AAMVA Board Meets
The AAMVA International Board of Directors held their winter meeting January 11-12 in Orlando, FL, providing direction on strategic AAMVA initiatives such as NMVTIS, S2S, and CSTIMS, and thanking the Financial Sustainability Steering Committee for wrapping up their work that resulted in reduced fees for members. The Board also received briefings from CCMTA, IRP, the Industry Advisory Board and three US government agencies. Embedded in the Board's work last week were discussions about the future, underscored by AAMVA's extensive work on Automated Vehicle model state guidelines and the proof of concept underway using AAMVA's Mobile Driver's License functional needs whitepaper. Members interested in finding out more about these initiatives can visit AAMVA's website.

Non-Commercial Model Driver Testing System (NMDTS) Now Available
AAMVA's Non-Commercial Model Driver Testing System (NMDTS) is now available! This new resource contains two components: the AAMVA Model Driver's License Manual and the AAMVA Model Mentor Guide. AAMVA's Model Driver's License Manual is a template to assist jurisdictions as they prepare and publish their own manuals. The information is updated to reflect current laws and necessary information drivers need to understand driving rules and pass their licensing test. AAMVA's Model Mentor Guide offers tips and support to parents and other individuals assisting new drivers in learning and practicing their skills. It offers general guidelines on planning and conducting behind-the-wheel driving experiences with new drivers, as well as the basics of using and driving a vehicle. Visit AAMVA's Best Practices page for more information, and to download other best practices and model legislation.
State Agency Advocates for Self-Driving Car Legislation (Maryland)
The state’s Motor Vehicle Administration is advocating legislation that would transfer regulatory power of self-driving cars to the agency and the state police, saying the change may improve safety on Maryland roads and reduce human error. Read the full story at WashingtonPost.com.

DMV Reveals New Look for New Hampshire Licenses, IDs
State motor vehicle officials unveiled Tuesday the new look of the New Hampshire driver’s license and non-driver identification card that are compliant with the federal Real ID law. The new design includes the iconic New Hampshire symbols of the Old Man of the Mountain and a state outline along with the Purple Lilac. Read the full story at UnionLeader.com.

DMV Releases Video on New Window Tinting Law in New York
The New York State DMV has released a new video to educate drivers on New York State’s new window tinting law. Read the full story at Localsyr.com.

'Move Over' Law Expands to Volunteer Firefighters, Ambulance Workers (New York)
New York State’s "Move Over Law" has expanded. Drivers must now slow down and safely move over for vehicles with blue or green lights. Those are volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. Read the story on-line at WNYT.com.

Cuomo's Budget Expands Online Sales Tax, Hikes DMV Fee (New York)
Gov. Andrew Cuomo's state budget proposal relies on a variety of new, extended or expanded taxes and fees to balance its books, including a plan to force online marketplaces to collect sales tax. Read the full story at WGRZ.com.

Transportation Agencies in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan form 'Smart Belt Coalition' to Collaborate on Automated, Connected Vehicles
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) have formed the Smart Belt Coalition – a first-of-its-kind collaboration – with transportation agencies in Ohio and Michigan that will focus on automated and connected vehicle initiatives. Read the PennDOT press release.

Governor Wolf, Bipartisan Leaders Announce Pennsylvania REAL ID Extension
Pennsylvania has been granted an extension until June 6, 2017, from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to fix state law to allow for federal REAL ID compliance after Governor Tom Wolf and bipartisan leaders including Senators Scarnati, Corman, and Costa, and Representatives Turzai, Reed, and Dermody, wrote to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson earlier this month. Read the PennDOT press release.
Highway Safety Agencies Across Florida Launch “Arrive Alive”

The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), a division of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), today launched Arrive Alive, a data-driven statewide initiative seeking to reduce fatalities and serious bodily injury crashes on Florida’s roadways. Read the DHSMV press release.

Deal Announces Senior Leadership Changes (Georgia)

Gov. Nathan Deal today nominated Georgia Department of Driver Services Deputy Commissioner Spencer R. Moore to replace current Commissioner Bert Brantley. This nomination will take effect pending approval from the Board of Driver Services. Brantley is being tapped as Chief Operating Officer of the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the executive director of Georgia Allies. This appointment takes effect January 18. Read the Governor’s press release.

Kentucky Granted REAL ID Extension Through June 6

Kentuckians can use their drivers’ licenses to enter certain federal buildings until at least June 6 after the U.S. government granted the state more time to comply with a federal law. Read the full story at WKYUFM.org.

Twelve New License Examiners Headed to Statewide DMV Offices (North Carolina)

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles will add twelve new driver license examiner graduates to eight driver license offices across the state next week. Following graduation from DMV’s Basic Examiner Training School on Friday, Jan. 13, the examiners will begin work at area offices on Tuesday, Jan. 17. Read the DOT press release.

South Carolina DMV Director: $26M Needed to Ensure Real ID Act Compliance

South Carolina’s DMV director appealed to legislators for resources, as his agency works to find a way to bring the state into compliance with the Real ID Act. Read the full story at WISTV.com.

Homeland Security Grants South Carolina Extension for “Real ID” Compliance

Homeland Security has given South Carolina another extension to make changes to state drivers licenses. Right now, your South Carolina ID isn’t compliant with the country’s “Real ID Act,” which was enacted after the 9-11 attacks. Read the full story at WSPA.com.

