AAMVA Seeking Jurisdiction Members for Standing Committees, Subcommittees, and Working Groups

AAMVA is seeking additional jurisdiction members for its three standing committees and ten subcommittees and working groups. Participating in a committee, subcommittee, or working group is an ideal way to influence policy, develop best practices and other guidance documents, and network with peers. We anticipate that for most groups there will be both virtual meetings and in-person meetings during FY22. Specific information for each group is on that group’s application. AAMVA pays travel expenses for all jurisdiction members to attend in-person meetings. Visit the Committees and Working Groups page for more information and to apply, AAMVA attempts to maintain jurisdictional and regional balance on all committees and working groups. Please submit all applications to committees@aamva.org by May 28, 2021.

2021 AIC to Be Held in Denver, CO

We are pleased to announce that the 2021 Annual International Conference (AIC) will be held in person in Denver, CO, August 31-September 2. We heard from many of you about the importance of in-person learning and networking and on behalf of Chair of the Board Mike Dixon, we look forward to welcoming you in beautiful Denver, CO for robust discussions and personal interactions. Your health and safety are our primary concern and we will be taking precautions to ensure that the conference is safe as well as rewarding. We will monitor applicable guidance and regulations to implement appropriate social distancing and health protocols. In addition to the rich content we offer at annual conferences, this year, sessions will cover many COVID-related topics, such as customer service changes, return to office policies and procedures, and pandemic impacts to driver testing. Registration will open in early June on our website. Be sure to mark your calendar for what will be an AIC to remember!

FEATURED NEWS

Jurisdiction Response to COVID-19

Click here to view consolidated information and see how motor vehicle administrations are handling driver licensing and vehicle registration. This document will be updated with the most current information on our homepage.

Interested in having your logo appear here? Become a Regional News sponsor by contacting Rob Stershic, 703.908.2825,
Motor Vehicle Industry Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Below is a selection of news articles regarding the effects of coronavirus on the motor vehicle community.

**COVID-19 | NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE**

- The Global Microchip Shortage, Explained—and What It Means for Your Next Car Purchase
- Pandemic Gives Boost as More States Move to Digital IDs

**COVID-19 | REGION 1 NEWS COVERAGE**

- MDOT Announces New Deadlines for Driver's Licenses and Registration (Maryland)
- It Was Fun While It Lasted; All Parking Enforcement Resumes June 1 (Washington, DC)

**COVID-19 | REGION 2 NEWS COVERAGE**

- DMV Resumes Saturday Hours at 16 Offices, Expands Weekday Hours at 25 Locations (North Carolina)
- Truck Drivers in Demand in Southeast Texas During Nationwide Driver Shortage
- Why People Leave Richmond at 5 A.M. To Stand in Line for Hours at This DMV (Virginia)

**COVID-19 | REGION 3 NEWS COVERAGE**

- New Online Document Pre-Verification Tool Will Help Get REAL ID Faster (Minnesota)
- South Dakota DMV Places 20 New Kiosks for Motor Vehicle Registration, Soon To Offer Drivers License Renewals
- Because of COVID-19; 16- and 17-Year-Olds Don't Need Road Tests To Get Driver's Licenses. The DMV Wants To Make That Permanent. (Wisconsin)

**COVID-19 | REGION 4 NEWS COVERAGE**

- No More Masks and Social Distancing at Work? How California Could Update COVID Rules
- Residents Taking Advantage of Online, Self-Service DMV (California)
- Tulalip DMV Office To Open May 18-20 (California)
- New Oregon Residents Won't Need To Take Driver's Knowledge Test After June 5

Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for more information on COVID-19, guidance, press releases, press kits, and more.

**REGION 1 NEWS**

**Mass. RMV Warns of Text Message Phishing Scam (Massachusetts)**

A text message “phishing” fraud scheme is targeting Massachusetts residents, pretending to be from the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), according to Registry personnel. Crooks are sending text messages to would-be victims, claiming to be from the “DMV.” [Read more at wpri.com](https://www.wpri.com).

**NH State Police Report 709 Violations Caught During CVSA Safety Blitz (New Hampshire)**

State police report 709 violations — 125 of which were severe enough to pull a vehicle or driver out of service — were found in New Hampshire last week.
during the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance’s 72-hour safety blitz. Read more at unionleader.com.

FL Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Announces Redesign of Three Specialty License Plates (Florida)
The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) is pleased to announce that the Florida NASCAR, University of Miami, and Conserve Wildlife specialty license plates have been redesigned. Read more at theapopkavoice.com.

Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program Urges Motorists to 'Share the Road' for Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
As May welcomes in warmer weather and the motorcycle riding season begins to peak, the Georgia [DDS GMSP] wants to remind all motorists that May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month...DDS Commissioner Spencer R. Moore encourages motorcyclists to be aware of their surroundings and use caution at all times. Read more at northwestgeorgianews.com.

Louisiana House Takes Action on Staged Accidents Involving Trucks
The Louisiana House has passed a bill that would make staging an accident with a car or truck a serious state crime...The legislation, if passed by the Louisiana Senate, calls for a penalty of five years in prison, with or without hard labor, and a fine of $5,000, or both, for individuals convicted of the crime. Read more at ttnews.com.

The DMV Has a New Office in Raleigh, and It’s Unlike Nearly All the Others in NC (North Carolina)
Wake County residents will have a new place to go starting Monday to do business with the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles. The DMV has converted part of an old Kmart into a retail office for handling vehicle registrations, titles and plates as well as driver’s licenses. Read more at heraldsun.com.

Governor Taps Omumu, Alvarado for DMV (Texas)
Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Sharla Omumu and Christian Alvarado to the board of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Additionally, he named Charles Bacarisse as chair. Read more at spartnerships.com.

Truck Drivers, Others Encouraged To Keep an Eye Out for Human Smuggling Activity (Texas)
41 people were discovered in the back of a semi-truck in San Antonio on Thursday. John Esparza, CEO of the Texas Trucking Association, says tough laws are in place to deter truck drivers from getting involved in human smuggling or trafficking. Read more at ksat.com.

Iowa Expected To Launch Digital Driver’s License by End of Year
The Iowa Dept. of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division is expected to launch their digital driver’s license, or ‘Mobile ID’, by the end of this year. The program has been in the works for years. It will become available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play and allow Iowans to add a driver’s license to their devices. Read more at kwqc.com.

**Drive SAFE Bills Would Let More Than 100,000 Immigrants Apply for a MI Driver’s License (Michigan)**
A set of bills aimed at restoring drivers’ licenses for immigrants in Michigan was reintroduced Tuesday...If passed, the Drive SAFE plan (Safety, Access, Freedom, and the Economy) would allow more than 100,000 immigrants, including those who are undocumented, to apply for a driver’s license in Michigan. Read more at michiganradio.org.

**Nebraska DMV Warns of Phone Scam**
The Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles is warning residents about a scam that comprises unsolicited text messages from unknown phone numbers. The texts state the recipients owe, or are owed, large sums of money from the DMV, and directs recipients to click a link. Read more at wowt.com.

**Ohio State Highway Patrol Issues Reminder About Motorcycle Safety Awareness**
May is National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and the Ohio State Highway Patrol is reminding motorcyclists to ride trained and sober and motorists should be aware of an increase in motorcycles on the roadways. Read more at news-herald.com.

**Arizona Law Enforcement Struggle To Halt Deadly Street Racing**
Ramon Angel Carrasco and his girlfriend were driving home from a Scottsdale bakery in a white BMW in August 2019 when Robert J. Foster pulled up next to them in a light blue Lamborghini. According to a witness account provided to police, Carrasco and Foster revved their engines at a red light on Hayden Road before heading north, and within seconds they were traveling more than 100 mph. Read more at kold.com.

**California Police Arrest Serial Backseat Tesla Driver for Abusing Autopilot**
The unwritten golden rule of partially automated vehicles is simple: don't be dumb. Apparently, this rule needs to be a little more profound (or mandated), because despite laws and standards being set in place to define vehicle automation, some people just don't seem to get it. Fortunately, the California Highway Patrol does. Read more at thedrive.com.

**California DMV Reverses Decision To Eliminate Most Foreign Language Options for Driver Tests**
The California DMV will continue to offer written drivers license tests in 32 languages, reversing a decision from last week to drop 25 of the languages, according to its public affairs office...the department was planning to eliminate most of the languages from its written tests as part of a modernization project. Read more at sacbee.com.
FMCSA Issues Emergency Declaration to June 8 Due to Pipeline Cyberattack
The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is providing emergency relief from hours-of-service regulations to motor carriers and drivers assisting operations linked to refined petroleum supply chains in the East Coast in the wake of a cyberattack against Colonial Pipeline, which has extensive operations across multiple states. Read more at ttnews.com.

SAE Updates, Refines Official Names for 'Autonomous Driving' Levels
The way the auto industry officially defines the varying levels of driver assistance technology, from absolutely nothing to full self-driving cars, is getting an update. These six levels that the organizing bodies for these terms, SAE International and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), first started defining in 2014 are being changed to include remote technologies and other clarifications. Read more at caranddriver.com.

