This Week's Webinars

NMVTIS Suspense Resolution for Online States (Web Service Version) – Part 1
Wednesday, September 5, 2019, 1:00 - 2:00 pm (ET)
NMVTIS has two third party transactions that involve updates between the central site and multiple states. Because the transactions involve multiple states and the central site, it is possible for a transaction to break down before it completes. Further activity against this title record is greatly restricted until the problem is resolved. This webinar provides instruction as to how to identify and resume suspended transactions. The intended audience for this webinar are NMVTIS Help Desk Personnel, Business Process Analyst and IT System Integrators.

Note: This webinar is for AAMVA jurisdiction members only.

REGION 1 NEWS

Delaware DMV Offers New Driver Education Resources on Traffic Stop Procedures
The Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles has implemented Senate Bill 168, regarding “Driver Education on Traffic Stop Procedures” offering resources to help better educate and inform drivers...In support of Senate Bill 168, the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles has developed a series of videos that clarify and define the roles of the driver, law enforcement officer and others during a traffic stop. Read more at doverpost.com.

Joint Hearing to Be Held Today on Massachusetts Driver Licenses for Illegal Immigrants
The Massachusetts House and Senate will hold a joint hearing...at the Statehouse to deliberate on two bills that would allow illegal immigrants in Massachusetts to obtain state driver’s license. According to CBS Boston, the two bills were filed by Representative Farley-Bouvier, a democrat from Pittsfield, and Democratic Senator Brendan Crighton of Lynn...If approved, the bills would allow qualified Massachusetts residents to obtain a driver's license regardless of their immigration status. Read more at uptoboston.com.

State Police: No Traffic Fatalities This Labor Day Weekend
(New Hampshire)
New Hampshire state police say the Labor Day holiday weekend was free of traffic fatalities. Police say it was a "relatively quiet holiday." High-visibility highway safety patrols were part of a national mobilization campaign funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as part of a "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. Read more at ctpost.com.
State Bill Would Protect DMV Clerks Who Refuse Licenses to Illegal Immigrants (New York)
The state Senate’s top Republican has introduced a bill that would protect Department of Motor Vehicles employees from legal retribution, should they refuse licenses to undocumented immigrants. The controversial “Green Light Law,” passed by the state Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on June 17, has sparked outrage from county clerks across the state — some of whom have filed legal challenges in federal court arguing that the law conflicts with federal policy. The bill from Senate Minority Leader John Flanagan (R-Suffolk) would permit a DMV employee to hire an attorney to defend himself should the state take civil action against them for refusing to administer the licenses...Another bill specifically authorizes the governor to remove a county clerk from office should they refuse to recognize driver’s licenses held by undocumented immigrants. Read more at nypost.com.

NY DMV Commissioner Calls Out Critics of the Proposed License Plates (New York)
There’s been a lot of criticism from New York Republican lawmakers about proposed new license plates. The state’s DMV commissioner hopes to set it all straight. One criticism is over the fee drivers will need to pay to replace their plates. In a statement, Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder says the fee has been 25 dollars for over ten years, since before Governor Andrew Cuomo took office. Schroder says Cuomo would like to lower the fee and called out lawmakers. “If the legislators are sincere and want to lower the fee immediately, although they haven’t in the past decade, the Governor has made clear he invites them back for a Special session to do it,” Schroeder said. Read more at wskg.org.

Alabama LE Agency Submits RFP for Driver License System Modernization
The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Driver License System Modernization. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, Driver License Division is excited about system modernization and the ability to streamline driver license processes while enhancing customer service. The RFP can be found here: https://www.alea.gov/RFP. Proposals will be accepted until October 25th 2019. For more information, please visit: www.alea.gov.

Temporary Suspension of Requirements Associated With IRP and IFTA (Hurricane Dorian) (Alabama)
Because there is a state of emergency resulting from Hurricane Dorian, Vernon Barnett, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Revenue has ordered the temporary suspension of the requirements associated with the International Registration Plan (IRP) and International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) for any motor vehicle engaged in interstate disaster relief efforts which will be traveling through the State of Alabama as part of the disaster relief. Read more at revenue.alabama.gov.

