

December 11, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Analysis: The “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act”

The "Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act," or "FAST Act", is a five-year surface transportation re-authorization bill authorizing federal highway programs through 2020. The Congressional Budget Office has scored the bill as providing \$305 billion in funding over the course of five years. A reduction from the original six-year plan to a five-year re-authorization allowed for a 15 percent increase in highway spending. Several items in the bill that are of particular interest to AAMVA members are highlighted in an analysis now available in the Government Affairs section of the AAMVA Website. The analysis also provides in-depth review of details of significance to the AAMVA membership.

[Download the Analysis](#) | [Download the Conference Report on FAST Act](#)

Leadership Academy Applications Must Be Submitted By COB Monday!

The AAMVA Leadership Academy (set to take place May 9-12, 2016) is an exciting opportunity for jurisdiction employees who have demonstrated leadership potential within the AAMVA community.

Applications are due by December 14, 2015. Visit the Leadership Academy Web site for complete details. <http://www.aamva.org/2016-AAMVA-Leadership-Academy/>

Join Us in Cincinnati for AAMVA's 2016 Workshop & Law Institute



AAMVA's 2016 Workshop & Law Institute is scheduled to take place in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 9-10, 2016. Exciting new advances in technology, safety and security, are the driving changes behind the quickly-evolving automotive industry. Join us in Cincinnati and stay ahead of the game. Cybersecurity, automated vehicles and connected vehicle technologies are just a few of the developing issues that we will explore at the Workshop & Law Institute. We'll also discuss autonomous vehicles and transportation networking companies, and how they are affecting the way we do business. Watch the promo video (https://youtu.be/RBJsl_o-MdM) to learn more, and visit the Workshop & Law Institute Web site to register today. <http://publicwebsitetest.aamva.org/2016-Workshop-and-Law-Institute-Home/>

Region I

State Senator Calling for Mandatory Seat Belts on School Buses (Maryland)

Buckle up. A push to require seat belts on school buses is gaining momentum nationally and in the Maryland legislature — but the pushback from school systems likely will be over how to fund such a mandate. Read the full story at BaltimoreSun.com.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/towson/ph-tt-brochin-legislative-agenda-1209-20151209-story.html>

Texting Ban Enforcement Lagging, Stricter Law Eyed (Massachusetts)

The driver who struck Tom Brannelly's daughter Katie -- causing injuries that eventually killed her -- was texting. Read the full story at WCVB.com.

<http://www.wcvb.com/news/state-police-struggling-to-enforce-texting-while-driving-ban/36863688>

Region II

DOT Launches Investigation in Alabama Over DMV Closures

The U.S. Department of Transportation has just launched an investigation into whether Alabama is discriminating against African-American residents after announcing plans to shut down or reduce service at 34 state drivers license offices. Read the full article on CNN.com.

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/09/politics/alabama-dmv-closures-voting-rights/index.html>

Alabama Will Charge No Extra Fee for 'God Bless America' License Plate

Gov. Robert Bentley today announced there will be no additional fee for Alabamians who choose the God Bless America license plate. Read the full story at AL.com.

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/12/alabama_will_charge_no_extra_f.html

Region III

Annie's Law Would Change How First-Time Drunk Driver Could Get Their Licenses Back (Ohio)

Annie Rooney was killed in a head-on crash by a drunk driver on July 4, 2013. For more than a year, her family has been battling to get ignition interlock, or Breathalyzer, devices put on vehicles of those convicted the first time of driving drunk. Read the full story at NBC4i.com.

<http://nbc4i.com/2015/12/08/annies-law-would-change-how-first-time-drunk-driver-could-get-their-licenses-back/>

Other States Encouraged to Mull South Dakota Sobriety Program That Requires Twice-daily Tests

Twice a day for three years, Chris Mexican has showed up at the county jail in Pierre to blow into a tube and prove he hasn't been drinking.

Read the full article in StarTribune.com.

<http://www.startribune.com/states-encouraged-to-mull-south-dakota-sobriety-program/360718381/>

BMV Error Mails Duplicate Registrations to 10,291 Ohioans

More than 10,000 Ohioans recently received a surprise in the mail from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Read the full story at Dispatch.com.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/blogs/the-daily-briefing/2015/12/12-8-15-bmv-duplicates.html>

Ohio Attorney General Proposes New Standards For Law Enforcement

Ohio police officers will soon see more training statewide. The state may also enforce new standards for all people entering the police academy. Read the full story at 10TV.com.

