 10 Wisconsin drivers are now wearing a seat belt according to the Department of Transportation. When the state’s first seat belt law went into effect in 1987, the DOT said only 26% of drivers were buckling up. In 2009, seat belt use became a primary law, meaning you could be pulled over for not buckling up. Read more at wqow.com.

California DMV Employee Gets Nearly 2 Years in Federal Prison for Bribery, Fraud
A former California Department of Motor Vehicles employee will serve nearly two years in federal prison for taking money in exchange for altering DMV database records...Gilliam worked at the Hollywood DMV for more than a decade. Between April 2016 and July 2017, he would take money in exchange for altering DMV records to reflect that individuals received a passing score on written examinations, despite those individuals either failing or not taking those tests. A federal investigation found Gilliam responsible for at least 57 fraudulent licenses and permits being issued, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Read more at sacbee.com.

New Temporary License Plates Stopping Bridge Toll Cheaters (California)
Fewer drivers are cheating their way out of bridge tolls, and the Bay Area Toll Authority says it's all thanks to new temporary plates on the backs of new cars...For the past decade, the toll authority struggled to catch drivers who skip paying tolls because new cars had dealer plates instead of license plate numbers...Now, interim paper plates have numbers printed on them. The DMV is still working out a few bugs, like making the fonts consistent so cameras at toll booths can read them better. Read more at abc7news.com.

New Signs Draw Attention to Pedestrians as Part of Denver’s ‘Vision Zero’ Campaign (Colorado)
Drivers will notice new signs on Denver streets and that’s the idea: to draw attention to pedestrians. It's part of the “Vision Zero” campaign to reduce traffic-related deaths. Crews were installing pedestrian signs on crosswalks that do not have traffic signals on Friday. So far this year, 15 pedestrians have been killed on Denver city streets. Read more at denver.cbslocal.com.

Bozeman Man Creates License Plate Art for 40 Shops in Five States (Montana)
“I swore I wasn't going to become a license plate nerd but I did,” Mike Haugh said. His eyes disappeared into a smile that raised his narrow red beard just above his shirt’s breast pocket. Haugh has been in the business of license plates since 2016. He buys, sells, trades and crafts. He puzzles pieces of plates into signs that spell out a place or take the shape a buyer requests. His work sells in 40 shops in five states. Read more at bozemandailychronicle.com.

Nevada Motorists Soon Required to Submit Odometer Readings to DMV
Nevada motorists will be required to submit odometer readings to the Department of Motor Vehicles beginning October 1, 2019, under a pilot project intended to help lawmakers make future decisions on highway funding. Assembly Bill 483 (AB 483), passed in the 2019 session, directs the DMV to gather an odometer reading at the time of any original registration, registration renewal or vehicle sale. Read more at news3lv.com.
TSA Launches Facial Recognition Pilot at Las Vegas Airport (Nevada)

The Transportation Security Administration will conduct a short term proof of concept in Las Vegas’ McCarran International Airport to examine how effective facial recognition technology could be at automating travelers’ identity verification, according to a recent publication from the Homeland Security Department. For passengers who opt in, the agency will assess the technology’s capability to verify travelers’ live facial images taken at security checkpoints against the images on their identity documents. Read more at nextgov.com.

As Traffic Deaths Rise, Washington Leaders Look for New Approach

The Washington Traffic Safety Commission is taking a new approach as traffic-related deaths continue to rise across the state. It has been nearly 20 years since the launch of the Target Zero campaign and state leaders are still hoping to reach the goal of zero traffic deaths by 2030. Traffic Safety Commission spokesperson Shelly Baldwin said drivers who are participating in safe practices behind the wheel could do more by making sure others are doing the same. Read more at king5.com.

On National Dog Day: New Study on Road Trip Safety When Traveling With Pets

You can take road trips with your pets, but be aware: A new study from Volvo Car USA and The Harris Poll revealed that allowing them to roam unrestrained while driving led to significantly more unsafe driving behaviors, more time distracted and increased stress on both drivers and their four-legged friends. The report also built on last year’s inaugural report in exploring the unique relationship between Americans, their pets and their cars. Read more at forbes.com.

MN 1st, ND 48th in Toughest Drunk Driving Laws & Penalties Study

A study by a Utah–based personal injury law firm ranks Minnesota as having the strictest drunk driving laws in country. Siegfried & Jensen’s study looks at 21 different areas including drunk driving crashes and arrests, jail time, fines and license suspensions. Minnesota ranks well for having high penalties and fines. The State Patrol says the first DWI arrest can cost up to 10 thousand dollars in fines, court fees and the cost of getting your license back. North Dakota comes in 48th in the study. Read more at kvrr.com.

Many Drivers Disabling ADAS Systems, J.D. Power Study Says

Some alerts on advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) are so annoying or bothersome that many drivers disable the systems and may try to avoid them on future vehicle purchases, according to the recent J.D. Power 2019 U.S. Tech Experience Index (TXI) Study. This is a major concern for automakers keen to market these lucrative technologies and pave the way for more highly automated vehicles in the future. “Automakers are spending lots of money on advanced technology development, but the constant alerts can confuse and frustrate drivers,” said Kristin Kolodge, executive director of Driver Interaction & Human Machine Interface Research at J.D. Power. “The technology can’t come across as a nagging parent; no one wants to be constantly told they aren’t driving correctly.” Read more at bodyshopbusiness.com.