Nearly 1,400 FHP Troopers Work 12-Hour Shifts to Help During Dorian (Florida)
Florida Highway Patrol troopers are working long shifts to keep roads safe as Hurricane Dorian moves along Florida’s east coast. Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and Florida Highway Patrol officials took to Twitter on Tuesday to show how approximately 1,400 troopers are doing their part to help those who may need their help. Read more at wsvn.com.

Gov. Kevin Stitt Shakes up Leadership at Oklahoma
Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol
A shake-up is underway at the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, the state agency that runs the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and handles the issuance, revocation and reinstatement of driver’s licenses. Out are Rusty Rhoades, the DPS commissioner, and Col. Michael Harrell, the chief of the Highway Patrol. Taking over as commissioner is John Scully, the director of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control. Read more at tulsaworld.com.

New Law Aims to Help Miscommunication Between Law Enforcement and Those With Communications Disorders (Texas)
No matter the situation, seeing police lights flashing behind you can be stressful. Especially if you have trouble communicating, which could lead to an officer misinterpreting that person’s actions. Samuel Allen, 24, has Asperger’s Syndrome and ever since he started driving his mom, Jennifer, has advocated for safety for those with communication disorder. As of Sept. 1, their work has paid off, the Samuel Allen Law is now in effect. "Senate Bill 976, also known as the Samuel Allen law now allows anyone diagnosed with a communication challenge the option for disclosure when registering their vehicle with the Texas DMV," Allen said. Read more at cbs19.tv.

Texas' Driver Responsibility Program Has Ended
The Texas Department of Safety wants to remind residents that the Driver Responsibility Program was repealed under HB 2048 and ended on September 1st, 2019. The Driver Responsibility Program (DRP) was started in 2003 to establish a surcharge based on a driver's traffic offenses. Surcharges were assessed on an individual's driving record by points or convictions. When DRP was repealed, all existing DRP surcharge assessments and suspensions were waived, and no additional surcharges or suspensions related to DRP will be assessed after its repeal. Read more at crossroadstoday.com.

Where Does West Virginia Rank in Terms of Dangerous Drivers?
A recent study conducted by the insurance giant, Esurance, looked at the states that had the most dangerous drivers. The news is not good for West Virginia, which placed as the eighth most dangerous on the list. The study showed that not only is the state one of the most dangerous, but that a significant number of rural and country roads may be to blame. The finding is interesting, as people tend to think of back roads as being safer. However, there is not the same kind of law enforcement on rural roads that there is on city streets. That means more reckless, negligent, and drunk drivers. Additionally, speed limits are typically higher, and there is limited lighting. Read more at bluevirginia.us.

Transgender People No Longer Need Medical Paperwork to Correct Gender Markers on Illinois Identity Documents
A new policy by the secretary of state's office will make it easier for gender-expansive people to correct their gender markers on Illinois identity documents. The office introduced a new form Tuesday allowing for transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming people to correct their gender on driver's licenses and state ID cards through self-designation, much like is already done for height, weight, hair color and eye color. Read more at chicago.suntimes.com.

100 Deadliest Days Results in 132 Lives Lost on Minnesota Roads
Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, known as the 100 deadliest days on Minnesota roads, again proved to be a tragic time in 2019. More than half of the traffic fatalities so far this year occurred during this period. There were 132 deaths this summer, including a two-car crash that took six lives. The 132 lives lost represent 57 percent of all traffic fatalities so far in 2019. The 123 fatalities during the 100 deadliest days in 2018 represented 53 percent of traffic fatalities during the same time period last year. Read more at ktoe.com.

North Dakota Transportation Department Implementing Highway 'Safety Corridors'
The North Dakota Department of Transportation is implementing "safety corridors" on sections of three North Dakota highways. The designated highway sections will include enhanced safety features and an increased law enforcement presence. Drivers may notice additional signage and more visible pavement markings. “Safety corridors are selected based on data that shows these locations have a high number of vehicle crashes,” department Safety Division Director Karin Mongeon said. Read more at bismarcktribune.com.

SD Department of Public Safety Celebrates “Share the Road” Day at State Fair (South Dakota)
The South Dakota State Fair is wrapping up its fourth day in Huron, and Sunday it featured a message that can mean everything for drivers and their loved ones. The South Dakota Department of Public Safety sponsored a day at the state fair and celebrated “Share the Road” day. It’s a big day for the South Dakota Department of Public Safety as they showcase their agencies at the South Dakota State Fair. “We just see this as a great opportunity to educate the public that is interested in knowing a little bit about the Department of Public Safety, have an opportunity to answer any questions they might have, and then send them on their way and hopefully they’ll think of us,” Department Secretary Craig Price said. Read more at keloland.com.