<http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2015/12/08/columbus-ohio-ohio-attorney-general-proposes-new-standards-for-law-enforcement.html>

Region IV

B.C. to Introduce Variable Speed Limit Signs on Provincial Highways

The B.C. government has introduced a new pilot project to help reduce highway collisions in bad weather. Road crews in the province have begun installing a new type of speed limit sign – one that actually adjusts for road conditions, weather, visibility and traffic – in a bid to reduce weather-related collisions. Read the full story at Driving.ca.

<http://driving.ca/auto-news/news/b-c-to-introduce-variable-speed-limit-signs-on-provincial-highways>

Uber and Enterprise-Rent-a-Car Partner to Add More Drivers to Denver (Colorado)

The Uber-Enterprise Rent-A-Car program is starting in Denver and is expected to expand into other cities. Until self-driving cars are commonplace, Uber needs drivers. The ride-hailing company is constantly drumming up ways to attract drivers, even if those people don't own cars. The latest effort is a pilot program in Denver that will give Uber-approved drivers access to discounted rental cars through Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Read the full story at Fortune.com.

<http://fortune.com/2015/12/02/uber-and-enterprise-denver/>

Other News

American Innovation in Autonomous and Connected Vehicles

In 1939, the Futurama exhibit at the New York World's Fair captured America's imagination by predicting a future of self-driving cars, navigating America's highways and winding roads unaided by

human intervention. Now, 76 years later, advanced technology has allowed American innovators to start testing cars that bring this vision to life. Read more on whitehouse.gov/blog/.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/12/07/american-innovation-autonomous-and-connected-vehicles>

Formula E To Feature Autonomous Car Racing

Formula E will be featuring autonomous car racing, it has recently been announced by representatives of the electric vehicle competition. Read the full article in the Regal Tribune.

<http://www.regaltribune.com/formula-e-to-feature-autonomous-car-racing/24370/>

Volkswagen Blames ‘Chain of Mistakes’ for Emissions Scandal

Volkswagen AG on Thursday blamed a damaging emissions crisis on a “chain of mistakes” that began with the company’s diesel push into the U.S. in 2005 and “culture of tolerance” for rule-breaking that allowed the deception to continue for a decade. Read the full story at WSJ.com.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/vw-shares-up-ahead-of-emissions-findings-1449740759>

Did You Know

ON TWITTER

@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 “Twitter-town talk”. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Follow **@AAMVAConnection**. (<http://twitter.com/#!/AAMVAConnection>)

- **DelawareDMV @DelawareDMV | View the Tweet**
<https://twitter.com/DelawareDMV/status/675428263183949826>
@DelawareDMV Dir Vien talks to reporter @ media brief for the #DrivingPrivilegeCard 2day
<http://bit.ly/cA5bF0>
- **Impact Teen Drivers @impactdrivers | View the Tweet**
<https://twitter.com/impactdrivers/status/675424588130607104>
What will it take for everyone to commit their focus to the road and JUST DRIVE? How would you feel if you saw... <http://fb.me/2BuuSpk1o>
- **NTSB @NTSB | View the Tweet**
<https://twitter.com/NTSB/status/675420907821772801>

@NTSB pleased with FMCSA's new requirement for the use of electronic logging devices for trucks & buses <http://tinyurl.com/zy4fhvf>

- **CA DMV @CA_DMV | View the Tweet**

https://twitter.com/CA_DMV/status/675418532889268225

Are you a Veteran? Here's how to add the Veteran Designation to your DL/ID card.

<http://bit.ly/1RRMxDO> @MyCalVet

- **PennDOT @PennDOTNews | View the Tweet**

<https://twitter.com/PennDOTNews/status/675409940480180224>

Major changes are just around the corner for CDL, permit holders. Act 49 is effective on Dec. 21.

See <http://goo.gl/iZL842> for info

- **TransportationGov | View the Tweet**

<https://twitter.com/USDOT/status/674685054900150272>

@USDOT New resource 4 older drivers from @roadway_safety w/help from @USDOTFHWA

@NHTSAgov <http://1.usa.gov/1HVbD4C>