Driver Behavior Not Altered by Roadside Memorials, Study Finds
Lead author Dr. Vanessa Beanland, of the Department of Psychology, says the topic of roadside memorials is important because of the high number of deaths occurring on our roads—the World Health Organisation estimates the global figure to be 1.35 million each year...While views on roadside memorials are mixed, there is almost no scientific research examining whether roadside memorials are distracting or whether they influence safety-related behaviors. In order to address the gap, Dr. Beanland and Rachael Wynne, of the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia, recruited 40 drivers to determine if roadside memorials divert drivers’ attention away from the road, and whether they affect their judgments of how safe a road is and what speed they should drive at. Read more at medicalxpress.com.

**Study: Speeding Is the Riskiest Type of Aggressive Driving Behaviour**

A new study by the University of Waterloo has found that speeding is the riskiest type of aggressive driving. University researchers analyzed data from 28 million trips recorded by on-board devices in vehicles. They compared aggressive driving behaviours based on four indicators: speeding, hard acceleration, hard braking, and taking hard corners. The researchers came to the conclusion that speeding was the only statistically significant link to crashing...Hilal explained that arriving at a destination early and avoiding accidents despite speeding "negatively reinforces" people's poor driving behaviour. Read more at insurancebusinessmag.com.

**Deaths From Cars Running Red Lights Hit 10-Year High, AAA Study Finds**

Deaths from drivers running red lights reached a 10-year high in 2017, according to a new study. The number of people killed when someone plowed through a light reached 939 in 2017, the last full year numbers were available, according to the study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. That was up 31% from a low of 715 in 2009. And the fatalities in those red-light collisions increased for a fifth straight year in 2017. Read more at usatoday.com.


Autonomous technology developer Anthony Levandowski was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges that he stole trade secrets from Google that he later used on other projects, including Otto's self-driving technology for Class 8 trucks. The indictment charges Levandowski with 33 counts of theft and attempted theft of trade secrets. It alleges that at the time he took the files from Google — where he had been working on automated driving technology — Levandowski was involved with two companies competing with Google in the self-driving space: Tyto LiDAR and 280 Systems Inc., the latter of which would become Ottomotto, or Otto. Read more at ttnews.com.

**New Report Points to Ways Truck Companies Can Operate Safer**

A study that focused on nine motor carriers’ efforts to improve the safety of their operations found that a company’s overall safety culture — from the boardroom to the truck cab — was a crucial element for success. “This report provides some real concrete examples of what trucking companies of different sizes have done and implemented to change their safety records,” said Jane Terry, senior director for government affairs at the National Safety Council. Read more at ttnews.com.

@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!***

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New Jersey MVC @NJ_MVC | View the Tweet

Chief Sue Fulton in #Hightstown gave an insider’s look at an #MVC #schoolbussafety inspection. 100 inspectors perform biannual, 180-point checks to ensure NJ’s 24,000 school buses are roadworthy & can safely transport their most precious cargo - our children. @NewJerseyDOE

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NYS DMV @nysdmv | View the Tweet

You don’t have to roll over and beg. You can go to the DMV now to get a REAL ID. You’ll need a REAL ID-compliant document to fly in the US come October 1, 2020. Our online document guide helps you determine what you need to bring. https://dmv.ny.gov/documentguide #InternationalDogDay
Over the next few days, you will hear from four experts on the real-life effects of driving impaired. Remember, safety is everyone’s responsibility. Ensure your safety by designating a sober driver this Labor Day weekend, and every time you drink. #DriveSober #DriveSafe #LaborDay
Georgia State Patrol & @FHPJacksonville were in Kingsland this morning for Hands Across the Border. A long standing partnership to keep our roadways safe. #gsp #gatrooper @gohsgeorgia

KY Highway Safety @kyhighwaysafety | View the Tweet

To kick off the #LaborDay weekend, Kentucky and Virginia law enforcement are participating in the Border-to-Border traffic safety checkpoint on U.S. 23 until 1 p.m. today. #DriveSober #Kentucky @KYTCDistrict12 @kystatepolice

Trooper Joe SCHP @SCHP_Troop_3 | View the Tweet

Hands Across the Boarder is happening tonight with law enforcement agencies from
North and South Carolina conducting checkpoints at the state line.  
#drivesoberorgetpulledover #soberorslammer

THPLawrenceburg @THPLawrencebur | View the Tweet

THP has troopers out everyday educating trucking companies on ways to have safer drivers and vehicles. Trp McCord meets with companies both large and small. If you have any commercial needs or questions contact us and we will come to you. CMV Safety is our business.

Texas Department of Transportation @TxDOT | View the Tweet

The first day of school (aka: first day of Fortnite detox) means young Texans will be bustling along sidewalks & near bus stops. Stay alert. Put away the cell phone. Watch out for our kids. Check out these safety tips http://ow.ly/3ZQx50vDoXO and #BeSafeDriveSmart
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KansasDOT @DriveSafeKansas | View the Tweet
Always look twice before leaving your vehicle.

CSP Public Affairs @CSP_News | View the Tweet
We appreciate safe driving at crash scenes, but staring at it (or worse, filming it) when you go by makes everyone unsafe and slows it all down. Drive safe, and drive
right on by.

The Regional News e-newsletter is developed and distributed by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). This message was intended for INSERT_EMAIL. If you would like to stop receiving this message, click here to unsubscribe.

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