Man Pleads Guilty to Vehicle Odometer Rollback Scheme (California)
A Studio City man pleaded guilty today for operating a computerized odometer rollback business for vehicles that were leased from dealerships in the San Fernando Valley and Glendale, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced. Serge Oganesian, 45, entered his plea to six felony counts: one count of conspiracy to commit grand theft and five counts of computer access and fraud…The case was investigated by the California Department of Motor Vehicles, with assistance from the District Attorney’s Office’s Bureau of Investigation. Read more at da.co.la.ca.us.

Tesla Autopilot Was Engaged for Nearly 14 Minutes Before 2018 California Crash, NTSB Says
The National Transportation Safety Board said on Tuesday that a Tesla Model S was in Autopilot mode when it struck a fire truck in Culver City, California, one of a series of crashes the board is investigating involving Tesla’s driver assistance system. The 2014 Model S Autopilot system was engaged continuously for the final 13 minutes and 48 seconds of the trip before the vehicle struck a fire truck parked on Interstate-405 in January 2018, the NTSB safety board said in documents posted on Tuesday. The driver kept his hands off the wheel for all but 51 seconds of the final drive segment and received numerous alerts to place his hands back on the wheel, the documents showed. Read more at cnbc.com.

A New Scam: Speeding Tickets From the DMV (Nevada)
The Nevada DMV is warning motorists about a speeding ticket scam that has
surfaced in the Silver State. Hackers are sending out emails, purportedly from the DMV, about alleged traffic violations that can only be paid online with a credit card. The emails demand payment of a fine within 72 hours and contain links for “EasyPay” or to contest the citation. The Nevada DMV does not issue traffic citations or collect fines, according to Director Julie Butler. Read more at elkodaily.com.

Utah Has 10th Highest Rate of Crashes Caused by Running Red Lights in the Nation
Utah has the 10th highest rate of crashes caused by running red lights, which kills more than two people every day on U.S. roads. The most recent crash data available shows 939 people were killed in crashes involving red light running in 2017, a 28% increase since 2012, according to data analysis performed by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Read more at stgeorgeutah.com.

State to Move Mainframe System WYDOT Uses for Driver's Licenses, Other Services (Wyoming)
Wyoming officials will soon move a statewide mainframe system used to issue driver’s licenses, check driving records and provide other motor vehicle services to a new location. In an effort to ensure continued service, Wyoming’s Department of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) will move the Revenue Information System (RIS), a mainframe system that supports critical operations for the Wyoming Department of Transportation and other state agencies to an IBM environment in Omaha, Nebraska. The move is expected to take place the weekend of Sept. 13-15. Read more at wyomingnews.com.

AUTOMAKERS TO INSTALL REAR SEAT REMINDERS TO STOP HOT CAR DEATHS IN U.S.
Major automakers said on Wednesday they have agreed to equip nearly all U.S. vehicles with systems to remind motorists of passengers in the back seat, by model year 2025, in an effort to avoid deaths of young children left behind in hot cars. The announcement on so-called rear seat reminder systems comes as the U.S. Congress has been debating making it a requirement for new cars...The 20 automakers taking part represent nearly 98% of all U.S. vehicle sales and committed to include audible and visual alerts on vehicles by the 2025 model year, or a year later if a redesign is involved. Read more at reuters.com.

Automatic Emergency Braking Boosts Safety but Some Complaints of False Activations
The latest wave in vehicle safety technology are systems that can apply the brakes in an emergency when the driver fails to respond in time. Government safety experts and manufacturers agree that automatic emergency braking, also known as forward collision warning systems, can save lives and reduce the severity of crashes. But some drivers with the advanced safety feature have complained that their vehicle’s brakes activated when the path was clear and there was no emergency. Read more at wtop.com.