Texas Bill Would Make Lane-Splitting Legal For Motorcyclists

They say everything is bigger in Texas, but bigger isn’t always better, especially when it comes to traffic jams. The Lone Star State is contemplating becoming only the second state, after California, to allow motorcycle riders to split lanes in heavy traffic.
Regional News - January 20, 2017

Regulation of Amphibious Sight-Seeing Vehicles (Ends 02/09/2017)
Responses received from FL, ID, LA, NC, OH, SD, VA, VT, WI.

These jurisdictions appreciate your assistance with their research. If you need a Web password or have any questions about using the survey tool, please send an e-mail to webportalsupport@aamva.org or call Janice Dluzenski at 703-908-5842. All online surveys can be found on the AAMVA Web site.

Secretary of State Jesse White Supporting Legislation to Allow Advertising to Offset Costs of Vehicle Registration Reminder Notices (Illinois)
Secretary of State Jesse White announced today that his office is pursuing legislation to allow private companies to pay for advertising space on vehicle registration renewals. House Bill 394, sponsored by House Transportation Chairman, John D’Amico (D-Chicago), makes it lawful for White’s office to seek private funds to pay for the mailings while creating specific restrictions on who may put their logo or tag line on the postcard. Read the article on riverbender.com.

Iowa Lawmakers Looking to Put Teeth in Texting and Driving Laws
Iowa lawmakers are poised to enact a new law aimed at cracking down on texting while driving. Read the story at SiouxLandMatters.com.

Michigan Driver’s Licenses Would be Renewed Every 8 Years Under House Bill
Michigan motorists would be able to renew their driver’s license every eight years, rather than four, under legislation introduced in Lansing. Read the story at WZZM13.com.

Uber to Build Autonomous-Vehicle Research Center in Michigan
Buick had an uneventful 2017 Detroit Auto Show with no new sheetmetal to dress up its stands, which is a downer after they rolled out the stunning Avista concept coupe last year in the Motor City. However, a Buick spokesman did share a few tidbits of information regarding a new product that will land in showrooms before the end of the year. Read the story at CNET.com.

Lebanon Car Dealer Sentenced for Odometer Rollback Fraud Scheme (Missouri)
Tammy Dickinson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Lebanon, Mo., automobile dealer was sentenced in federal court today for a mail fraud scheme in which he sold dozens of vehicles with fraudulent titles that greatly underreported the actual mileage of the vehicles. Read the story at Justice.gov.

Missouri Senate to Decide on ID Laws
Airport, trucking and business officials all are urging Missouri lawmakers to change state driver’s license laws to comply with federal identification requirements. Read the story at OzarkRadioNews.com.

Gov. Brown Plans to Stop Suspending Licenses to Collect Traffic Debt (California)
Gov. Jerry Brown is proposing to eliminate the suspension of driver’s licenses for Californians who fail to pay traffic tickets and related court fees, according to the $179.5 billion budget plan released Tuesday. Read the story at KQED.org.

Jerry Hill Proposes to Eliminate Wait Period after DMV Permit Issued (California)
As the world anxiously anticipates a future where autonomous vehicles transform transportation as we know it, a California lawmaker is hoping to make these technological advancements become reality a bit sooner. With automakers and tech companies across the globe racing to develop and test driverless vehicles, state and federal regulators are hustling to keep pace. Read the full story at SMDailyJournal.com.

Experts Question Whether Tougher Sentences Deter Drunk Driving (Canada)
Experts are questioning whether a recent trend towards stiffer sentences for those who kill someone while drinking and driving are doing much to solve the problem. Read the full story at MetroNews.ca.

Tesla's Self-Driving System Cleared in Deadly Crash
Eight months after a fatal crash involving a Tesla Motors car operating in a computer-assisted mode, federal auto-safety regulators said their investigation of the car found no defects in the system that caused the accident and said Tesla's Autopilot-enabled vehicles did not need to be recalled. Read the full story at NYTimes.com.

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 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!***

IBTTA @IBTTA  | View the Tweet
Tesla allows self-driving cars to break speed limit, again http://buff.ly/2jGD087  
#transportation

TeensInTheDriverSeat @TeensDriverSeat  | View the Tweet
When there are multiple passengers, the crash risk is three to five times greater than when driving alone. #dontdistract
WRAP.org @WRAP_org | View the Tweet
WRAP.org Retweeted DCGov_ABRA
A timely reminder that penalties for even a 1st DUI in DC/MD/VA range from $2,500, 1 year jail / license suspension + interlocks #DriveSober

CA DMV @CA_DMV | View the Tweet
#TFW the light turns green and the car in front of you doesn't go and you just KNOW they're texting #justdrive

NHTroopers @NH_Troopers | View the Tweet
It's a law in all 50 states - #MoveOver if you see flashing lights. If you can't move over, slow down.

NWS Las Vegas @NWSVegas | View the Tweet
A wet evening commute is in store, remember that wet roads can be slick and dangerous! Keep your distance and slow down! #VegasWeather
PennDOT @PennDOTNews | View the Tweet
.@citypgh, @larsoninstitute chosen as #autonomousvehicle proving grounds.
@GovernorTomWolf: Significant win for PA → http://bit.ly/2Jyrn3P

The new designations will add impetus for keeping the state as a center of research and development of this technology.

SECRETARY LESLIE RICHARDS

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.

To manage all your AAMVA subscriptions, click here.

4401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22203