Autopilot Not Fully Engaged in Fatal Tesla Crash Near Houston, Safety Board Says
A preliminary investigation into a fatal Tesla crash in Texas last month concluded that the car’s automatic steering was not turned on before it crashed into a tree but says that it would have been possible for the car’s adaptive cruise control function to have been activated. Read more at consumerreports.org.

Study: Does Driving Wear You Out? You Might Be Experiencing ‘Accelerous’
Admit it: Daily commutes – those stops, the starts, all that stress – gets on your last nerve..."We call the phenomenon 'accelerous.' Arousal being a psychology term that describes stress. Accelerousal is what we identify as stress provoked by acceleration events, even small ones," said Pavlidis, who designed the research. According to the professor, the reason for it goes deeper than you might think. Read more at uh.edu.

Report: 'Safe System' Approach Could Dramatically Reduce Road Deaths While Improving Equity
A new approach to road safety that relies on design and engineering principles—the "Safe System" approach—could lead to dramatic reductions in vehicle-related deaths and injuries if implemented in the U.S., according to a report from a consortium of experts convened by researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Read more at eurekalert.org.

Doing This When You Drive Could Be an Early Sign of Dementia, Study Says
One of the hardest parts of dementia can be suddenly realizing it's affecting your everyday activities during its beginning phases. For some, the way they handle money can be an easily missed red flag of the condition’s onset. But according to a new study, doing one thing in particular while driving could also be an early sign of dementia. Read more at bestlifeonline.com.
Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community on social media. You may be surprised at what you're missing! Here are a few highlights of last weeks’ activity.

Denise Merrill @SOTS_Merrill | View the Tweet

Today I had the honor of recognizing some outstanding Democracy Heroes with our very own @NASSorg Medallion Awards! The award was created to honor individuals, groups, or organizations with an established record of promoting the goals of NASS in one or more of the following areas: Elections, civic education, or a commitment to giving. Thank you to the Connecticut National Guard, DMV Commissioner Magubane, Felix Viera, and Mike Corey from CT VOAD for being here today and for all the outstanding work you do. (3/3)

MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet

Happy #NationalPoliceWeek! Thank you to our MDOT MVA law enforcement for keeping us safe.

VermontDMV @VTDMV | View the Tweet

West Virginia Man Becomes Oldest Organ Donor In U.S. History
More than 107,000 people are currently waiting for a life-saving organ transplant in the United States.

**Georgia Department of Public Safety @ga_dps | View the Tweet**

The driver told our MCCD Officer he didn’t know he was dragging it. #gamccd

**LA State Police @LACrime | View the Tweet**

Recently Troop G Troopers were recognized by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving).

https://facebook.com/269483096401621/posts/4843530922330126/
TN Dept. of Safety @TNDepTofSafety | View the Tweet

Thrilled that WWII veteran David Stevenson received his "Veteran" designation on his driver's license this afternoon. Special thanks to Representative @kcalfee49 & Senator @YagerTweets for securing passage of the law.

TxDOT @TxDOT | View the Tweet

Motorcycles are not invisible. Look twice for motorcycles. There’s a life riding on it. #LookTwice #EndTheStreakTX #MotorcycleSafetyAwarenessMonth
IL SOS Office @ILSecOfState | View the Tweet

Today, Secretary White attended a ribbon cutting ceremony with President of PrairieStateCol Dr. Thomas Saban, State Rep. Anthony DeLuca, & @SenPatrickjoyce as he announced that a temporary Driver Services facility will open at Prairie State College tomorrow, Tuesday, May 11.

MnDPS_DPS @MnDPS_DPS | View the Tweet

Meet Zach Knapp. He’s a teenager, but he already knows what he wants his legacy to be: Fewer teen traffic deaths on Minnesota roads. Learn more in our #DPSBlog: https://go.usa.gov/xH7Yd

Trooper Tod @TrooperTodKHP | View the Tweet

Perks of the job, rescuing damsels in distress!
This little lady was trying to play “frogger” on a very busy street. She wisely ran right up to me when I stopped and was safely returned to her mom.

Sometimes it’s the small things that make your job worthwhile!

Oregon State Police @ORStatePolice | View the Tweet

Here is a video showing a witness's perspective of the actions of an OSP Trooper confronting a wrong-way driver. This event occurred on March 12, 2021, on I-84 in Baker County- Original post info https://bit.ly/2RRTRuy