BBB Warning: 10 Tips to Avoid Buying Flood Damaged Cars
Following every major flood, scam artists try to pawn off flooded vehicles as standard secondhand cars. In the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, flood-damaged vehicles will be popping up at auto auctions, used car dealerships and in classified ads. Unsuspecting consumers, particularly those living in regions of the country unaffected by hurricanes or flooding, are led astray by fresh upholstery, new carpeting and bargain prices. After the owners of damaged cars settle with their
insurance companies, vehicles are sometimes refurbished and resold. Flooded cars are often transported well beyond their original region after major storms to locations where consumers may be less aware of what warning signs to look for. Sometimes, a middleman buyer intentionally hides a car’s history as a flood-damaged vehicle through a process known as “title washing” and sells it to an unsuspecting buyer in a state unaffected by the disaster. Read more at bbb.org.

FAS Citizens Can Now Get Real ID-Compliant Licenses

Citizens from the Freely Associated States who are residing in a U.S. state or territory can now get a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license thanks to a notice by the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans-Department of Homeland Security that introduced changes to the regulations. The changes allow citizens from Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia to use an unexpired passport and an I-94 form (arrival-departure records) as acceptable identity document for obtaining a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or identity card. The changes also strike out a provision requiring FAS citizens to get an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) in order to establish identity for the purposes of obtaining a REAL ID compliant driver’s license. The notice took effect on September 4, 2019, according to the Federal Register. Read more at pacificnewscenter.com.

Reason Foundation: North Dakota Tops Highway Performance List; New Jersey Ranks Last

North Dakota’s infrastructure, congestion levels and safety record propelled the state to the top spot in a recent report that chronicled the performance of highway systems nationwide. New Jersey, meanwhile, ranked last in the country. The Reason Foundation’s 24th Annual Highway Report ranked Virginia, Missouri, Maine and Kentucky behind North Dakota as states with overall exemplary surface transportation conditions. Read more at ttnews.com.

Why Real ID Is Causing Real Confusion

The Transportation Security Administration has begun verbally notifying travelers about the upcoming REAL ID deadline, a little more than 13 months away...“REAL ID implementation is a little more than a year away,” TSA Acting Deputy Administrator Patricia Cogswell said in a statement. “Now is the time to prepare.” But the rollout has caused confusion for various reasons, so here are a few basics that are helpful to understand. Read more at aarp.org.

**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!***

**National Weather Service @NWS | View the Tweet**

If you ever approach a water-covered road, THIS is what you do.
TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.

Maine Bureau of Highway Safety @SafeHighways4ME | View the Tweet

Highway Safety Trivia Tuesday: Is it legal to wear headphones while driving?

2% Legal
26% Legal, but not advised
24% Legal, but stupid
48% Illegal

50 votes • Final results

Correct Answer: B. Legal, but not advised (or A or C). When you have headphones in both ears, it’s much harder to be aware of your surroundings and hear when an emergency vehicle is coming.

MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet

Happening Now: Administrator Nizer presents @HCPSS with a #MakingItClick recognition award. Making It Click is a peer led safety program aimed at increasing seatbelt usage among younger drivers. @HCPDNews #MDOTSafety
Sue Fulton @suefulton | View the Tweet

41 new P/T @NJ_MVC employees start today! Giving “Labor Day” new meaning, these new colleagues will supplement the 300 new full-timers who started this summer. #StaffingUp for better #CustomerService

RIRevenue @rirevenue | View the Tweet

Thanks to the DaVinci Center in #Providence for hosting #RhodeIslandDMV administrator Bud Craddock today for a talk on the federal #REALID program.
NC Public Safety @NCPublicSafety | View the Tweet

Safety tips from the @NCSHP on driving during the storm.

Wisconsin DOT @WisconsinDOT | View the Tweet

Are you smarter than a 16 year old? Test your understanding of Wisconsin’s rules for the road with Wisconsin DMV’s Practice Knowledge Test mobile app.
http://bit.ly/2AsO0iD

CO Dept. of Revenue @CO_Revenue | View the Tweet

We’re supporting our favorite college football teams today at the DMV! What game are you most looking forward to this weekend? #NCAA #CollegeFootball
WA State Patrol @wastatepatrol | View the Tweet

This #LaborDay holiday, Troopers made roughly 250 DUI arrests across the state.

We will continue to work diligently to keep everyone on the roadways safe and to reach our #TargetZero goal.

#DriveSoberOrGetPulledOver